

# CENTRAL BLAIR RECREATION & PARK COMMISSION

## BOARD MEETING

May 18, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ryan Rimbeck, Tim Brown, Wayne Hippo, Phil Ricco, Erik Cagle, Marla Marcinko, William Neugebauer

MEMBERS ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Mike Hofer, Judy Irvin, Cory Geishauser, Matt Lindsey, David Salome, Dane Schick, Matthew Dry, Bill Kibler

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by the Chairman, Wayne Hippo.

A roll call of board members was taken.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Erik Cagle made a motion to approve, as read, the board minutes from the March 16, 2017 board meeting, Ryan Rimbeck seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried.

Approval of financial reports was next on the agenda. Ryan Rimbeck made a motion to approve the Regular January through April, 2017 financial report. Erik Cagle seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried.

Executive Director Report was next on the agenda:

Mike then introduced to the Board the new staff members in attendance at the meeting. Cory Geishauser, Superintendent of Recreation; Dane Schick, Program Coordinator; Matt Dry our Penn State intern for the summer; Matt Lindsey, Superintendent of Parks.

Mike said he met with the Altoona High School Football Coach, Nick Felus along with Phil Ricco. He stated that Coach wants to get more involved in our Elementary Flag Football program. We are developing a new Kindergarten through Grade 2 Instructional Football program that will be instructed by Coach Felus and his staff at Mansion Park this Fall.

Easter Egg Hunt was held at Vet's Field on Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup> for ages 9 and under. We had the best weather we have ever had for this event. David Salome did a tremendous job taking the lead with the event; we had 500 to 600 participants with 18,000 to 19,000 eggs.

Hamilton Park just had the climber set in the ground today; it's very impressive and unique to the community. Ballfield work has been pushed back by a couple of weeks due to the wet weather. We are hoping for a ribbon cutting in July; however the park is open to the community.

New Business was next on the agenda:

- A. New Hires – Mike asked for approval to hire Dane Schick as our new Program Coordinator. Dane moved into the area and has a degree in Recreation and Park Management from Lock Haven. Has worked in North Carolina in a Parks and Recreation Department and more recently teaching preschoolers. Happy to have him here and he seems to enjoy working with the Commission. Wayne Hippo made a motion to hire Dane Schick as a Program Coordinator as of April 17, 2017 at the budgeted amount. Erick Cagle seconded the motion, the motion was unanimously carried.

Mike asked for approval to hire Tom Klaibler as a part-time maintenance worker, he is an extremely dedicated hard working employee. Ryan Rimbeck made a motion to hire Tom Klaibler as a part-time maintenance worker as of May 15, 2017, at the budgeted amount. Erik Cagle seconded the motion, the motion was unanimously carried.

- B. Sportsmanship Guidelines – The pamphlet with Sportsmanship Guidelines was sent to all the board members prior to the meeting. The pamphlet is for players, coaches and fans and it talks about sportsmanship, understanding the rules of the game, appropriate behavior, respecting officials and opponents. It also gives a definition of the Must Play Rule. He then passed around a Sportsmanship Plan and Accountability that we would like to follow beginning with Elementary Flag Football in the Fall. This will help the parents understand that CBRC and the AASD are working hand-in hand on the sporting activities for the children. We also are working on a Code of Conduct that the parents and the players will sign prior to the season beginning. Another idea was that the teams and the coaches meet prior to the game start with the officials that will reiterate that we are here to have fun, shake hands and go back to your benches and have a good game. Accountability will address bad behavior with the coaches and we want to stress zero tolerance. There will be a technical form at the scorer's table that will be filled out by the Program Coordinator on site and then handed into Mike and the building Principal. There will be ramifications if you do something that is out of line. If coaches are suspended they will have to complete the online Coaching Fundamentals course offered by the NFHS at their expenses before coming back into coaching. If a fan engages a coach, official or athlete in any unsportsmanlike behavior they will be removed from the facility and if it happens again the fan will be put on notice/trespass letter and will not be permitted back at those games for the remainder of the season. Moving some games to School District facilities will help the Commission provide more security and a better facility. Education will be an important part of the Sportsmanship Plan, educating coaches will help make our programs better. The Sportsmanship Guideline tri-fold will be presented at the mandatory meeting with athletes, coaches and parents with the building Principal and building Athletic Director. Wayne said the Code of Conduct wording is very important and should include punishment for bad behavior of extended family attending the games. Erik Cagle said this is a step in the right direction and he thanked the School District with their help on the Guidelines and the Sportsmanship Plan. The board instructed the staff to keep working on refining the Guidelines and the Sportsmanship Plan.

- C. Erik Cagle made a motion to cancel the July board meeting, Ryan Rimbeck seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried.

Board Comments – Wayne Hippo wanted the Staff to explore the possibility of creating a Dog Park in Altoona. He thinks that it would be well received and there is a need for it in our community. We could work with other organizations to help develop and run it. A good contact would be Roseanne Conrad with the Blair County Dog Park or maybe with someone from the Blair County Humane Society. Mike said he spoke to Roseanne and has scheduled meetings with her, that she had to cancel, about creating a Dog Park. A good location may be the back field beside the Softball field at Garfield Park. Wayne said the people that use these parks self-police and clean-up after their dogs. Signage on the fence may be a way to create some revenue. The Board then directed Mike to look into this idea further.

Questions from the News Media was next on the agenda. Bill Kibler asked about the status of the Sportsmanship Guidelines, Mike said we will officially adopt the guidelines during the September meeting. Mike said we are working on a Code of Conduct that will replace our Parent Pledge and we will begin using the Code of Conduct for fall sports. Mr. Kibler asked about the structure of the flag football program; Mike said there are K-2 Instructional, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Instructional, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade and 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade competitive leagues. If tackle football moves down to 4<sup>th</sup> grade, then there will be a K-2 Instructional, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grade and 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade competitive leagues.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Judith A. Irwin*  
Administrative Assistant

*K. Michael Hofer*  
Executive Director