

CENTRAL BLAIR RECREATION & PARK COMMISSION

BOARD MEETING

January 20, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ed Frontino, Phil Ricco, Matt Pacifico, David Francis

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tim Brown, Kelly Irwin Adams, Omar Strohm, Joe Carper

ALSO PRESENT: Mike Hofer, Judy Irvin, Andy DeArmitt, Joliene McCulloch, Terry Bennett, Dan Stants, Bill Kibler

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

A roll call of board members was taken.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Approval of board minutes was next on the agenda. Ed Frontino made a motion to approve, as read, the board minutes from the November 18, 2021, board meeting. David Francis seconded the motion, the motion was unanimously carried.

Approval of financial statements was next on the agenda. Ed Frontino made a motion to approve the Regular January through December, 2021 financial report. David Francis seconded the motion, the motion was unanimously carried.

Executive Director's Report was next on the agenda.

Mike said that the winter sports leagues are going strong, we are now focused on the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Classic Dinner to be held on Saturday, February 26, 2022 at the Bavarian Hall. We currently have 35 sponsors and about half of the tickets are sold, silent auction is about 90% completed, about half of the prize pool baskets are secured and we are collecting gift cards. Bill Schirf has given us his bio and is working on his presenter and who will pray the invocation. Guest speaker is secured, ad copy for the booklet needs turned in by January 31<sup>st</sup>.

New Business was next on the agenda.

- A. Reorganization. David Francis made a motion for Kelly Irwin Adams to become Chairman of the Central Blair Recreation & Park Commission for 2022 and 2023, Ed Frontino to become the Vice Chairman of the Central Blair Recreation & Park Commission for 2022 and 2023, Joe Carper to become Secretary/Treasurer of the Central Blair Recreation & Park Commission for 2022 and 2023. Ed Frontino seconded the motion, the motion was unanimously carried.

David Francis then took over the Chair for the Commission.

- B. BTW outdoor basketball court – dedication. Mike said the BTW Revitalization Corporation, at its November board meeting, recommended that the outdoor basketball court at the BTW site be named after Don Witherspoon. Mike said we lost Don in December 2020, the BTW project or corporation would not have happened without Don Witherspoon. The BTW group is asking the Commission to recommend to the City of Altoona that the court be named after Don Witherspoon. We will do a dedication in late summer after some improvements are made to the court. Mike said the President of the BTW Revitalization Corporation, Dave Cunningham, would like to make this announcement at the Community Classic Dinner on February 26<sup>th</sup>, if the board would approve this recommendation. David Francis made a motion to recommend to the City of Altoona that the outdoor basketball court at BTW be named after Don Witherspoon. Ed Frontino seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried.
- C. Hamilton Park – Phase III bid specification have been drawn up and we are ready to advertise for the job. CDBG has funded this entire project and we have \$77,600 for phase III. We are advertising for bids on January 22 and January 26 and we will award in late February or early March. This project includes the paving of the walking trail, drainage to the downslope, trees, benches, windscreen on the Pickleball Court and some signage. Ed Frontino made a motion to advertise for bids for Hamilton Park Phase III, Matt Pacifico seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried.
- D. 501c/3 – Mike said the City of Altoona has formally adopted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment to the CBRC agreement that includes indemnifying the Commission. Ed Frontino said Logan Township will formally adopt the indemnification on Thursday, January 27<sup>th</sup>. David Francis said that the School Board passed it as well. Dan Stants said we need to get the formal language from the School District. Once we get all the formal signed amendments we can begin the process of becoming a 501c/3 with the Internal Revenue Service. This will allow us to apply for charity donations and will allow a tax deduction for anyone that contributes to the Recreation Commission. We would like to announce this at the Community Classic Dinner on February 26<sup>th</sup>.

Board Comments was next on the agenda. Ed Frontino said he would like to propose putting in an Indoor Sports Complex at the Strawberry Hills property in Logan Township. He stated that this is a good fit for the area and would be a good alternative to rehabbing Prospect Pool as it is still losing water even during the winter without the system running. David Francis said what will the inner City kids do without the Pool. These kids need this summer recreation, although he understands that the behavior situation at the pool is not ideal. He stated that kids are not being held responsible for their actions and they along with their parents should be held accountable.

Ed Frontino said that the clientele at the Pool are using this facility as a hang-out. The site has only street parking and there is a high price to rehab the pool. Phil Riccio said we need to be proactive to prevent these issues at the pool. Matt Pacifico said that he believes that the idea of an indoor facility is a good one, however, he thinks this is a separate issue from the Pool. He said we need a community pool, especially inner City as it would be hard for these kids to travel to Juniata. Matt Pacifico said that if the City of Altoona is paying for this, then is it really a matter for this board. Mike said that typically these issues are a matter for this board because the Commission operates it. So everything that we touch always comes through this Board first and then presented to the entity involved. Mike said the Public Works Director, Nate Kissell, has a pool consultant coming soon to discuss the rehabilitation of Prospect Pool. We are going to need a decision, no later than March, if the Pool will open this summer. Andy DeArmitt, said that we only have one (1) concession worker and the cashier returning. Management said they would not return and he's not sure how many guards will return. Matt Pacifico said that we could contain these behavior instances by having more police present at the facility.

Questions from the News Media was next on the agenda. Bill Kibler asks if we could do both projects, the pool and the indoor sports complex. Ed Frontino said it would all depend on the funding. He also said that CBRC would run the sports complex that could include moving the CBRC Offices, turf fields for soccer, football, baseball and softball. Also basketball courts and pickleball courts. Mike believes that anything with a ball could be included at the facility including space for band practice, wrestling and gymnastics. We could have tournaments for 7 on 7 football, soccer and basketball. We could partner with other complexes to run area wide tournaments, the sky is the limit and the facility would provide an opportunity to play year-round. The building could also include a concession stand for additional revenue. Ed Frontino said that Logan Township has the ground, but the City of Altoona needs to provide the funds to build.

Ed Frontino made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:14 p.m., Matt Pacifico seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

*Judith A. Irwin*  
Administrative Assistant

*K. Michael Hofer*  
Executive Director