

Aberdeen Parks and Recreation Department  
Advisory Board

10/29/20 Minutes

- The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. via ZOOM
- Members present: Adam Crocker, Fallon Brewington, Bethania Robinson, Adriana Janker, and Shekeeta McCrimmon
- Members absent: Jennifer Sumner, Dene Moon, Josh Wilhelm, and Amberly Weber
- The previous meeting's minutes were discussed.
- Adam updated some park projects. A couple of issues have arisen at Aberdeen Lake Park. The lake fountain motor was repaired, but the fountain is getting clogged by an aquatic weed (bladderwort). Staff is turning off the fountain when it is clogged, to give it a chance to clear, but the problem is persisting. Adam has contacted Foster Lake and Pond to inquire about solutions. A couple of water spots have developed on the walking trail. These spots develop on the trail between the dam and bridge due to the large hill coming down from the railroad tracks. These issues were remedied during the trail renovation, but the water routes continue to change and alter due to terrain changes. Adam has discussed this with Public Works and staff is working on solutions. Otherwise, the park and Recreation Center are just busy with early voting. The outfield/drainage project at Colonial Heights Park is almost complete. The old turf (mostly weeds) was scraped from the outfield, then fill was brought in to properly grade the outfields. This will stop the erosion issue through the infields, rather draining water off the sides of the fields. A new irrigation system was then installed, followed by sod. Changes include a couple of new drainage areas to improve runoff and the outfield on Farrell Field (back field) has been extended to the park perimeter fence. The contractor was short a couple of strips of sod, which will be installed in the next couple of days. Once this is done, the fencing will go back up and the project will be complete. Adriana asked about the sportsplex project on 15-501. Adam let the board know that the contractor is still working on the rough grading and establishing the retention ponds.
- Adam updated summer and fall programming as well. Some programs are still on hold due to the pandemic. Tai Chi, Chair Exercise, and ARCHES are still on hold. Tai Chi and ARCHES are planned to begin again in January. However, Adam explained that Chair Exercise participation was already waning, and staff is not sure that it will reestablish after this break. A couple of events had to be cancelled as well. The Malcolm Blue Festival, Sardine Festival, and Fall-O-Ween could not be adapted to allow for social distancing. However, the movie programs gained traction due to steps staff were able to take. Program Coordinator, Kayla Phillips, painted 10x10 squares, six feet apart, throughout the area behind the Recreation Center to allow for social distancing for the movie nights. Movies by the Lake was held in August (Dolittle – 125 in attendance), September (Trolls World Tour – 150 in attendance), and October (Onward – 175 in attendance). The adult versions of this program were also held with Drafts & Laughs held in August (30 in attendance) and Frights & Pints in October (40 in attendance). The

adult nights have been lighter in attendance, though well received by those who come and has been a good event for Railhouse Brewery who is a vendor at these events. This was the first year of the Frights & Pints, which was an event suggested by this advisory board. The One Day Cornhole Tournament was held in September, the second year this event has been held. While 20 teams participated last year, we had 30 teams register this year. Several youth athletic programs have been able to run as well. Athletic Director, Kacey Blackmon continues to take steps to reduce the risk in these programs (smaller teams, staggered game times, temperature checks, and individual equipment). Through summer, T-Ball (122 participants), Youth Flag Football (120), Youth Volleyball (82), and Youth Cheerleading (15) have been held. While a few of these participation numbers are slightly down the previous year, flag and volleyball are actually up. Staff is very excited by the interest in programming during this difficult time. The volleyball program took the most adjustment, as the program was moved outside, rather than using the school gym. Staff is still waiting on word if the school gymnasium will be available in January for Youth Basketball. Staff is continuing to evaluate future special events. A new event, replacing Fall-O-Ween this year, is being held on Halloween. The Hocus Pocus Halloween Hunt will be held beginning at 5 p.m. at Aberdeen Lake Park. Participants will take part in a Halloween themed scavenger hunt throughout the park, followed by a screening of the movie Hocus Pocus beginning at 6:30 p.m. Christmas events Supper with Santa and Old Fashioned Christmas have been cancelled due to lack of distancing options. The Christmas Tree Lighting will be done virtually, while the town board is still evaluating options with the Christmas Parade. Both Carthage and Southern Pines have cancelled their parades. Adriana mentioned the option of holding the parade as a static display, but Adam explained one of the largest issues is lack of entries. Of the 50 previous entries contacted regarding their interest, only 15 have expressed they would participate. That is less than half of what the parade is normally, which is already a relatively short parade. Adam also explained many of the major entries, such as school bands, are the ones who definitely will not be participating.

- In other discussion, Adriana asked about the possibility of a skate park in Aberdeen. Adam mentioned that both he and Town Manager, Paul Sabiston, spoke to a couple of members in the community interested in a skate park. It was expressed that the town board would most likely not only like to see demonstrated strong interest from the community, but also an interest in partnering financially for such a project. Shekeeta asked about a splash pad and Adam updated the advisory board that while there have been some positive comments for a splash pad, there has not been an overriding request for it. However, Adam does feel that there would be strong support for such a facility if it was proposed to the community. Adriana asked how the community can give such input to the town. While the community can always reach out to the Parks and Recreation Department and/or town commissioners regarding their interests, Adam also explained that when the town obtains property and starts the process of master planning the property for park development, public input meetings are generally held to obtain community involvement. If more property is obtained at the 15-501 site, or if the town looks to begin planning the property on Hwy 5, Adam would look to schedule these meetings to get ideas on what the community is interested in.

- The next meeting will be held Thursday, January 28, 2021 at the Recreation Center (as of now), at 6:00 p.m.
- The meeting was adjourned at 6:36 p.m.