

Aberdeen Parks and Recreation Department
Advisory Board

7/30/20 Minutes

- The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. via ZOOM
- Members present: Adam Crocker, Fallon Brewington, Dene Moon , Josh Wilhelm, and Amberly Weber
- Members absent: Bethania Robinson, Adriana Janker, Jennifer Sumner, and Shekeeta McCrimmon
- The previous meeting's minutes were approved.
- Adam updated some park projects. The 2019-20 capital project at Aberdeen Lake Park has been completed. This project added several new drainage points to the area around the playground and shelter. It was also graded to improve overall drainage. Horizontal parking was also added to the parking lot, including two handicap spots which were tied to the shelter using a concrete apron. The shelter was also connected to the playground using a concrete sidewalk. This improves the overall accessibility of the lower portion of the park. The upper parking lot was also improved, sealing the pavement and cracks, while repainting all lines. The other 2019-20 project which was completed was at Ray's Mill Park. Tuff sod was installed around the shelter, seed planted in the other portions of the park, pinestraw beds established around trees, and an irrigation system was installed. The original grass plan for the park was ill-designed for the environment, so this new system will be a vast improvement. The AV equipment at the Recreation Center was also updated, including an improvement to the hookup system. In the past, when renters rented the AV equipment, they got access to the AV room to hookup their devices. Hookup will now be handled through a connection plate on the wall, so no one will gain access to the AV room or equipment. The 2020-21 capital improvement project is re-grading and installing sod and irrigation on the outfields of the ballfields at Colonial Heights. Three bids were received, the contractor has been selected, and the project came in a little under budget. Work should begin in mid-August, as soon as Coach Pitch Baseball ends. This should give ample growing season for the sod to root. Josh mentioned adding a batting cage to the park, which is something that has been discussed and all parties agreed that it would be a good addition. Josh offered to build the cage, which certainly could move this project along.
- Adam updated spring and summer programming as well. All programming and rentals were paused beginning mid-March. Ongoing programs were not held, while several leagues, special events, and camps were outright cancelled. Some programming began back up in June, the largest of which was Summer Day Camp. 7 week of camp were held, but modified to follow NCDHHS guidelines for holding camps. Numbers were lowered to 30 per week, camp was split into two separate 15 person groups, most travel was cancelled, campers were spaced out more, parents were not allowed to enter the building, health questions were asked and answered at drop-off, and temperature checks were mandatory before entering the building (both campers and staff). Camp

was very different and not as much fun as usual, but it went well for what it was and allowed parents a safe environment to bring their children. The first Movies by the Lake was held, with 10x10 boxes for families to sit in, which were distanced 6 feet apart from each other. This system seemed to work well, and will be continued for future movies. Stroller Strong Moms have continued class in the park, outdoors and distanced. The first One Day Adult Kickball Tournament was held with 9 teams and was a strong success. Extracurricular activities, such as Railhouse serving beer were suspended, but the tournament went off well. Coach Pitch Baseball has also been running, with 55 6-8 year olds participating. This number is down from 82 last year, but only down from 58 the year before. Given the situation, this was a strong turnout. Team sizes were limited, players are spread out more outside of the dugouts, each child is using individual helmets and bats for games, and game times are staggered more to prevent crowds. The protocols have been working well and have been well received. They will continue into the fall as we register for Youth Flag Football, T-Ball, Girls Volleyball, Youth Cheerleading, and the One Day Adult Cornhole Tournament.

- In other discussion, Josh asked about more baseball/softball fields in the future. Adam mentioned the most space that could be available for such a project in the future is some property the town now owns next to Meadow Ridge on Highway 5. Amberly asked where the situation is with the old Aberdeen Elementary structure. Adam updated the board on where that situation stands. At this time, the school system has not accepted a bid, though there has been interest. Most of the larger development interests have been deterred by the property zoning, though there are some possible uses that would fit. The town is hoping that even if a developer does purchase the property, the town still may be able to hold on to elements which would be useful for the department (gymnasium, auditorium, field space, and possibly cafeteria).
- The next meeting will be held Thursday, October 29, 2020 at the Recreation Center (as of now), at 6:00 p.m.
- The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.