

CENTRAL BLAIR RECREATION & PARK COMMISSION

BOARD MEETING

March 17, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ed Frontino, Tim Brown, David Francis, Kelly Irwin Adams, Matt Pacifico,

MEMBERS ABSENT: Phil Riccio, Joe Carper, Omar Strohm

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by the Chairman, Kelly Irwin Adams.

A roll call of board members was taken.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Approval of board minutes was next on the agenda. David Francis made a motion to approve, as read, the board minutes from the January 20, 2022 meeting; Ed Frontino seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried.

Approval of financial reports was next on the agenda. David Francis made a motion to approve the Regular financial report for January through February 2022, Ed Frontino seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried.

Executive Director's Report was next on the agenda.

Mike said that our Community Classic Dinner was a great success, the turn-out was great and the event was seamless. He then thanked the staff for all their in help making the event one of the best we have put out there. We should profit around mid \$30,000. Bill Schirf was overwhelmed and Craig Wolfley, was a great entertainer. We are looking forward to 2023. Kelley Adams asked if we are considering Lakemont Park for the site of an indoor complex and Mike said yes we are.

New Business was next on the agenda.

- A. New Hire – Ed Frontino made a motion to hire Eric Pallotto as a Program Coordinator effective January 31, 2022, Matt Pacifico seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried.
- B. Hamilton Park – Phase III – Mike said that Cottle's Asphalt was the low bid for Phase 3 of the Hamilton Park project at \$38,190. The project includes: paving over of the existing trail aggregate walking path, sport coating, patching and lining of the Pickleball Courts, relocating fencing surrounding the Pickleball Courts, installation of a drainage ditch on hillside, reinstallation of Pickleball nets, pruning of existing trees and planting of new trees, as well as, the installation of site amenities including benches, signage, windscreens and tables. David Francis approved signing the contract for Cottle's Asphalt to complete Phase III of the Hamilton Park Project at \$38,190. Ed Frontino seconded the motion, the motion was unanimously carried.

C. Prospect Pool Discussion – Mike said that he, Andy DeArmitt and Nate Kissell met with a consulting firm concerning the viability of Prospect Pool. The City has entered into an agreement with them to do an assessment. They will be looking at the condition of the plumbing, electrical, locker rooms, structural, masonry, pool deck, filtration and lighting. They will conduct a building and ADA code assessment of the existing facility and prepare an opinion of probable cost of repairs to return the facility into operation; prepare an opinion of probable cost in replacing the facility in-kind and prepare an opinion of cost for making the facility represent current trends. This opinion should be ready by mid-April. The consultant said based on the current set-up of the pool it has 1 to 3 years of life left. They could not determine why the pool is losing water until they can actually do an assessment. He said that we need to continue doing what we are doing to eliminate water loss if we want to keep the pool open. This includes using sika-flex to seal cracks and using rubber paint to provide a barrier. The materials to prepare the pool would cost \$10,000, this does not include labor. It takes 14 days for the paint to cure until you can start filling the pool. Last year the rubberize pool paint was not available due to COVID. They stated that the pump system and gutters are old, the filter house roof is shifting and we have many ADA issues as well. The consultant said we can operate this year as long as the pumps turn on and the filters run, we will however, continue to lose water. Once the report is issued we will know more. We have reached out to last year's staff to see if they would return. Right now we have four (4) guards with limited hours, one (1) concession stand worker with limited hours and one (1) cashier. Currently we have no new applications on file. We need at least seven (7) or eight (8) lifeguards, seven (7) to eight (8) concession stand workers, two (2) cashiers, one (1) manager and one (1) assistant manager. We are currently struggling to fill these positions and we have been advertising heavily. Matt Pacifico said he met with Dr. Prijatelj, the Superintendent of the Altoona School District, about using some of their officers along with APD to patrol the pool. Mr. Pacifico said we need to have a safety plan in place and we can start with meeting with the School District and the Altoona Police Department. Mike said that he is very hesitant to say that we have a quality safe recreation pool for kids. He has great concern that something tragic may happen to a patron or our staff. If we open, we will have to have the pool painted and filled by mid-May, then we can turn the pump on and see if it is filtering the water. If the pump goes bad, you can't replace it at this point. The Commission does not have the Sikaflex or rubberized pool paint budgeted this year and the weather has not cooperated with us to start work there. Mike said we need to provide a safe environment for everybody at the pool and he can't say that we are at this point. We need to start work at the pool now to get the pool ready for opening on June 7<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Pacifico asked what is the life expectancy for these improvements. Mike said short-term (band aid) five (5) to ten (10) years, Refurbish 10 to 15 years, then an overall redevelopment that will generate money. The consultants were also looking at other avenues within the City of Altoona or Logan Township that an aquatic facility could go that would have a more attractable environment and have more parking. Our pool was built as a neighborhood pool and we are trying to use it as a City-wide municipal pool. The consultants also said that we have major ADA issues and this will be a big expense, meaning tearing down the bathhouse and having access to the pool with zero entry with no diving well. The cost could be

anywhere from 3 to 6 million dollars depending on what we want to do there. Mike said that we want to provide this service to the residents of Altoona, however, there are many obstacles to overcome. Kelly said that since we don't have the information from the consultant yet, and our next meeting is not until May, we should communicate by e-mail and vote my e-mail if we need to make any decisions.

- B. Meeting time – Mike said he would like the board to consider moving the board meeting time to 3:30 p.m. instead of 4:30 p.m. He says this will give the staff a better opportunity to attend the meetings and also be available for evening programming. Matt Pacifico made a motion to change the board meeting time from 4:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., Kelly Irwin Adams seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried.

Old Business was next on the agenda.

- A. 501c3 status – Mike asked the School Board members if their board has approved the resolution to indemnify the Recreation Commission. Kelly said they still working on the details. Ed Frontino said the School District needs to move on this, so we can apply for 501c3 status with the Internal Revenue Service.

Board Comments was next on the agenda. Kelly said that the School District is going to have a job fair for their students and the Commission is invited to be there.

Questions from News Media was next on the agenda. Bill Kibler asked why we met with Lakemont Park for the new sports facility. Mike said we are looking at different areas including property in Logan Township. Mike said that this area desperately needs a sports complex and he has been approached by many community members as to how they can help with this project. He has also met with a couple of architects to render a drawing and estimate the cost.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Judith A. Irwin*  
Administrative Assistant

*K. Michel Hofer*  
Executive Director