

June – July Newsletter

June is here and that means the end of the school year and the start of summer. Please take note that children will be active about the neighborhood and a little extra care when driving in Abiqua Heights would be warranted. To the same point, parents might remind their children that as safe a place as Abiqua Heights is, bike riding, skateboarding, and outside play should be done with awareness.

The Amenities Committee completed its first project of the year with the installation of two new park benches. One is just above the basketball court in the shade of mature trees and the other is at the top of the hill near one of the new oak trees. The painting of lines on the basketball court still needs a time in which there is no rain and so far this year that has not happened. The court needs to be powerwashed just prior to the painting and the court will be closed while the work happens.

The Amenities Committee was assigned another task by the Board that impacts us all. The large oak tree that some call the “signature” tree and all kids love to climb is in need of some love. The constant climbing on the tree is actually wearing the bark off the limbs of the tree and that puts the tree in jeopardy. The arborist for the AHHA has indicated that continued climbing on the tree will certainly shorten its life span. The Amenities Committee has suggested that two signs be placed near the tree to discourage climbers.

The first phase of the project to update the Commons Master Plan is nearing completion and a report on the results of the survey will be available at the July meeting of the Board. The meeting is scheduled for July 13, 2017, and will be held (weather permitting) in the Commons at 7:00 PM. The Board is hoping that members will bring their lawn chairs and make their way to the Commons.

The long awaited project to deepen the pond will begin with the draining of the pond and a drying out period before excavation begins. More information should be available at the July meeting.

The Architectural Review Committee (ARC) will hold its July meeting on July 10, 2017, so if you have plans for any type of construction project or major landscaping changes please make sure you get your request to the committee before the meeting date.

The Commons is being maintained this year by DeSantis Landscape and the Board is very pleased with their work. In the near future the tree rings around the new oak trees will be enlarged so the wire protecting the young trees will be inside the cleared area making maintenance easier. Comments or suggestions concerning the maintenance of the Commons are appreciated.

Last year the AHHA saved more than \$2,000 by having volunteers spread barkdust in the Commons and cedar chips in the play area. More than likely those projects will be done by volunteers again this year so please consider helping. Both projects were completed on Saturdays last year and neither project took more than a few hours.

A considerable amount of work is proceeding that is not as noticeable to the members as work in the Commons. The new tree planting policy (17-01) has been adopted and the Board is working on two other policies concerning artificial turf and the use of an HOA prepaid credit card.

The time of year when the Commons is most used is here. If you would like to hold a special event in the Commons please contact the Board to make a reservation. The forms necessary for reserving the Commons for a special event or for a landscaping and/or construction project are available at all times on the website. Unsurprisingly they are on the page, "Forms."

Draft Minutes for the June AHHA Board meeting are available below.

Comments, suggestions, and/or complaints can be sent to the Board by emailing board@abiquaheights.com.