

Aberdeen Parks and Recreation Department
Advisory Board

10/26/17 Minutes

- The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m.
- Members present: Adam Crocker, Billy Hartness, Jennifer Bowles, Dr. Rev. Kelly, and Tim Todd, Wilma Laney, Jonathan Rivenbark, and Dene Moon.
- Members absent: None
- The previous meeting's minutes were approved.
- Adam updated the department's staffing situation. The front desk attendant, Caitlyn Schwab, has decided not to come back to work after the birth of her first child. The position will be turned back into two part-time positions, and interviews will be held on November 1 and 3.
- Adam gave updates on park projects. There will be a pre-bid meeting on October 30 for any contractors interested in bidding on the Aberdeen Lake Park trail project. Contractors will then have 3 weeks to get their bids in. A little library has been built and installed by a couple of Aberdeen families. This little library has been installed next to the playground at Lake Park, and is for people to borrow or donate books. Jennifer asked if the department will be able to store excess books, and Adam indicated they would do so at the Recreation Center. The work on the Aberdeen dam sluice gate should also start in approximately a month. Wilma asked about the removal of the Boy Scout building and JC Hut, and Adam explained that demolition is just waiting on the fire department getting the final go ahead on the Boy Scout building burn. With the fire department burning what they can of that structure, it will save the town approximately \$4,500 in demolition costs. Adam informed the board that the 4 trees that needed to be removed for the new storage building to be installed at Colonial Heights were removed this week. Public Works will come out next week to do some grading, then approximately a week later, the building contractor will come out to pour the concrete slab foundation. When the new structure is in and finished, the old storage structure will be removed. Adam met with a few contractors, who have experience with historic structures, to look at the Malcolm Blue Farm. The biggest items that came up were the back roof and left rear foundation of the farm house. These are the big items the town will look to work on in next year's budget. Adam hopes that there will be enough left in the capital budget to also rework the outdoor electrical and lighting system, and build a new stage next to the museum. Dene was interested in the grist mill, and Adam explained that each contractor was very hesitant to put a number on that structure, and the work needed there seems to be significant. This will almost certainly have to be a project in and unto itself. Adam also distributed 4 playground proposals for the projects at Sharpe, Berkley, and Aberdeen Lake Park. Likes and dislikes were discussed of the proposals, including the budget number and proposal numbers. It was agreed that some negotiating of different equipment with a couple of vendors would be preferred.

- Adam updated the board the late summer/early fall programs. 3 more Movies by the Lake were held, Sing in August, Moana in September, and Lego Batman in October. Each movie brought approximately 150 out to the park, save for Moana, where the department had its largest showing to date, approximately 300 people. Adam mentioned that the department was also able to get an actress playing Moana to come out to that film, which was very well received. The Malcolm Blue Festival was a success again this year, with approximately 1,500 people coming out, compared to about 1,200 the year before. The parking went much smoother this year, and the department chose to pay for the pony rides, petting zoo, hayride, and train ride this year, so these were free to participants. Dene mentioned that the Farm Skills School day was also held this year on Friday, which was very exciting to have back. Fall-O-Ween was just held, with a paid attendance of 166 children, compared to 146 the previous year. With parents, grandparents, and siblings under 2 who are not charged, this brings overall attendance to around 500. Attendance was steady all day, and staff was very pleased with the event. Program Coordinator, Kayla Hillman, is already looking at ways to improve the event next year, including adding an inflatable slide. Kayla has also added a few new programs, including PiYo, Salsa Dance Lessons, and a stroller fitness class. Billy seemed particularly excited about the PiYo class, which combines Pilates and yoga. Each of these programs has begun with strong attendance, and the department hopes to continue to establish them further. The Youth T-Ball league just wrapped up play, with 130 4 and 5 year olds participating this year, compared to 104 last year. Adam and Billy coached, and both were pleased with the season, and relieved it has concluded. Tim remembered and could relate. The Youth Flag Football league is getting ready to wrap up in a couple of weeks. This program for 9-12 year olds is held with help from a grant from the NFL. There are 22 children playing on 2 teams, the same as last year. These teams play other teams from Pinehurst and Southern Pines.
- In other business, Douglass mentioned that he is excited by what is going on in the department, and other concurred.
- The next meeting will be held January 18, 2018 at the Recreation Center, at 6:00 p.m. This is one week earlier than the normally scheduled meeting, as the normal date is Adam's wife's birthday. Adam enjoys the quarterly advisory board meetings, but enjoys a peaceful, happy home more.
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.