

Aberdeen Parks and Recreation Department
Advisory Board

4/27/2017 Minutes

- The meeting was called to order at 6:09 p.m.
- Members present: Kacey Blackmon, Kayla Hillman, Dene Moon and Jonathan Rivenbark
- Kayla, as the Program and Special Events Coordinator, and Kacey, as the Athletic Coordinator, introduced themselves.
- The previous meeting's minutes were approved.
- Kayla and Kacey gave an update on projects happening in the parks. Kayla updated the board on the dam project and the current status of the lake. The town is still waiting on word from FEMA to fix the sluice gate in the dam. We are now in "queue" with FEMA, which is the last phase. Our other items that went into queue were in there for an average of 22 days, so we are hoping to hear something within the next couple of weeks. Once we get word from FEMA, either way, we will start the process. The number that FEMA has right now, would be enough to replace the gate, and would also go a long way, if not totally, toward repairing the spillway as well. As far as the trail, Adam walked it with McGill Associates last week to assess the issues. They looked at erosion issues, drainage problems, overgrowth, placement of the trail, and spoke about surfacing. McGill should have an initial plan to us in the next few weeks. Kacey updated the board on the Berkley Park project. We replaced the park sign at Berkley. The old sign was repeatedly being vandalized, so we changed the material and placement. The new sign is a polymetal sign, and now follows the color scheme of the Lake Park sign and town gateway and wayfinding signs. It is also alongside the road now, which not only helps to prevent vandalism, but also makes the sign and park more visible.
- Kayla updated the board on the 2017/2018 department budget proposal. The proposed budget to the manager had very little change operationally. We had a few slight increases to account for greater participation in programs and use of facilities, but we held pretty steady to those figures. We did add money for a part-time, seasonal park maintenance employee. On the capital side, we asked for money to begin renovating the Lake Park Trail, building an equipment storage building at Colonial Heights Park, and to finish the playground renovation at Sharpe Park. Adam presented this budget to the commissioners at a budget retreat, and received positive feedback. In an initial presentation to the commissioners of a balanced budget, the town manager cut the money we asked for the Lake Park Trail from \$50,000 to \$25,000. The commissioners expressed that they did not prefer to cut those funds, so the manager is looking at actually borrowing money from a bank to fund some planning and parks and recreation projects. The interest rate on the loan would be low, project would begin now instead of waiting for costs to go up, and these projects would get moving sooner rather than later. Our capital requests will most likely be fully funded, if the board of commissioners approves this route. Adam met with the town manager again today to discuss the

budget, and a new, actual town proposal should be going to the commissioners next week.

- Kayla and Kacey also updated the board on programming. Kacey discussed that the youth kickball league is running with 168 youth registered. We had 184 participate the previous year. There are a total of 14 teams between 3 age groups. The league uses 2 fields with a total of 7 games on each game night. Kayla discussed Spring Break Camp, stating there were 13 participants, an increase from last year. The group went on a trip each day of camp, including the Botanical Gardens in Fayetteville and Defy Gravity in Raleigh. The Easter Eggstravaganza had a great turn-out with great weather. We added Face Painting to go along with Temporary Tattoos, and Pictures with the Easter Bunny. We will look to add one more activity. We organized and set-up parking more effectively this year. The hunt was divided into 3 age groups; 0-3, 4-6 and 7-9. Kayla also updated the board on the coming Blue & Brews Festival on May 6 at Malcolm Blue Farm. There will be 3 bands, 3 food trucks, 2 beer vendors, 1 wine vendor, outdoor yard games, etc. We look to have a large crowd.
- The next meeting will be held Thursday, August 3rd, 2017 at the Recreation Center, at 6:00 p.m. Kayla explained that the two red dates on the upcoming schedule are to show changes to the regular schedule.
- The meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m.