

CENTRAL BLAIR RECREATION & PARK COMMISSION

BOARD MEETING

January 17, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ryan Rimbeck, Tim Brown, Phil Ricco, Kelly Irwin Adams, Bill Neugebauer, Marla Marcinko, Erik Cagle

MEMBERS ABSENT: Wayne Hippo

ALSO PRESENT: Mike Hofer, Judy Irvin, Tom Boslet, Dane Schick, Dan Stants, Ron Houpp, Matt Cursio, Bill Kibler.

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

A roll call of board members was taken.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Citizens and Group Representatives was next on the agenda. Matt Cursio, Executive Director, George B. Kelley Baseball Federation was there to inform the Board that Tom Stout, former director of the league has passed away. He said the League will continue to fulfill the lease agreement they have with the City of Altoona for Geesey Park. They have hired someone to maintain the field. He would like to request that the City of Altoona rename the field, Tom Stout Memorial Baseball Field at Geesey Park. The league will buy the sign to be placed at the baseball field. Mike said Geesey Park is on the agenda and we will bring this subject up at that time. Ron Houpp was there and he was asking for better maintenance at the softball fields: Westfall, Leopold and Garfield. He stated that the baselines are off at Leopold Park; plugs are too high at bases, the batter's boxes need replaced along with new field lights needed at Garfield; batter's boxes need replaced, the mound needs adjusted along with fill needed by the flag pole at Leopold. Ryan Rimbeck said we will look at these issues in the spring.

Approval of board minutes and financial reports were next on the agenda. Erik Cagle made a motion to approve, as read, the board minutes from the December 6, 2018, board meeting. Kelly Irwin Adams seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried.

Approval of financial statements was next on the agenda. Erik Cagle made a motion to approve the Regular January through December, 2018 financial report. Kelly Irwin Adams seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried.

Executive Director's Report was next on the agenda.

Mike said that we have been working hard on the Community Classic Dinner, we currently sit at \$13,000 in sponsorships and ad copy, which is a little bit over half way to our goal. We have two (2) more weeks before our deadline to make our goal. Silent Auction is 90 to 95% secured and ready to go, we are sorting and pricing the items right now. We are starting to secure raffle items and we would like between 50 or 60 and currently only have about ten or twelve. Ticket sales

are slow, but that is expected being that we are about a month out. Support for Steve Sauers, our Respected Citizen is positive and we expect a good turnout for Steve. This is our only fundraiser for scholarships, so if anyone knows of any potential sponsors or in need of tickets let us know.

Playground Project, there are four sites completed: Fairview, Orchard, Focus and the swings at Highland. We do need to complete a connecting concrete walkway from the existing walkway to the ramped playground equipment at Fairview. The playground at East Juniata is plotted and laid out and ready for the installers. The installers will be back in the spring for East Juniata and Iuzzolino Park. We really appreciate the support of Marla and City Council and without their support these playgrounds would not have happened.

New Business was next on the agenda.

- A. Hamilton Park – Mike said we had a bid opening on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 and we had seven (7) bidders. The bid range is between \$104,300 and \$156,350. The project is using CDBG funding and we have secured \$70,000, we need \$35,000 to accept the low bid. Thankfully the City Manager along with Mary Johnson, Manager CDBG were able to find the \$35,000 in additional funds. The additional money is on the agenda at the next City Council's meeting for approval. Kelly Irwin Adams made a motion to approve the bid from Ventura Construction in the amount of \$104,300 for improvements at Hamilton Park. This is contingent on receiving the extra \$35,000 in funding and the approval of the bid documents by our Solicitor, Dan Stants. Erik Cagle seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried.
- B. 2019 Winter's Activities Guide – The board then reviewed the 2019 Winter's Activities Guide that was inserted in the Altoona Mirror on Saturday, December 29, 2018 and then distributed to all the elementary schools in Altoona the first week of January, 2019. Dane Schick, Superintendent of Recreation and Diane Crile, Secretary, did a wonderful job putting together the tabloid. Dane said we tried to offer as many recreational opportunities to the citizens of Central Blair County as we could. He said sign-ups have already begun.
- C. Geesey Park – Mike said that Tom Stout has always been involved in baseball. He cared tremendously about the community and baseball and he had a passion for the sport. Tom was a former board member when we were the Altoona Recreation Commission. During the last few years his health was declining, however, his passion never went away. He took care of Geesey Park, even in the heat, to get the field ready for play. Mike agrees with Matt Cursio's recommendation that we name the ballfield the Tom Stout Field at Geesey Park. We appreciate the league paying for the signage at the park. Our next step is for this board to agree to the recommendation and then the approval would be made by the City of Altoona since they own the property. Phil Ricco made a motion to send a letter to the City Manager recommending that the baseball field at Geesey

Park be renamed the Tom Stout Field at Geesey Park, Ryan Rimbeck seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried.

Old Business was next on the agenda.

- A. Comprehensive Plan – Mike said we did receive the grant from DCNR to conduct a comprehensive plan. The next step is a conference call with DCNR and whoever else wants to be involved in the development of the RFP, as well as, a group of individuals that we will be putting together throughout this process to work with Commission. We would like representation from the City of Altoona, Logan Township and the Altoona Area School District for the initial phone call; this plan will impact all three (3) entities. The board needs to be thinking about members of the special interest group that the Commission will be forming to work alongside the consultant throughout this process.

Questions from the News Media was next on the agenda. Bill Kibler asked what work is being done at Hamilton Park. Mike said there is going to be a continuation of the walking track, around the inside of the perimeter of the outfield fence and connect to the concrete walkway that is behind the backstop, as well as, behind the pickle ball courts. New outfield fencing and additional drainage on the infield, as well as, grading work on the field itself. Mr. Kibler asked about the field improvements mentioned earlier by Mr. Houpp. Mike said we are aware of these issues and we will address them. He said, however, there is no money to improve the lights at Garfield Park.

Erik Cagle made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:06 p.m., Kelly Irwin Adams seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. Irwin
Administrative Assistant

K. Michael Hofer
Executive Director