

Aberdeen Parks and Recreation Department
Advisory Board

1/30/20 Minutes

- The meeting was called to order at 6:09 p.m.
- Members present: Adam Crocker, Amberly Weber, Fallon Brewington, Dene Moon, Shekeeta McCrimmon, Jennifer Sumner, Commissioner Bryan Bowles
- Members absent: Josh Wilhelm, Bethania Robinson, Adriana Janker
- The previous meeting's minutes were distributed and discussed.
- Adam updated some park projects. The dam project is in its final phase, though it has been for approximately a month. The contractor has been very busy and diligent since December, but weather has played a large factor. Frequent rain has slowed progress, and when the rain stopped, cooler temperatures caused issues. The final step of installing the final coat is however planned within in the week, and the project should be finalized very soon. The survey work for the Aberdeen Lake and Ray's Mill Pond Parks has been completed by the engineers. The final plans for these projects are expected soon, and then bids and the actual work can proceed. Adam informed the board that he is still hoping these projects can be completed by mid-March, in time for the warmer weather and increased park attendance. These projects are designed to alleviate the flooding in the lower portion of Aberdeen Lake Park, around the playground particularly, and to establish better ground coverage at Ray's Mill, also helping to mitigate a few erosion issues. Adam also updated the board regarding a couple of future park projects. Moore County Schools has opened the upset bid process for the Aberdeen Elementary School and related property. This process allows for an individual or entity to put in a bid on the property. This bid would then be advertised for 30 days, with higher bids being welcome during that time. If a higher bid is received within the 30 days, that bid is then advertised and the process starts over. Adam informed the board that the town is still interested in the school property, and will see how the process plays out. Adam mentioned interest that has been received by a couple of arts groups, Moore County Arts Council and Judson Theater, in partnering with the town regarding the auditorium. Fallon mentioned that in addition to the Boys and Girls Club's interest in sharing the facility, a local school has interest in a portion of the building as well. Adam also updated the board on the new property purchased by the town on 15-501, across from Burney Hardware. The 32 acres purchased by the town is intended for future park use. The initial plan has 6 rectangular fields, along with infrastructure and a service building housing restrooms, storage, and concession stand. There are also two organizations who have expressed interest in installing an inclusive playground, which the seller of the property has offered to donate land for. Additionally amenities may be added to the park plan, as Adam and Town Manager Paul Sabiston met with a couple of individuals interested in a skate park. A splash pad has also been a popular request since word of the new park property has spread. Some clearing and grading work on the property will begin soon.

- Adam updated winter programming as well. The Christmas events were held, with Program Coordinator Kayla Phillips running these programs for the first time. The Christmas Tree Lighting had approximately 200 in attendance, compared to 150 the year before. Changes made to this program, including a production company handling the sound and lighting, a new Santa along with new entrance from the train car, and a local actor reading T'was the Night Before Christmas all made strong improvements to this program. Adam mentioned future plans to further accentuate Santa's entrance and perhaps further improvement on the reading of the story. Supper with Santa was actually down significantly this year, from 106 last year to 58 this year. This has always been a full event, however, so staff will continue on next year as normal. Fallon mentioned she thought there was another event planned for that same night. A couple of improvements for this event included a new Santa and caterer. Adam did mention that the lower number led to far less crowding and chaos, so staff will look to limit next year's number to 75 participants. The Aberdeen Christmas Parade had 50 entries this year, compared to 40 the year before. This follows the normal trend of about 5-10 more entries each year. The threat of rain did keep about a dozen entrants away, and led to lighter attendance at the parade. However, momentum has continued to build for this event, and Adam mentioned that staff will continue to try to retain entries, as well as seek more, particularly of the musical variety. Amberly mentioned a local retired volunteer band and Fallon mentioned military bands. The Old Fashioned Christmas was held the afternoon after the Christmas Parade, at the Malcolm Blue Farm. Approximately 350 came out this year to this event, compared to 250 last year. Kayla did a fantastic job this year jumping in and decorating the house, while Dene is always a huge part of this event managing all of the kids supplies and crafts in the pack house. Youth Basketball and Cheerleading are currently going on. 303 youth basketball players are participating, compared to 218 last year, while 24 cheerleaders and participating, compared to 43 last year. Adam mentioned, regarding the cheerleading numbers, that the department also started a flag football cheerleading program this past fall. This league was started due to strong requests following the basketball cheerleading program last winter. The 45 girls who participated between the football and basketball leagues compare to the 43 who just participated in the basketball league last year. Adam feels what we have done is essentially split our participants between the two leagues. This does have the advantage of providing these kids with multiple opportunities, at times that work for their families, while keeping the numbers manageable, and allowing for future growth. Fallon mentioned the 7:15 p.m. practice/game times as being too late for the 6-8 year old basketball age group. Adam agreed and will discuss this with the athletic director to see what can be done in the future. It would discussed how times could be improved, given a growing program already over 300, by the town having access to both the old Aberdeen Elementary and new Elementary School gyms.
- The next meeting will be held Thursday, April 30, 2020 at the Recreation Center, at 6:00 p.m.
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.