

CENTRAL BLAIR RECREATION & PARK COMMISSION

BOARD MEETING

January 18, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ryan Rimbeck, Tim Brown, Wayne Hippo, Phil Ricco, Bill Neugebauer, Marla Marcinko, Joe Metzgar

MEMBERS ABSENT: Erik Cagle

ALSO PRESENT: Mike Hofer, Judy Irvin, Cory Geishouser, Tom Boslet, David Salome, Larry Clapper, Natalie Bartlett Reed, Randy Isenberg

The meeting was called to order at 4:39 p.m. by the Chairman, Wayne Hippo.

Wayne Hippo announced that there was an Executive Session prior to the board meeting to discuss a real estate acquisition.

A roll call of board members was taken.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Citizens and Group Representatives was next on the agenda. Natalie Bartlett Reed asked about the acquisition of Kustaborder Field by the Keystone Girls' Softball League. She stated that the neighborhood kids use the field to play football, softball, baseball and kickball, etc. There is a lot of free play that goes on at Kustaborder field and she would hate for the kids not to have that opportunity if a lease is given to the Keystone Girls' Softball League. Mike Hofer said we are still waiting to hear from the City of Altoona as to whether or not the City is interested in entering into a lease agreement with the Keystone Girls' Softball League for Kustaborder Field. The facility would still be open to the general public outside the utilization of Keystone Girls'. The field would be open 75% of the time for the general public. The benefit of the lease would be that improvements will be made to the Field. Marla Marcinko said that the City also understands that the use of the field would not be exclusive to the Keystone Girls. Wayne said CBRC would not be the entity that would be make the decision about the lease, it would be the City of Altoona. Randy Isenberg a neighbor of the Field is concerned about field lights, speakers, concession stand, and scoreboards being put in a residential neighborhood. Use of the park is not an issue, he would like improvements made to the Field. The noise level also concerns him along with traffic and parking issues. He would also like the use of the field be from dawn to dusk.

Approval of board minutes and financial reports were next on the agenda. Ryan Rimbeck made a motion to approve, as read, the board minutes from the November 16, 2017 board meeting, and to approve the Regular January through December, 2017 financial reports. Bill Neugebauer seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried.

Executive Director's Report was next on the agenda.

Mike presented to the Board the Winter Activities Guide that was inserted into the Altoona Mirror on Saturday, December 30, 2017 and then was passed out to the Elementary Schools the first week of January, 2018. Cory Geishauer and Diane Crile did a great job creating the tabloid along with securing sponsors and putting new programs in place. This is a good resource and a good tool for us to promote the Commission.

Community Classic Dinner & Benefit Auction – Mike said that we are just under \$16,000 in sponsors, which is \$6,000 less than last year. We still have another week to secure more sponsors and our goal is \$20,000. Ticket sales have had a slow start for the general public than we would have liked, but we anticipate that ticket sales will pick up closer to event day. This year our event is different with our guest speaker being a war hero and our guest speaker, Dr. Zane Gates. Silent Auction is set and our basket raffles are about 2/3 finished, our gift card galore will be what we will work on next with a goal of \$1,000 worth of cards. APEX donated a spinning bike worth \$650, which will be a separate raffle. He then invited the Board to attend the event and enjoy the evening.

New Business was next on the agenda.

- A. Reorganization Election of Officers for 2018 and 2019 - Wayne Hippo made a motion for Ryan Rimbeck to become Chairman, Erik Cagle to become Vice Chairman and Wayne Hippo to become Secretary/Treasurer of the Central Blair Recreation & Park Commission for the years of 2018 and 2019. Ryan Rimbeck seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried.

The meeting was then turned over to the new Chairman, Ryan Rimbeck.

- B. Baseball/Softball League's Discussion – Mike said we have had several issues with the baseball/softball leagues and we would like to make some policy changes that has endorsement from the Board.
 - Reach out to all baseball leagues to see how many teams they will have for the current season and be fair to all leagues with equal opportunity to schedule all the fields.
 - All liability insurance paperwork needs to be handed into the Commission prior to their first practice.
 - User fees must be paid prior to their first scheduled game along with handing in their game schedule prior to their first scheduled game.
 - The user fee will cover up to 16 weeks' worth of playing dates. If the league is not done in 16 weeks, then a one day rental fee will be charged for each week after the 16 weeks.
 - No games will be played at Garfield, Mansion, or Vets after September 1st.

- If there is excessive garbage left after the games are played, there will be a fee charged to the league of \$50. Leagues will not be able to play again until the fee is paid.
- If the games have been cancelled by our Superintendent of Parks then the leagues are not permitted to play. If the league does play the league will be charged for the time it took our maintenance department to fix up the field. Leagues will not be able to play again until the fee is paid.
- User fees will include the field lights.
- Locks will not be cut off of facilities.
- Kitty litter will not be used to dry up ballfields.
- All scheduled games and rescheduled games must be submitted to our Parks Department.
- No tournaments will be run on any of our fields without our permission.

Phil said that these same leagues use Mansion ballfield to play their games and the School District does not receive any funds from the leagues. He said typically there are 70 to 80 games being played at Mansion during the season. The School District just upgraded the field by redoing the entire baseball infield with new cages and the field is in great condition. The field was not used last year due to the upgrades. Phil said he has to meet with his Board to see what direction they want to take about league use and if there will be a separate fee to use this facility.

Wayne Hippo made a motion to implement these new baseball and softball league policies and gave Mike permission to send out letters to the leagues outlining the new policies. Bill Neugebauer seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried.

- C. DCNR Grant – Mike said he attended a DCNR workshop in November and received all the information for this year's grant round. The period to apply is January 22 to April 11. Mike said the Board has expressed interest in a comprehensive plan and he wanted to make sure the Board still wanted to pursue this idea and do we have the financing up front for the match. A comprehensive plan could cost anywhere between \$30,000 to \$80,000. Marla said that in order to provide direction for the Commission going forward and charting a course this type of planning document would be very helpful. This document should contain some type of community needs assessment, which would identify goals and objectives, revenue sources and a path to get there. This type of document would help provide support for additional funding opportunities. Wayne said we could use some of our fund balance to pay our share of the comprehensive plan. Marla said she would support allocating a portion of the City of Altoona's 2018 unassigned fund balance that is for

projects that reinvest back into the community with one of those categories being Recreation. Council hasn't had really any specific discussion about this since the budget was approved. However, Marla would be willing to make an argument that the City may want to think about making a contribution for the local share of the grant. Logan Township and the Altoona Area School District will also ask their entities about making a contribution to the local share of the grant as well. The Board then directed Mike to proceed with the grant application.

Wayne Hippo made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:24 p.m., Bill Neugebauer seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. Irwin
Administrative Assistant

K. Michael Hofer
Executive Director