

BLAIR COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2024, 8:30 A.M.
COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM, BASEMENT

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

President Joe Keller called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

- Joe Keller, President
- Chuck Gojmerac, Vice President
- Galen Bickel, Secretary
- Bill Seil, Member

Members absent:

- Phil Ricco, Member
- Fred Miller, Member
- Frank Kopriwa, Member

Others present:

Nicole Hemminger, Lori Guyer, and Commissioner Webster (Commissioners Office), Paul Shaffer and Ken Ressler (Public Works), Eric Keim & Tristan Socie (Disc Golf Presentation), Gavin Dively (Wind Shred Disc Golf, LLC)

Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

Special Presentation:

Eric Keim opened the presentation with a disc golf presentation that summarized the history of disc golf at Valley View Park. The disc golf course was opened at Valley View Park in 2002 and, since then, has fallen into disrepair and has become outdated.

Gavin Dively, the owner of Wind Shred Disc Golf LLC, continued the discussion by noting Valley View's current course is needing basket repairs, specifically a basket missing on hole 5, general upkeep, including trash removal, signage on the course is limited and outdated to the current style and length of play, invasive vegetation is growing in the field of play, and the restrooms are closed during the park's off-season, which does not allow for year-round play.

As a "for-profit" disc golf business owner who also does "non-profit" work for the disc golf community, Mr. Dively estimates it would take \$20,000 to make the improvements he would like to see to the course (2 concrete T pads, 19 new baskets, drainage, extra beautification) as well as additional maintenance by the groundskeeper to maintain a larger course. He is proposing a disc sale fundraiser to help defray \$20,000 expense and a commitment from the Parks and Recreation board to make this happen. In return, he feels it will draw a greater number of disc golf enthusiasts from surrounding counties to Valley View Park.

Tristan Socie, a disc golf player, reported various statistics regarding the rapid growth of the disc golf sport throughout the area and nation. Information is tracked by participants logging into the UDisc app to record their scores and rate the locations as well as informing players of courses in their area.

Approval of Meeting Minutes of February 1, 2024

President Keller called for corrections or changes to the meeting minutes of February 1, 2024. There were no corrections or changes noted.

Motion by Chuck Gojmerac, seconded by Galen Bickel, and unanimously approved to accept the minutes as prepared.

Approval of Financial Report for the months of January and February 2024

Review of Year to Date Budget Report – 2023

Nicole Hemminger presented the Year to Date Budget Report for 2024 as of 2/29/2024.

Nicole Hemminger presented the Account Trial Balance for fiscal year 2024 as of 2/29/2024, which showed cash on hand of \$36,386.61

Motion by Chuck Gojmerac, seconded by Galen Bickel, and unanimously approved to accept the financial reports as prepared.

OLD BUSINESS

DCNR Grant

Submission to Cheri at DCNR for the waterline installation to be considered as an eligible project under a DCNR grant term. There is no movement on this item.

Progress Report # 4 - This report was submitted on February 20, 2024.

The final project inspection – Joe Keller will ask Adam Long to reach out as to the project inspection needed.

Project closeout - There is no movement on this item.

Roadway Repair

Discussion concerning possible funding sources, grants, etc. for the estimated repair of \$320,000.00.

Joe Keller will get back to Chelsea to see if there are any grants provided by the Conservation District to help with the cost of the repairs, including a guide rail, drainage, road base repairs. Then a grant application will need to be approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Discussion concerning road repair pertaining to the allocation for materials for county forces to repair. There is no movement on this item.

Motion lights

Discussion concerning the status of installation of motion lights.

Joe Keller will talk with Mack Messner to see if the lights can be changed as general maintenance or if it is something that would require a city engineer.

Rules and Regulations for 2024

Discussion and approval of posted Rules and Regulations for 2024 with no changes.

Motion by Chuck Gojmerac, seconded by Galen Bickel, and unanimously approved to accept the Rules and Regulations for 2024 as presented with no change from the 2023 season.

Groundskeeper Hiring

Paul Shaffer updated that a head groundskeeper was hired and will start on April 1, 2024. They are currently interviewing for an assistant groundskeeper.

Streambank Stabilization

Paul Shaffer reported the project is complete in three spots.

Footbridge Replacement

Brian is looking into finding a funding source. Joe Keller stated Brian Wisor, of Keller Engineers, Inc., will research funding options.

NEW BUSINESS

Nicole Hemminger requested the recommended the AYSO field use calendar for 2024.

Motion by Chuck Gojmerac, seconded by Galen Bickel, and unanimously approved to recommend to the Board of Commissioners, the AYSO Field Use Calendar for 2024 to the Board of Commissioners as presented.

Subcommittee Reports

Chuck Gojmerac suggested allocating not more than \$20,000 for Parks and Recreation Grants, with a maximum of \$3,000 grants to be available to various park improvements. Commissioner Webster asked if we can avoid advertising the grants in the Altoona Mirror and perhaps emailed the groups directly. Nicole Hemminger stated that we would need to explore the legalities of not advertising it in the paper.

Motion by Chuck Gojmerac, seconded by Galen Bickel, and unanimously approved to recommend to the Board of Commissioners an allocation of \$20,000 to grants for 2024 as presented.

The Soccer Field Lease will need to be renewed by December 2024. Chuck Gojmerac will see if Fred Miller would like to chair this subcommittee.

Open Discussion

Nicole Hemminger stated that Galen Bickel's position on the Advisory Board would be open at the end of April. The county will need Talent Bank Applications submitted for applicants willing to serve on the advisory board. Discussion occurred about finding someone outside the areas already represented.

Nicole Hemminger stated that as a virtual meeting option, Advisory Board members wishing to participate in the Parks and Recreation meetings but cannot physically attend can participate by phone if advance notice is given.

ADJOURN

With no further business to discuss, President Keller called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Chuck Gojmerac, seconded by Galen Bickel, and unanimously approved adjourn the meeting.