

**Special Commissioners Meeting
November 22, 2024**

Present: Mark Koors, Jeremy Pasel and Tony Blodgett

Mr Koors opened the November 22nd Special Commissioners meeting; he then announced Title VI forms are available for anyone who would like to fill them out and turn them in at the Auditor's office.

Chris Ramey led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mr Koors announced a job offer was made to the applicant for the position of Area Plan Director and he said no, turning it down for a better opportunity at Ball State. The search for a qualified person will continue.

Commissioners need to make a decision whether to do a pool or eliminate it and put pickleball courts in. Mr Pasel said replacing a pool with a pool is not feasible and we can't continue to let the pool sit there in the unused state/condition, so take the pool out and leave the pool house. Mr Blodgett stated the option for a water feature in that area is also not feasible and we need to get something, affordable done with that area considering the County's finances probably couldn't afford a pool in 10 years. **RecreationSports Coordinator Rob DeHoff** ran some numbers for putting in up to 8 pickleball/multi-use courts with fencing, renovate the pool house for offices, monitor this area and adding new dedicated tennis and basketball courts – between \$600,000 and a \$1,000,000. The ROI (return on investments) would run 10 – 15 years if managed right. Mr DeHoff asked what the future plan for a pool because the public is going to ask. Mr Pasel's suggestion for a future pool is North Park or Rebekah Park, which is more accessible for those who would use a pool. Mr Blodgett sits on the ARPA Committee and he shared some concerns on the funding for the TURF Project at the Sports Complex since the County Council denied Parks and Recreation Director Teresa Kovacich's budget transfer requests of \$65,469, which would be part of the funding of the TURF Project. The Council had approved the ARPA Committee's request to designate \$750,000 to the TURF Project. The ARPA Committee may be asked to cover the \$200,000 not covered by the Parks and Recreation budget, which takes funding away from the pickleball courts. ARPA will meet Monday, November 25th, to review requests of \$250,000 for the Fairgrounds and another \$20,000 request. Council President Danny Peters told Commissioners the Council is trying to keep the Parks and Rec Department from spending all of their cash. Council also had to reduce the 2024 Parks and Rec budget by \$42,000, hoping the State would approve their 2025 budget request. Mr Blodgett said the Commissioners are already under contract for the TURF Project and he doesn't have any information how the Parks and Rec is going to cover their portion of the contract. Kenny Hooten, Council and ARPA Committeeman, said there would be around \$135 - \$140,000 less needed of the ARPA's \$600,000 for the pickleball courts if the Commissioners cover the demolition and backfill of the old pool. ARPA could then possibly cover the \$65,000 not available in the Parks' budgets. The 2025 projected revenues and expenses for Parks and Rec shows they may be able to meet expenses and it is up to the Auditor's Office to only allow expenses according to the cash/bank sheet. Mr Pasel proposed using \$100,000 from the interest earned by EDIT (5 months = \$64,000), not touching the principle and if ARPA would fund another \$100,000, then the Parks and Rec's part is covered and the project is funded. Mr Blodgett made a motion the Commissioners cover the costs, either through donations or paying for preparing the pool lot for a future building project and Mr Pasel seconded the motion. Mr Koors said okay the pool is coming out.

Local resident Larry Heger said he would like to address the topic of the Area Plan Director. The pattern of habits of how the Area Plan Commission had done ordinances/things in the past and the Area Plan Director would bring those to the Commissioners who heard and voted on the ordinances presented. He questioned the Commissioners' authority to terminate the Area Plan Director. Mr Koors said the APC is an advisory board, not a governing board. In 2017 the Commissioners approved the addition of 2 more voting member positions and 2 non-voting member positions; making the APC a 9-voting member body.

Mr Blodgett asked where the Commissioners stand on the \$250,000 for the READI 2.0 project since there won't be enough in ARPA funding to do this project in addition to the TURF and Pickleball Courts projects. Mr Pasel recommended funding the pickleball and TURF projects first and get going on the discussions with the 3 non-profit groups for fundraising. Commissioners' priority in 2025 would be covering the READI 2.0 project.

Mr Hooten asked why the \$100,000 is being pushed to ARPA for the Parks and Rec's TURF project. Mr Blodgett said the ARPA Committee's has to make sure all of the funds are obligated/contracted by December 31, 2024 from the ARPA distribution. The Parks Board has not asked ARPA for any funding for the restroom project at Rebekah Park.

The vehicle logos on county vehicles; Mr Blodgett has called **Game Plan** 3 times but his calls weren't returned. Mr Pasel said **Green Signs** did the 'wrap' on the Solid Waste truck and maybe check with the Highway Superintendent to see what company did the highway trucks.

Mr Pasel messaged Greensburg Mayor Josh Marsh regarding the proposed parking lot at Rebekah Park which is part of Greensburg's Trail Project. He asked Mayor Marsh if he'd be willing to file the exception with Greensburg's BZA to except out the bump-outs and vegetation in the design of that parking lot which is on County property. The mayor messaged back the County is free to pursue that petition. Commissioners received a notice of Greensburg' BZA exception at 315 South Ireland Street, the County's Annex, which was filed by Green Signs. The Commissioners have not been notified who or what the project is. Mr Pasel made a motion to turn down Greensburg's proposal, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Blodgett said the Commissioners need to sign the ARPA contract/agreement for the County's Blight Program and create a non-reverting fund for receipting fees charged for various services to make the program self-staining. Mr Blodgett intends to stay on, if ok with Mr Pasel and future Commissioners, and oversee the Blight Program.

Mr Koors is very disappointed the Parks Board assumed it had the \$200,000, but not they don't. Mr Blodgett expects to share the final report from **Baker Tilly** on the County financial health.

Mr Pasel said Baker Tilly will come to show/share their financial analysis in December.

With nothing else to come before the Commissioners, Mr Blodgett made a motion to recess, Mr Pasel seconded and Mr Koors concurred. Meeting recessed.

The next Commissioner's meeting will be December 2nd, 2024, beginning at 6:00 PM in Room 106.

Attest: _____

Date: _____