

CENTRAL BLAIR RECREATION & PARK COMMISSION

BOARD MEETING

March 21, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT: Marla Marcinko, Ryan Rimbeck, Kelly Irwin Adams,
Tim Brown, Erik Cagle,

MEMBERS ABSENT: Wayne Hippo, Phil Ricco

ALSO PRESENT: Mike Hofer, Judy Irvin, Tom Boslet, Dane Schick,
Kyle Droz, Matthew Krafick, Kayla Conrad, Dan Stants,
Dustin Ott, 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.

Kelly Irwin Adams made a motion to approve, as read, the board minutes from the January 17, 2019 meeting; Erik Cagle seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried.

Approval of financial reports was next on the agenda. Kelly Irwin Adams made a motion to approve the Regular financial report for January through February 2019, Erik Cagle seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried.

Executive Director's Report was next on the agenda.

Summer Basketball League will be played on the new basketball courts at Lakemont Park this year. Our plans are to have a ribbon cutting ceremony on June 8th then after the ribbon cutting the BTW 3 on 3 basketball tournament will be played. There will be four (4) full-size high school courts at Lakemont Park. We will try to have a Womens' Division and Jr. High Boys' and Girls' Division. We hope to get at least eight (8) teams in each of these divisions this year. There are no other outdoor Jr. High Leagues offered in the area in the summer. We have already sent packets out to all the athletic directors within Blair County and some of the surrounding Counties inviting them to join the Jr. High League. Neil Rudel from the Altoona Mirror said he would do a story to let the public know what we are offering this summer.

The Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, April 6th at Vets Field. We are working on securing mascots, clowns, D. J. and stuffing the eggs.

The Community Classic Dinner had over 400+ attending, 460 tickets sold, sponsorships came in at \$25,000 and Rocky Bleier's speech was very well received and Steve's speech was very emotional. Profit should be between \$25,000 to \$26,000. Next year's event will be February 22 or 29.

New Business was next on the agenda.

- A. New Hire – Program Coordinators. Erik Cagle made a motion to approve the hiring of Kyle Droz as of February 19, 2019 and Matthew Krafick as of March 11, 2019 as Program Coordinators. Kelly Irwin Adams seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried.
- B. New Hire – Part-time Maintenance. Kelly Irwin Adams made a motion to approve the hiring of Jeremy Molina as of February 14, 2019 as a part-time maintenance worker. Erik Cagle seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried.
- C. Comprehensive Plan – Scope of Work – Mike stated that we had a conference call from DCNR to get the comprehensive plan process started. Involved in the conference call was Mike Hofer, Lee Slusser, Cassandra Schmidt, Tim Brown, and Marla Marcinko. The scope of work is the bulk of what the comprehensive plan will be looking at. A discussion continued and the Board agreed that the proposed scope of work identifies what the consultant needs to look at. This document will be placed in the RFP (Request for Approval) and then he will e-mail the RFP to the Board along with the Solicitor. Once the board reviews the RFP, we will submit it to DCNR for approval. Once it is approved by DCNR, the board can accept the RFP at the May 16, 2019 board meeting and we can formally begin advertising for consultants with hiring in September, 2019. The process will take well over a year (September, 2020) before we have the study in hand.

Study Committee & Key Persons interviews - Mike then presented a list of names that we can use to put together a Study Committee of 15 members. This group of people will work with the consultants through the entire process. The RFP requires that we have the study members confirmed. The time commitment is six (6) or eight (8) meetings. Each municipally should have a Study Committee member and then we need to fill the other positions. The Board asked if they could e-mail their suggestions to Mike; Mike said that would be fine, however, he needs to know the name of the entity member that will be part of the committee along with their suggestions. We then need to pick up to 20 people to be involved in the key-person interviews. We do not need to identify who they are in the RFP.

- D. Keystone Girls Softball – Garfield Park proposal – Dustin Ott, President of the Keystone Girls Softball League currently uses Garfield Park for the softball league as a secondary field. Their main field is in Mill Run; they would like to propose to the Board that next year (2020) they move the entire league to Garfield Park. They would like to use the main softball field and make repairs, then use the second field and make it their main field. Mr. Ott said that they expect 400 girls to be involved in this league next year and this field would give them an opportunity to host tournaments. They would be willing to share the field with Bishop Guilfoyle and the Sunday Double Header softball league. They would use the field from early April until mid-August and then may use the field for tournaments or practice. They will use their own equipment and use volunteers to make improvements and to maintain the field. In 2020 they would make the required upgrades to field 2, complete dugouts on field 2, fence

installed on field 2 and install a batting cage. The lease agreement would have to be with the City of Altoona who own the property. Superintendent of Parks, Tom Boslet, thinks this is a great idea for Garfield Park. His department would not have to maintain the facility during the spring and summer months and the facility will undergo some much needed improvements. Erik Cagle asked about the progress of making Garfield field 2 a dog park. Mike said we have applied for two (2) grants and got turned down, we did not receive any fence sponsorships. The comprehensive plan may help us determine if a dog park is needed in the City of Altoona and where would be a good location for it. Mike stated that a new concession stand/bathroom project will be completed within the next six (6) months at Garfield Park. Kelly Irwin Adams made a motion to have the Solicitor draw up an agreement between the City of Altoona and the Keystone Girls Softball League to lease Garfield Park for the spring and summer months of each year, allowing the Recreation Commission to have their soccer program at the field during the fall months, Erik Cagle seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried.

Questions from the News Media was next on the agenda. Bill Kibler asked why have a comprehensive study done. Mike said that it is to look at Recreation & Parks as a whole within Central Blair County and identify what we are doing right, what our strengths are, what are we doing wrong, what are our weaknesses and how can we improve our park system and our programming. We have had struggles, how do we try to move pass them, how do we grow, how can we strive to do better, offer better opportunities to kids and everyone in the community. Things to look at are park development, funding issues, staffing issues, deteriorating facilities; it's an opportunity to invest in our park system. Marla said that recreation is a quality of life issue and we want to be able to attract people to the area to live, work, play and do business. Community engagement and outreach is critical for this to be a successful plan.

Erik Cagle made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:36 p.m., Kelly Irwin Adams seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. Irwin
Administrative Assistant

K. Michel Hofer
Executive Director