

BLAIR COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 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
- Phil Riccio, Member
- Bill Sell, Member
- Michael Kessling, Member

Members absent:

- Frank Kopriwa, Secretary
- Fred Miller, Member

Others present:

Lori Guyer (Commissioners Office) and Paul Shaffer (Public Works)

Public Comment: None

Approval of Meeting Minutes of October 3, 2024

President Keller called for corrections or changes to the meeting minutes of March 7, 2024. There were no corrections or changes noted.

Motion by Phil Riccio, seconded by Vice President Gojmerac, and unanimously approved to accept the minutes as prepared.

Approval of Financial Report for the Month of March 2024

Review of the Year-to-Date Budget Report 2024

Lori Guyer presented the Year-to-Date Budget Report for 2024 as of 11/1/2024.

Account Trial Balance for Fiscal Year 2024 as of 11/1/2024

Lori Guyer presented the Account Trial Balance for Fiscal Year 2024 as of 4/2/2024, which showed cash on hand of \$115,107.70.

Motion by Mike Kessling, seconded by Phil Riccio, and unanimously approved to accept the financial reports as prepared.

OLD BUSINESS

Motion Lights

Discussion concerning the status of the installation of motion lights at the amphitheater.

President Keller asked Paul Shaffer to obtain pricing for motion lights for either side of the amphitheater and to explore what would be required to wire them.

Bill Sell and Paul Shaffer stated that the area is too shaded for solar lights.

Footbridge Replacement (65,000.00) budgeted for 2024:

Paul Shaffer is to schedule county workers to readjust the existing bridge as time and weather permits.

Soccer Field Footbridge Repairs

Paul Shaffer confirmed that the repairs are complete; additional braces were added and rotting boards were replaced.

Status of the Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program grant application:

President Keller stated that we should hear the results of our grant application in the spring.

President Keller added that the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) grant will open in January and will be due the first part of April.

2025 Budget Status:

Lori Guyer confirmed that the 2025 budget has not been finalized.

Valley View County Park June 2024 Maintenance Report:

Prioritizing the order in which projects will be completed.

President Keller stated he will get pricing for the various items, and the Board can go over the items and prioritize them at the December meeting.

Pavilion Seating Count:

Paul Shaffer stated he took pictures of the tables at each of the pavilions, and he still needs to configure the number of people each pavilion actually seats.

Once the seating count is determined, the website will need to be updated.

Amphitheater Charges for Non-profit Groups:

Discussion concerning waiving the rental fee for non-profit groups interested in using the amphitheater.

President Keller stated that non-profits are not allowed to charge for events.

Vice President Gojmerac recommended that the Amphitheater rental fees be waived for non-profit organizations holding community events.

Motioned by Phil Riccio, seconded by Mike Kessling, and unanimously approved to waive the amphitheater rental fees for non-profit organizations holding community events.

President Keller questioned if this needs to go through the Board of Commissioners and if the by-laws need to be changed.

AYSO Donation to Blair County Park and Recreation Advisory Board for Valley View Park Soccer Field Parking Lot Improvements:

President Keller asked if the Park and Recreation Advisory Board received a donation from Altoona AYSO yet.

Lori Guyer stated that no donations have come in yet.

Vice President Gojmerac stated that sometimes these donations take time to come through.

FC814 Soccer Field Lease for 2025:

President Keller asked if anyone has a copy of the 2022-2024 AYSO Soccer Field Lease that we can send to Tim Dieter.

No one present had a copy.

President Keller stated he would check with Nathan Karn to see if he still had a copy and asked Lori Guyer to reach out to Fred Miller's secretary to see if she could obtain Fred's copy.

President Keller stated that he knows changes were made to the lease we have on hand that expired in 2022.

The current lease expires December 31, 2024.

President Keller asked if the group could continue to use the field without a lease in January or February.

Phil Riccio stated that during January and February the group would more than likely use the Altoona Area High School facility.

Lori Guyer cautioned that a new group using the Valley View Park soccer field would have to produce at least a certificate of insurance reviewed by the county solicitor before they could use the soccer field.

NEW BUSINESS

Park and Recreation Board Mission Statement:

Lori Guyer provided the members with a packet containing the various versions of the Blair County Park and Recreation Board Constitutions and By-Laws. Unfortunately, the documents are not dated.

President Keller read the "Purpose of the Organization."

Vice President Gojmerac stated that the "Purpose of the Organization" clearly states that the board should be helping public green spaces throughout the county, not just Valley View Park.

President Keller stated that the first of the year, the board should go before the Board of Commissioners and ask again for approval of small grants to be dispersed to the various parks throughout the county.

Lori Guyer suggested that since the Valley View Soccer Field Parking Lot Improvement was an issue preventing the small grants from being approved earlier in 2024, perhaps the parking lot should be the first priority in the Valley View Park Improvements projects in order to help these smaller grants gain approval.

Subcommittee Reports

Soccer Field Lease

Vice President Gojmerac stated that FC814 is a well-run organization, and it is important to keep the lines of communication open with them.

President Keller stated that he would contact them and let them know we are working on getting an updated soccer field lease for them.

Open Discussion

Paul Shaffer stated that Valley View Park closed on November 1. The groundskeeper is done for the year. The county workers are currently at the park winterizing and closing the restrooms. The gates will remain locked at all times until the park opens in the spring.

ADJOURN

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

Motion by President Keller, seconded by Vice President Gojmerac, and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting.