

Aberdeen Parks and Recreation Department  
Advisory Board

8/1/19 Minutes

- The meeting was called to order at 6:11 p.m.
- Members present: Adam Crocker, Adriana Janker, Josh Wilhelm, Jennifer Bowles, Shekeeta McCrimmon, Bethania Robinson
- Members absent: Amberly Weber, Fallon Brewington, Dene Moon
- The previous meeting's minutes were distributed and discussed.
- Adam discussed the department staffing situation. Cheslin Astorino has stepped down as Program Coordinator to pursue another opportunity at her church. Kayla Phillips has been hired to fill the position, and will begin on August 19.
- Adam updated some park projects. The dam project has been slowed by state permitting. However, work should begin soon to install the new sluice gate. After the gate is in place, some concrete work needs to be done on the spillway wall. Hopefully, if work progresses enough, the whole project could be done by late fall/early winter. Adam described the two capital projects the department will be completing this year as well. A drainage project will be completed on the lower side of Aberdeen Lake Park. This portion of the park, which includes the playground and shelter, floods frequently during and after rain storms. The project is designed to alleviate this flooding, and possibly install irrigation to improve the ground coverage. Another drainage project will be completed at Ray's Mill Park. There are some puddling and erosion areas around the trail at that park, so the project will look to alleviate those as well. Ground coverage and irrigation will also be focal points of this project, particularly around the shelter. Shekeeta asked why the old house was removed at Ray's Mill, and Adam explained how vandalized the building had become. It had become a very big liability for the town, so the fire department conducted a practice burn.
- Adam updated summer programming as well. The second year of the Kid Pitch Baseball League was held, with registration increasing from 39 in its first year, to 71 participants this year. Coach Pitch baseball is ongoing, with 82 participants compared to 58 last year. The Mini-Masters Art Camp was held once again this summer. Jennifer asked about ages, and Adam explained that the camp was separated into two age groups this year. That allowed for growth from the 15 participants last year, to 17 this year. The department will look to continue to expand opportunities in this program. Full Day Summer Camp is getting ready to go into the 8<sup>th</sup> and final week this summer. This camp began to hit its max of 40 campers last summer, with a handful of kids on the waiting list. This year, camp was full with 40 campers two months prior to camp starting, with waiting lists getting to be 30 deep. Adam went to Town Manager, Paul Sabiston, to discuss the possibility of expanding the maximum to 50 campers per week. While this increase was not budgeted, the added revenue would equal the added expense. Paul agreed this was a good idea, and the department was able to secure added transportation from Rent-a-Wreck and added staff to accommodate the additional

campers. The camp has still run all summer with 50 kids per week, still with a waiting list of 20-30 kids. Adam is discussing with summer staff if they are interested in coming back next year, to gauge the department's ability to increase camp numbers next year. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration was once again held this year. The afternoon rain kept the crowd a little lower than normal, but still approximately 4500 came out to enjoy the kids games and rides, band, and fireworks. The first Movies by the Lake of the season was also affected by rain. It cleared up for the movie, but kept the number down lower than normal. Shekeeta also mentioned that Lion King 2 came out the same night, which very well may have occupied many families in the area. The next movie will be Lego Movie 2 on August 16, while the adult version of this event, Drafts and a Laugh will be held on August 30. The movie Tag will be shown, while Railhouse will be out selling beverages and yard games will be set up. The idea was thrown around of adding an October version of this event, showing a horror movie. Everyone was excited by this idea (except for maybe Shekeeta) and this idea will be shared with the new program coordinator when she starts.

- Adam asked advisory board members to share any things they noticed, or suggestions, from their trips to the town parks. Bethania and Adriana both spoke about how difficult it is to find Colonial Heights Park. The idea of better road signage for the park was discussed. Bethania also mentioned that it can get difficult for figure out which field is which. Josh mentioned that the fields are playing well, and were very good for the recent SWAC tournament. The issue of parking was once again discussed, as that park could certainly use more of it. Parking was also discussed for Sharpe Park, as were drainage issues and the possibility of adding port-a-johns. Port-a-johns were also asked about for Berkley, and Shekeeta mentioned that the port-a-johns at Ray's Mill were not in the greatest condition when she went by. Bethania asked how frequently Berkley Park was utilized, and Adam explained that that park was certainly underutilized compared to the other parks. It was discussed what could be added to the back of Berkley Park, as there is a good amount of space. Adam mentioned that a couple of suggestions the department has received were a dog park or permanent cornhole boards. These ideas had not been very well received, however, and the advisory board members whole heartedly agreed. Josh and Shekeeta spoke of horseshoe pits, and everyone agreed that would be a good use. Adam mentioned that idea has been brought up in the past with a community member dismissing it, but if the board thought it was a good idea, it could certainly be looked at further.
- Jennifer mentioned having more of a flow for the Supper with Santa event. Adriana thought that perhaps the children could have something else to do at the event. Some ideas were discussed like the children decorating a tree, and doing something similar to what the department does with the Halloween pumpkin decorating contest with the schools. Adam mentioned that the department does do a Christmas card board for the town, and there was perhaps a way to work out a contest with the schools to contribute to this project. That could then possibly be unveiled at the Supper with Santa. Jennifer also mentioned some issues with the caterer, and Adam mentioned that a new caterer has already been secured for this year's event.

- The next meeting will be held Thursday, November 7, 2019 at the Recreation Center, at 6:00 p.m. This meeting has been pushed back a week, due to the last Thursday in October being Halloween this year.
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.