

CENTRAL BLAIR RECREATION & PARK COMMISSION

BOARD MEETING

May 20, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ed Frontino, Kelly Irwin Adams, Tim Brown, Omar Strom, Jesse Ickes

MEMBERS ABSENT: Phil Riccio, Matthew Cacciotti, David Francis

ALSO PRESENT: Mike Hofer, Judy Irvin, Kyle Droz, Terry Bennett, Andy DeArmitt, Joliene McCulloch, Dan Stants, Bill Kibler, Joe DeLeo, Pat Dandrea, Neil Rudel, Nate Kissell, Rob Crossman, Troy McMullen

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

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 March 18, 2021 board meeting, Ed Frontino seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried.

Approval of financial reports was next on the agenda. Ed Frontino made a motion to approve the Regular January through April, 2021 financial report. Kelly Irwin Adams seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried.

Executive Director Report was next on the agenda:

Mike thanked Bob Fiore from Fiore Furniture for their generous donation to get our lifeguard staff in place and certified, all guards passed and received their lifeguarding certificate and we do have a full staff for Prospect Pool. The pool is currently filling, and we hope to have an opportunity to try to turn the pump on tomorrow to start the filtration system. Our scholarship campaign has concluded, and we raised \$32,250, we exceeded our goal of \$25,000 and we thank everyone for all their help and support. Our 11th Annual Golf Classic is scheduled for Monday, August 9th with Encompass Health being our event sponsor. We are currently accepting teams, tee signs along with sponsors. We have about half of the field confirmed, we would like 32 teams and 60 to 75 tee signs. Kelly Irwin Adams asked if the 3 on 3 basketball tournament will be held this year and Mike said it is cancelled this year.

New Business was next on the agenda:

- A. Mountain Bike Trail - Rob Crossman was there representing the Mountain Bike Trail and they would like a place to build some trails around the Horseshoe Curve. The ground belongs to the Altoona Water Authority and there is about five (5) miles of trail. The project would be all volunteers and would not cost the Commission or the City of Altoona any money. The Altoona Water Authority has given permission to use the ground for trails and the Game Commission has agreed to police the trails with the mountain bikes permitted. The liability is with the Game Commission. He stated that the base loop is around 800 acres of

ground, they will add different skill levels. It is ready to be built and they have plenty of volunteers. Troy McMullen said that Blair County is the only County in the area that does not have any legal Mountain Bike trails. People will come to the area and ride as it is a very popular sport. Mike said the group is asking us for permission to move forward and they are not asking for any money or manpower. There is plenty of ground and there will not be a great amount of earth moving. Jesse Ickes made a motion to work with the Mountain Bike Trail group and for them to create a mountain bike trail around the Horseshoe Curve. Ed Frontino seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried.

- B. July Board Meeting – Ed Frontino made a motion to cancel the July board meeting, Kelly Irwin Adams seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried.

Old Business was next on the agenda.

- A. Garfield Park Tennis Courts – Mike said that we posted at Garfield Park that the Commission is considering changing the tennis courts over to pickleball courts. If anyone from the tennis community wanted to discuss this further, they were invited to attend the board meeting today. Mike said that there is no representation from the tennis community at the meeting today. Mike said he has been doing research to resurface the court and the cost from one bidder was around \$40,000. The tennis court is currently being used for Pickleball. The tennis court would fit six (6) pickleball courts inside the fence. Neil Rudel stated that the group has already raised \$12,000 to \$14,000 and they did paint lines on top of the tennis court. There are 120 members in their group and they are able to use an app to schedule court time. Jesse Ickes made a motion to turn Garfield Park tennis courts into a pickleball court and to work with the Blair County Pickleball Club to make the transition, Kelly Irwin Adams seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried.

Board Comments was next on the agenda. Kelly Irwin Adams asked what basketball will be played at Lakemont Park this summer. Mike said we are advertising for Men, Jr. High Boys, High School girls and High School boys. We do not have to do temperature screening, but will disinfect between games and participants can bring their own basketballs. We are hoping for 10 to 14 High School boys' teams and 10 Jr. High boys' teams. Kelly asked if we can try to start a Jr. High girls' basketball league. Mike said we would welcome a Jr. High girls' basketball league to be played at Lakemont.

Questions from the New Media was next on the agenda. Bill Kibler from the Altoona Mirror asked what we approved for the pickleball. Jesse Ickes said we approved the process for the project to take place at Garfield Park with both groups raising funds. Mr. Kibler asked if trails need to be constructed for the mountain bikes. Rob Crossman said yes because there are no trails there now, however, it is all marked and ready to construct. He stated that it would take five (5) to ten (10) days of volunteer effort to construct the trails. The trails would be good for running, hiking, and biking, but it will be too narrow for ATV's.

Page 3 – Board Meeting – May 20, 2021

Ed Frontino mad a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:03p.m., Jesse Ickes seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. Irwin
Administrative Assistant

K. Michael Hofer
Executive Director