

Aberdeen Parks and Recreation Department
Advisory Board

11/7/19 Minutes

- The meeting was called to order at 6:11 p.m.
- Members present: Adam Crocker, Adriana Janker, Josh Wilhelm, Fallon Brewington, Dene Moon
- Members absent: Amberly Weber, Jennifer Bowles, Shekeeta McCrimmon, Bethania Robinson
- The previous meeting's minutes were distributed and discussed.
- Adam updated the board on the Program Coordinator position. Kayla Phillips started her position with the department on August 19. Kayla has handled several special events since then including the Movies by the Lake, Malcolm Blue Festival, and Fall-O-Ween. Kayla is doing a fantastic job and fitting in well with the department.
- Adam updated some park projects. The dam project has finally begun, with the contractor now installing the sluice gate. The concrete portion of the spillway will also be patched, and this project will finally be completed. Factoring in weather, it should be completed this winter and hopefully everything is wrapped up and open for the spring. LKC Engineering is currently working on the drainage plan for the lower portion of Aberdeen Lake Park. This project is in this year's budget, and Adam is hoping to have it completed by the end of the winter. This project will eliminate the flooding of the lower portion of the park near the shelter, particularly the flooding in the playground. Another project in this year's budget is establishing proper ground cover at Ray's Mill Park. Grass was never properly established at that park, resulting in a preponderance of weeds and a couple of erosion spots. LKC is also working on this plan, which also should be able to be completed this winter. LKC is also working on pricing for an expansion of the Ray's Mill Park trail, and Adam has gotten a quote for installing natural looking play apparatus at the park. These numbers will be plugged into the department's 5 Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). LKC is also looking at a couple of parking improvements for Colonial Heights and Sharpe Parks. Colonial Heights will be an expansion of the current parking while Sharpe will be a reconfiguring of the parking plan, getting parking off of the street and into the park. These budget numbers will also be plugged into the CIP. Adriana asked if a use for the back of Berkley Park had been determined yet. Adam indicated it had not been set and vetted, but he felt comfortable that the board's suggestion of horseshoe pits was the right direction. Adam also mentioned that a new idea of creating a dog park at Ray's Mill Park, where the second house was removed, has been proposed. The board agreed that that seemed a much better location for a dog park than the idea of locating one at Berkley. Adam updated the board on a new contractor installing mulch at the town's 4 playgrounds. The new contractor uses a blower truck to spread the mulch which has cut down significantly on the amount of time this project takes, the staff time and manpower, and has led to a more even and therefore safer spread of the material. The department has received the certification

for the mulch and is very pleased with its quality. Adam also updated a few smaller projects at the Malcolm Blue Farm. The back step of the concession/restroom building was replaced as the old step had become slick and was sloped. The old planter box was removed in front of the concession stand to open that area up, and make the concession windows much more visible. An old storage shed was removed which has significantly opened up the shaded area for seating in front of the stage, and the chicken hut received some TLC switching out some old and rotting boards.

- Adam updated fall programming as well. Tball was down slightly from last year, 158 four and five year olds played this year, compared to 180 last year. This is still a very large number, and compares to 130 and 104 the two years previous to last. Adam expected a bit of a dip, as Southern Pines was the first department other than Aberdeen to offer a 4&5 year old Tball League this past spring. Youth Volleyball numbers rose from 40 to 70 participants this year as our Athletic Director, Kacey Blackmon, added a younger age group (7-10). Youth Flag Football numbers also rose from 66 participants to 90. The 6-8 year old numbers stayed consistent, but we picked up two more teams in the 9-12 year old league. A Youth Flag Football Cheerleading program was started as well. 21 young ladies registered for this first season. The rest of the Movies by the Lake series were held, with movies shown Lego Movie 2, How to Train Your Dragon 3, and Dumbo. Drafts and a Laugh was also held, with the movie Tag shown. Adam informed the board that their idea of adding a second movie for adults, this one being a scary movie in October, has been well received and the department will look to add it into next year's budget. An adult cornhole tournament was held at Aberdeen Lake Park in September. 30 teams, and approximately 70 people, came out to participate in this event. A double elimination tournament was held, while a DJ played music and Railhouse served beverages. The department will look to offer more of these in the future, with possible competitive and recreational brackets being offered. It was established that Fallon knows plenty about specialized cornhole bags and will almost certainly have to play in the competitive division. The Malcolm Blue Festival was held and was a success, despite an unseasonably warm day in late September. Approximately 1900 people came out to enjoy the festival, despite the mid-90s temperatures. Fall-O-Ween was also held at the Malcolm Blue Farm this year. This event was moved from Aberdeen Lake Park to the farm, to allow for more space. It was a success as it not only provided more space, but also had more of a fall feel for the holiday event. Approximately 50 more people came out this year, 800 total, though the event felt more comfortable and spread out. Josh asked about the possibility of the Healthy Kids Running Series moving to Aberdeen, or Aberdeen becoming an additional site. Adam said the department would touch base to see if this is a possibility. Adriana mentioned her family had stopped participating due to it being too large, so it was agreed that an additional site may be a good thing moving forward.
- Adriana mentioned the idea of a splashpad in Aberdeen again, and it was discussed where it would go. Adam mentioned that the town had purchased property on 15-150, toward the Academy of Moore, for future park property. The current plan is for some rectangular fields, which the town does not currently have, and to work with the local Kiwanis Club and building an inclusive playground. Adam mentioned that this site would

be a good place to master plan in a splashpad, if the town decided that was in the future. Adam also explained the ARCHES program which was going on in the building during the meeting. FirstHealth is implementing a program, through a grant from Duke University Hospital, aimed at youth who are at risk for health issues due to obesity. These children are referred to the program by their pediatrician, and the program focuses on physical activity and healthy eating education. Parents and siblings are encouraged to attend, as it is aimed to improve health for the whole household. Aberdeen is supplying the location for this program, which is seen as beneficial to the whole area, but Aberdeen particularly. Fallon asked how many are participating, and Adam mentioned that the referrals have not been as many as FirstHealth was hoping for. However, successful programs are already running in Durham and Montgomery County, so the hope is that this program will pick up as well.

- The next meeting will be held Thursday, January 30, 2019 at the Recreation Center, at 6:00 p.m.
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m.