

CENTRAL BLAIR RECREATION & PARK COMMISSION

BOARD MEETING

January 16, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ed Frontino, Tim Brown, Kelly Irwin Adams, Ken Decker, Matt Cacciotti, Jesse Ickes

MEMBERS ABSENT: Phil Riccio

ALSO PRESENT: Mike Hofer, Judy Irvin, Tom Boslet, Sean McTighe, Andy DeArmitt, Dan Stants, Bill Kibler

The meeting was called to order at 4:37 p.m. by the Chairman, Ed Frontino.

A roll call of board members was taken.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Approval of board minutes was next on the agenda. Kelly Irwin Adams made a motion to approve, as read, the board minutes from the November 21, 2019, board meeting. Jesse Ickes seconded the motion, Ed Frontino abstained from voting; the motion was carried.

Approval of financial statements was next on the agenda. Kelly Irwin Adams made a motion to approve the Regular January through December, 2019 financial report. Jesse Ickes seconded the motion, Ed Frontino abstained from voting; the motion was carried.

Executive Director's Report was next on the agenda.

Mike says we are going to work closely with Joshua House in Altoona to help us grow the BTW 3 on 3 basketball tournament. We will have one tournament in early summer and share resources and split the profit. We would like to have 75 to 100 teams and we usually have 25 to 55 teams. Having Lakemont Park hosting the event, we feel we can grow the basketball tournament. Both parties are committed to holding the tournament and we will have upcoming meetings to work out all the details.

Our Community Classic Dinner will be held on February 29, 2020 at the Bavarian Hall. Charlie Batch is a featured speaker with Andrea Cohen as our Respected Citizen. We have 85 to 95 silent auction items, staff is working on securing sponsors, selling tickets and obtaining prize pool baskets. We are about half way there on sponsorships and there are three weeks left before the deadline. US Foods is our event sponsor and they are very supportive of the event. Prime Sirloin and US Foods will cater the event, tickets are \$40. We hope to sell 500 tickets and we hope for good weather so we can raise as much money we can for the scholarship fund.

At 4:44 p.m. Matt Cacciotti was in attendance.

New Business was next on the agenda.

- A. Reorganization – Ed Frontino made a motion for Matt Cacciotti to become Chairman of the Central Blair Recreation & Park Commission for 2020 and 2021, Kelly Irwin Adams to become the Vice Chairman of the Central Blair Recreation & Park Commission for 2020 and 2021, Ed Frontino to become Secretary/Treasurer of the Central Blair Recreation & Park Commission for 2020 and 2021. Kelly Irwin Adams seconded the motion, the motion was unanimously carried.

The meeting was then turned over to the new Chairman, Matt Cacciotti.

- B. Comp Plan Update – Mike said we hired a consulting firm called Recreation & Park Solutions and we have been working with Sue Landis and Ann Yost since last September. We received a \$40,000 matching grant from DCNR for the comprehensive plan. We have had three (3) steering committee meetings, a public meeting that was attended by 50 people, a park tour and we are conducting an on-line survey. The consultants have met with the staff and they are identifying strengths and weaknesses. A rough draft of this plan will be presented to this board sometime this fall and hopefully adopted in late fall. This has been a great addition to the Commission having them coming in and looking at what we are doing. This plan will provide us with a nice guide map not only for short-term but long-term. This will prepare us to move forward and identify things we are doing well and things we have to work on. Mr. Decker said that if we have an incentive for people to do the survey, we may get better results. He stated that he will donate two (2) tickets to the Community Classic Dinner to someone that has logged on and completed the survey.
- C. Sixth Avenue Park Project – This Park is located on Sixth Avenue & 23 Street, directly across from the Simpson Temple Church. An open space green lot has been donated to the City of Altoona for park development. Mike has been working with the Mayor of the City of Altoona since last summer on developing this project and we received \$150,000 in CDBG funding last year. We are currently working with City Engineering and the Mayor in developing the plans. Mike presented to the board a rough sketch of the new Park. He would like to place Bank Shot Basketball at the park, which resembles the game HORSE. Anybody can use this system, the skill set of the game is to get points by scoring off of bank shots. This will be unique to any other Park in the City of Altoona. The Park will be very visible to the public and Bank Shot Basketball is very colorful and should draw a lot of interest. Also included is an accessible playground, pavilion and a 10 foot fence to surround the Park; the access will be in the alley. This will be a two (2) phase project with the first one going out to bid in the Spring 2020. First phase is fencing, parking, pavilion, sidewalks and playground. Second phase will be paving, Bank Shot Basketball and all site amenities. We will be putting an application together to CDBG, in the next few weeks, for the second phase of the project. We are excited about this project because there isn't a Park

within walking distance in the Sixth Ward area, the closest is Prospect Park.

- D. Winter Tabloid – Mike presented the winter tabloid to the Board, it was inserted in the Altoona Mirror on December 28<sup>th</sup>. It was also distributed to all the families within the Altoona Area School District grades K-6. This is a twice a year publication, the other one is in May. Staff did a great job, Andy and programmers secured the programs and advertisers and Melissa laid it out and sent it to the Altoona Mirror print ready. 25,000 to 30,000 copies were printed. Andy said we have some new programs, Dek Hockey and Nerf League and they are getting a good response.

Questions from the News Media was next on the agenda. Bill Kibler asked where the Sixth Avenue Park is located and Mike said it's on Sixth Avenue & 23 Street, directly across from the Simpson Temple Church. Mike said the property was donated in March, 2019 and with meetings with the Mayor of Altoona and the direct request to have this green space made into a new Park, we came up with this park idea. Park plans are being drawn up right now for Phase I and Phase II and Phase I will go out to bid end of February, early March; awarded in April.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Judith A. Irwin*  
Administrative Assistant

*K. Michael Hofer*  
Executive Director