

Fall Newsletter

Pond Improvement Project

The long anticipated excavation of the pond has been completed. More than one hundred truckloads of rock, soil, cattails and silt were removed during the project. The best estimate is the pond has increased its capacity by about 200,000 gallons. The recent rains have filled the pond to about 90% of capacity. The pump that feeds water to the small pond has been activated and water is once again flowing over the dam. Just this week the aerators were returned to the pond to oxygenate the water. Helpful bacteria will be added in the coming months and the plan is to reintroduce a fish population before the end of the year. A special thank you goes to Mike Schwingel, who headed the project, along with committee members Jack Connor, Roger Tallman, and Larry Tingwall.

The Commons

After the hot summer months and the wear and tear delivered during the pond excavation, the Commons is in surprisingly good condition. The cattails removed during the excavation along with the huge amount of silt (deposited over the years) have made the pond more open and the water much clearer. Sections of cattails have also been removed around the small pond. Before the heavy winter rains, a project to reroute some of the excess water that floods the pathway near the bridge might be undertaken. The effort would involve slight grading of the area and the installation of a drain that would flow into the upper pond.

Signs urging visitors to the Commons to refrain from climbing on the large oak tree in the Commons have been ordered and should be installed soon.

Basketball Court and Hoop

On September 28 the basketball court had lines for a key, a free throw line, and a three point line painted. A hopscotch course was also painted in a corner of the area.

On the same time day the basketball hoop was repaired. During the repair it was noted that bolts had been removed from the rim and those remaining had been loosened. Neither the breaking of the gears that raise and lower the hoop or the removal of bolts from the rim was caused by normal use and wear. It was simply vandalism. If you are aware of this type of vandalism in the past or the future please inform the Board.

Election for Board of Directors

The time is nearing when those interested in serving as a board member need to step forward. Two of the positions on the Board will be on the ballot in 2017. Those elected will serve a three year term, beginning January 1, 2018. The Board seems to function better when it is fully staffed with five

members so please consider serving the community. Specific information about the election process is available in a link at the end of the newsletter.

Fish and a Fishing Policy

The committee tasked with writing a fishing policy has finished their work and the draft policy is available below. This is a draft policy and members are welcome to voice their support or concerns to the Board. The policy will receive final action in November. It should be noted that the policy was spurred to completion by an email from one of the younger members of the community. Because of the knowledge and commitment evident in his email, he and a friend were made part of the committee writing the fish policy. The Board would like to acknowledge the work of Grant Nealon and Noah Gigena on this committee.

During the committee work a list of recommended list of fish species, size and quantity was produced for Board consideration. It is likely that the fish will be placed in the pond before the end of the year.

Master Plan Survey, the 2018 Budget, and more

The Board suspended the Master Plan survey because the return rate of the surveys did not reach the 60% threshold to continue. The Board would like to thank those that participated and assure them that their responses will guide future projects considered by the Board. Among the items most often mentioned in the survey results were the leveling of the play field area, the installation of a shelter, and the renovation of portions of the pathways to improve accessibility for strollers and the disabled.

The Board has been working on the 2018 budget and some of these projects are being considered. A draft 2018 budget will be available for comment after the October AHHA Board meeting.

The commitment, knowledge, and concern from the young members of the Fishing Policy committee has the Board considering adding a Youth Committee. The Board would gain a different perspective on the community and at the same time give the experience of community and committee work to the neighborhood's youth. If you have a middle or high school student who might be interested in discussing this idea with the board, please let us know.

Please note that the next ARC meeting is Monday, October 2, 2017 so if you have landscaping, painting, or construction projects that require approval please contact the ARC.

Please send comments, suggestions, or complaints to the Board by emailing board@abiquaheights.com.