

CENTRAL BLAIR RECREATION & PARK COMMISSION

BOARD MEETING

January 21, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ed Frontino (via phone), Tim Brown, Kelly Irwin Adams, Dave Francis, Ken Decker, Matt Cacciotti, Jesse Ickes

MEMBERS ABSENT: Phil Riccio

ALSO PRESENT: Mike Hofer, Judy Irvin, Andy DeArmitt, Dan Stants, Steve Miller, Bill Kibler

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

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 29, 2020, board meeting. Jesse Ickes seconded the motion, the motion was unanimously carried.

Approval of financial statements was next on the agenda. Kelly Irwin Adams made a motion to approve the Regular January through December, 2020 financial report. Jesse Ickes seconded the motion, the motion was unanimously carried.

Executive Director's Report was next on the agenda.

Mike said that we just completed Phase I of the Sixth Avenue Playground. The facility is entirely fenced in, playground is installed, half of the walkways are in place and the picnic shelter has been installed. Phase II includes Bank Shot Basketball, remainder of the sidewalk to connect the playground equipment and parking area and site amenities, which include picnic tables and benches. We believe this park will be heavily used, there are a lot of children in this neighborhood. Arts Altoona just moved across the street from the park and they are excited about the new park. Phase II should be out to bid in the next month or two and will be awarded late winter or early spring. Construction will start late spring or early summer and we hope to have a ribbon cutting late summer. Park is currently locked up until after Phase II construction is complete.

We started our elementary basketball games on Monday, January 18th and so far everything is going well. 6th Grade boys will start on January 25th and the little kids (Grades K-2) will have their first game on January 23rd. Kelly asked what happened to the 6th Grade girls, Andy DeArmitt said the communication with Altoona's Jr. High Coach wasn't great so we didn't have enough teams to hold the league. Mike said we hope that we will be able to have a 6th grade girl's league next year. Our numbers for basketball are down at least half from last year due to COVID-19, but we are running the leagues with what we have.

Dave Francis asked if the green space at Keith Jr. High School's athletic field was mentioned in the comprehensive plan. Mike said he didn't think so, Dave said he is against selling the property and asked Mike if the Commission would like to schedule use on this field. Mike said we would love the opportunity to use it as a practice field for baseball and soccer.

New Business was next on the agenda.

- A. Campaign Update – Mike passed around information on our scholarship campaign. We set our goal at \$25,000 and we currently have \$13,225, with 31 businesses donating \$11,000 and \$2,225 in private donations. Mike then asked the Altoona Mirror representative, Bill Kibler, to do an article on the scholarship campaign. We are considering doing a second mailer to past attendees of the Dinner to remind them that we are still accepting donations for the Campaign. Mike said that the support has been great and we even had a few new businesses make donations.

Ken Decker then asked how much did we ask for from the County in CARES Act money. Mike said around \$64,000 and we received a little over \$20,000.

Matt Cacciotti then reopened Citizens and Group Representatives. Steve Miller was there saying he was denied coaching in our soccer program as he was disqualified for issues that came up in his background check. He is able to volunteer for the Altoona Area School District. He is asking for us to look at our policy and personally interview a person and take into consideration how they have made life changes since they were in trouble. Matt Cacciotti thanked Mr. Miller for coming in and speaking to the Board.

Questions from the News Media was next on the agenda. Bill Kibler asked the ages of our basketball program, Mike said K-6 with 54 teams and around 459 participants; last year we had 92 teams with 849 participants. Bill asked if the reason for the decline was COVID-19 and Mike said yes and another reason could be because the 6th graders moved to Jr. High and last year they were at the elementary level. Bill asked if the Campaign is in replacement of having the Dinner this year. Mike said yes and we are about \$13,000 short of our goal and we going to keep the Campaign open until we reach our goal. Bill then asked about the Commission moving to a 501C3 status, Dan Stants said we are looking into the possibility.

The Chairman then announced that there was an Executive Session prior to the Board meeting at 4:00 p.m. to discuss personnel.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. Irwin
Administrative Assistant

K. Michael Hofer
Executive Director

