

BLAIR COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 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
- Frank Kopriva, Secretary
- Michael Kessling, Member
- Phil Ricco, Member
- Frank Kopriva, Member

Members absent:

- Bill Sell, Member
- Fred Miller, Member

Others present:

Commissioner Webster and Lori Guyer (Commissioners Office), Paul Shaffer and Ken Ressler (Public Works), Samantha Rogers (AYSO) and Tim Dieter (FC814)

Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

Special Presentation:

- i. Samantha Rogers announced that the Altoona AYSO soccer club will be disbanding and will combine with FC814 Soccer from Hollidaysburg. Ms. Rogers stated that she and Tim Dieter from FC814 will be running the club together, and they are hoping FC814 will be allowed to lease the field space at Valley View. Ms. Rogers added that while the program is the same, it will keep the money local and generate support through local volunteers.

Phil Riccio stated from his experience that FC814 is extremely organized and easy to work with.

Commissioner Webster asked if FC814 will buy insurance.

Tim Dieter responded that the FC814 insurance will be under PA West and their own insurance.

Mr. Dieter stated that he can also provide a copy of their schedule.

- ii. Samantha Rogers requested permission for Altoona AYSO to make improvements to the parking lot at the Valley View Soccer Field with the money left in the Altoona AYSO account.

Discussion ensued as to how that would impact the current grant requests.

Commissioner Webster recommended Altoona AYSO donate the money to the Blair County Park and Recreation Advisory Board with a Memorandum of Understanding that the money would be used for improvements at the Valley View Soccer Field Parking Lot. That would allow the money to be reflected as matching funds for the pending grants while ensuring the money would be spent on the soccer field parking lot. The Solicitor would need to review the existing lease, which Fred Miller currently has a copy of, and prepare the Memorandum of Understanding. The Board of Commissioners would then need to vote on it.

Approval of Meeting Minutes of June 6, 2024

President Keller called for corrections or changes to the meeting minutes of June 6, 2024.

There were no corrections or changes noted.

Motion by Michael Kessling, seconded by Frank Kopriva, 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 10/1/2024.

Lori Guyer presented the Account Trial Balance for Fiscal Year 2024 as of 10/2/2024, which showed cash on hand of \$112,458.75.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Roadway Repair

In Paul Shaffer's absence, Ken Ressler stated that the roadway repairs at Valley View are complete.

Motion lights

Discussion concerning the status of the installation of motion lights.

Joe Keller spoke with Scott Bettwy from Bettwy Systems Inc. and confirmed it would be easier to replace the existing lights at the amphitheater with motion lights than to reconfigure the existing lights.

Ken Ressler expressed concern that it would require running new wires since the electric is turned off to that area if the amphitheater is not being rented.

Lori Guyer suggested possibly using motion-activated solar lights.

President Keller asked Mr. Ressler to check on pricing and what is available.

Groundskeeper Hiring

The season is over effective October 31, 2024, so this position is no longer needed.

Footbridge Replacement

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

Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program Grant Application

President Keller stated that he is still waiting to hear from the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development (DCEd) regarding the Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program Grant Application.

Disc Golf

Vice President Gojmerac stated that this is not a revenue source, so it is not a top priority to improve what is currently there. The focus needs to be on improving the parking lots.

Will there be a summer concert series?

President Keller stated that although there would not be anything this late in the season, he has identified several groups to approach to see if there is any interest for the 2025 season.

Swing Set

President Keller stated that after reviewing the Game Time Playground Grant Application, he felt it would not be in our best interest to pursue this route, and a swing is included in the Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program grant application.

NEW BUSINESS

Park and Recreation Board Mission Statement

President Keller asked that this issue be deferred to next month's Park and Recreation Advisory Board meeting.

2025 Budget Preparation

Lori Guyer presented the 2025 Budget that will also be presented at the Public Budget Meeting on Monday, October 21 at approximately 3:30 p.m. Ms. Guyer stated that changes were made since prior years that influenced the totals. She asked that the members please review the budget and reply with any questions or comments.

Vandalism of the Men's Restroom

Ken Ressler stated that the repairs have been completed.

Valley View County Park June 2024 Maintenance Report

President Keller emailed to everyone last month the Valley View County Park June 2024 Maintenance Report. This is the plan that is included when submitting for grants. President Keller requested that everyone look over it and respond with any questions. The Park and Recreation Advisory Board needs to prioritize the order in which the projects will be completed.

Discount or Free Pavilion Rentals for County Employees

A discussion was held concerning offering a discount on the Valley View Park Pavilion Rentals for County employees.

Vice President Gojimerac stated that Morrisons Cove Memorial Park offers employees a 25% discount as a benefit for working at the park.

Commissioner Webster expressed that County employees do not contribute directly to the park, nor do most of them know where the park is located. This makes for a different situation than Morrisons Cove Memorial Park.

Discussion concluded that there would be no discount on the Valley View Park Pavilion Rentals for County Employees.

Pavilion Seating Count on the Valley View Website Is Not Accurate

After a pavilion renter informed us that the pavilion seating count is incorrect on our website, Paul Shaffer was able to confirm that the numbers are off.

Vice President Gojimerac asked that Mr. Shaffer take a picture of the tables at each pavilion so that we can determine the minimum number of people each pavilion can seat and then we can have the website updated accordingly.

Approval of the Great Commission Schools Soccer Field Schedule, Endorsement, and Certificate of Liability Insurance For The 24/25 Season

Motion by Chuck Gojimerac, seconded by Frank Kopriwa, and approved to accept the Great Commission Schools Soccer Field Schedule, endorsement, and Certificate of Liability Insurance for the 24/25 season.

Approval of the Draft Letter Response to Frank Berry regarding the Valley View Park Amphitheater

Frank Berry, a Valley View Park neighbor, has repeatedly requested that the Park and Recreation Board and County Commissioners do more to encourage groups to take advantage of the amphitheater.

President Keller drafted a letter in response to Mr. Berry.

Motion by Chuck Gojimerac, seconded by Phil Riccio to send President Keller's response letter to Mr. Berry.

The question was raised if Valley View Park should be charging nonprofits to use the Amphitheater.

GameTime Playground Grant Application

As discussed earlier, the Park and Recreation Advisory Board will not be pursuing the GameTime Playground Grant Application

Soccer Field Footbridge Repairs

Paul Shaffer confirmed that a report that the Soccer Field Footbridge is in need of repairs. Mr. Shaffer has cordoned off the bridge with hazard tape until several rotted boards are replaced.

Ken Ressler stated he will coordinate getting a purchase order for supplies with Lori Guyer and have the repairs made.

Motion by Phil Riccio, seconded by President Keller to purchase materials up to \$500.00 to repair the soccer field footbridge.

Subcommittee Reports

Soccer Field Lease

Status of the review of the current lease in preparation of the expiration of the lease in December of 2024.

No additional reports were available.

Open Discussion

Phil Riccio suggested that the meetings be moved to the Keller Engineer Conference Room across the street to avoid the wait in the security line at the Courthouse.

Commissioner Webster reminded everyone that due to the Sunshine Law, meetings are advertised to the public in the Altoona Mirror each January. She recommended that the move take place after the advertisement is placed with the new location in January so that the board would not incur additional advertising fees.

ADJOURN

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

Motion by Phil Riccio, seconded by Michael Kessling, and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting.