

Aberdeen Parks and Recreation Department
Advisory Board

4/25/19 Minutes

- The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.
- Members present: Adam Crocker, Fallon Brewington, Josh Wilhelm, Jennifer Bowles, Dene Moon
- Members absent: Amberly Weber, Adriana Janker, Bethania Robinson, Shekeeta McCrimmon
- The previous meeting's minutes were distributed and discussed.
- Adam discussed where the town is in the current budget process. Town department heads have had a budget retreat with the board of commissioners and town leaders, submitted final budget requests, and attended a town work session focused on the budget. The board of commissioners should be discussing the budget next month, with final approval expected at the board meeting on May 28. The highlights for the parks and recreation department are \$58,000 to fix the drainage issues in the lower portion of Aberdeen Lake Park (particularly the playground), \$25,000 to establish suitable ground coverage and repair drainage issues at Ray's Mill Park, and increases in the operating budget for the Malcolm Blue Farm, programs, and athletics. The increases at the farm are due to contracting of the grounds maintenance, and increased use at events and festivals. The increase in programs is due to higher travel costs for increasing camp participation and higher attendance at special events. The increase in athletics is due to addition of new leagues and increase in participation in current and new leagues.
- Adam updated some park projects. The dam project has been slowed significantly by rain. The contractors are waiting for the water level to drop to the point where they can pump out the area at the spillway. It is now estimated this project may not be finished until next winter. Adam also discussed the above projects regarding drainage issues at both Aberdeen Lake Park and Ray's Mill Park. Also, significant progress has been made on the Malcolm Blue Farm projects. The outdoor electrical work replacing the lighting and outlets has been completed. The lights and receptacles are now on posts instead of trees, and work on independent breakers which now run to the concession stand rather than the house. The roof work has also been completed on the back of the house. H.I.S. Roofing removed the old cedar shingles, installed a cedar breather, and installed new cedar shingles. The engineer inspection of the grist mill has also been completed, and the report given to the department. The inspection of the house foundation has also been completed, but the department is waiting on the full report. Once we have this, we will look to bid out the foundation work.
- In regards to the parks, Adam asked the advisory board to visit each of the 6 Aberdeen parks prior to the next meeting. Adam asked each board member to take a few notes on their impression of each park. The department can sometimes get so focused on the larger issues and projects, we lose sight of the smaller things. The reports do not need to be huge or in fine detail, just overall impressions good and/or bad. Josh mentioned

the parking situation at Colonial Heights Park, stating that cars are having to park all of the way down the road, particularly during the changeover period between games. Josh asked if there was a way to remove the volleyball court to provide more parking. Adam mentioned he would speak with an engineering firm to see if they could develop a plan to increase parking. The amount that can be added is probably somewhat limited, but any increase would improve the situation.

- Adam updated spring programming as well. The Youth Kickball League is currently running, with just another week or two to go. This league has 200 participants this season, the same as last year. The department caps this number given the limitations in field space and time. However, Adam did discuss the changes that have been made to provide better times, fewer kids on teams, and now potential for growth. The 4-6 year old age group has been moved from Tuesday and Thursday evenings, to Saturday mornings. This has allowed for more teams to be created in this age group, to allow for fewer children per team. It has also allowed the 7-9 and 10-15 year old age groups to move their weekday times forward, to get the kids out of the park at a more appropriate time. The Spring Break Camp was held, with 24 campers participating. This compares to 14 participants last year. This number had been slow to increase each year, so the jump in 10 participants was significant. The camp took trips to the Greensboro Children's Museum, Defy Gravity, Round About Skating Rink, Southern Pines Crossfit Gym, and Putt Putt Fun Center. The Easter Eggstravaganza had to be delayed a week, but was still a success. Approximately 400 people came out the Malcolm Blue Farm to enjoy a petting zoo, trackless train, balloon animals, face painting, and pictures with the Easter Bunny. The crowd was then broken into 3 age groups, 3 & Under, 4-6, and 7-9 for the hunts. Collectively, 5,000 eggs and 3,000 pieces of candy were collected, with an additional 3 prize eggs in each group. We will look to add pony rides to next year's event due to the large crowd. Blue & Brews was unfortunately cancelled this year, due to weather. Program Coordinator, Cheslin Astorino, has already contacted vendors and bands about coming back next year.
- There was no further discussion.
- The next meeting will be held Thursday, August 1, 2019 at the Recreation Center, at 6:00 p.m.
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.