

**BLAIR COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**

**AGENDA**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2021, 8:30 A.M.**

**CONFERENCE ROOM 2B, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR**

*\*Public meetings are being held both in-person and by conference call. To participate in the meeting please dial 1-408-419-1715 or 1-408-915-6290 and enter meeting number 2468097683#*

**CALL TO ORDER** – President Joe Keller.

**ROLL CALL** – Melissa Harpster.

- President Joe Keller
- Vice-President Tim Hite
- Secretary Galen Bickel
- Member Fred Miller
- Member Phil Riccio
- Member Chuck Gojmerac
- Member Sue Kovensky
- Central Blair Recreation Commission Director Mike Hofer
- Public Works Paul Shaffer
- Maintenance Jim Pooler
- Commissioner Amy Webster
- Others –

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Approval of Meeting Minutes for the month of November 2021.**

- Motion                      Second

**Acceptance of Treasurers Report for the month of November 2021.**

- Motion                      Second

**Sign Replacement.**

- Draft of park map.

**Trail Signs.**

- Bids for trail signs.

**DCNR Grant.**

- Updates.

**JPO, APO, Prison, Community Service - Inmates for assistance at Valley View Park in 2022.**

- Update – Fred Miller.

**Morrison's Cove Civil War Monument.**

- Receipts for Park and Recreation Grant Funds Expended – Chuck Gojmerac.

**Items on Backburner:**

- Road Resurfacing – project on hold until spring.
- General Permit for Valley View Park Streambank Stabilization – project on hold until April 2022 – permit valid through sometime in 2022.
- Valley View Park ADA Evaluation – Trina Illig to attend January 2022 meeting.
- Tree maintenance/removal.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Annual Sunshine Public Notice to be published.**

- Blair County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Monthly meeting will be held the first Thursday of each month at 8:30 a.m., Conference Room 2B, Courthouse, with the exception of the June 2, 2022, meeting which will be held at Valley View Park, Pavilion 2. 814-693-3030.

- Motion                      Second

**VALLEY VIEW PARK ISSUES/CONCERNS:**

**BLAIR COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2021**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM 2B, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR, COURTHOUSE**

*\*Public meetings are being held both in-person and by conference call. To participate in the meeting please dial 1-408-419-1715 or 1-408-915-6290 and enter meeting number 2468097683#*

**Meeting Called to Order:**

President Keller called the meeting to order.

**Roll Call:**

**Present:**

- Joe Keller, President
- Tim Hite, Vice-President (call in)
- Galen Bickel, Secretary (call in)
- Fred Miller, Member
- Phil Riccio, Member
- Paul Shaffer, Public Works
- Jim Pooler, Maintenance
- Melissa Harpster, Administrative Office Coordinator Commissioners Office

**Absent:**

- Chuck Gojmerac, Member
- Sue Kovensky, Member
- Mike Hofer, Central Blair Recreation Commission Director
- Amy Webster, Liaison Commissioner to Park and Recreation

**Others Present:**

- Thomas Ford, Penn State Extension

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Approval of Minutes:**

President Keller called for corrections or changes to the minutes of October 2021. **There were no corrections or changes noted.**

Motion by Tim Hite, seconded by Phil Riccio and unanimously approved to accept the minutes as prepared.

**Acceptance of Treasurers Report for the month of October 2021:**

President Keller called for the Treasurers Report.

Melissa Harpster presented the report for the month of October 2021. Mrs. Harpster stated that Assistant Finance Director Sarah Chuff prepared the report.

Motion by Fred Miller, seconded by Phil Riccio and unanimously approved to accept the report as prepared.

**Tree Removal/Tree Maintenance:**

Thomas Ford, Area Commercial Horticulture Educator with the Penn State Extension Office recently completed a walk-thru of Valley View Park and assessed the condition of the various trees that have grown in the park over the years. Mr. Ford stated that during his four-4 hour timeframe spent at the park he had the opportunity to evaluate the health and condition of over sixty-60 trees in the main area of the park.

Mr. Ford stated that approximately 70% of the trees are dealing with stem girdling roots. He suspects the stem girdling roots were caused primarily by poor landscape practices and improper maintenance.

Mr. Ford stated that the large Scotts Pines are short-lived and should all be removed as the best course of action at this time. He stated that in addition to the stem girdling root issues, the lack of mulch around the trees has increased the incidence of mower blight and string trimmer injury. Wooden signposts naming trees have not been moved or relocated as the trees have aged and is resulting in injury via girdling.

Mr. Ford stated that there are numerous trees that require pruning to eliminate limbs where significant bark inclusions are observed. He stated most of the larger trees on the property need pruning or thinning to improve tree health, and that none of the trees should be topped.

Mr. Ford stated that hazard trees adjacent to playgrounds and pavilions should be promptly removed if an ISA Certified Arborist views them as a hazard.

Mr. Ford stated that the quality of the woodlot is poor due to lack of management by the county and the woodlands need to be managed by a forester and there needs to be thinning of the forest via a timber sale (selective cut) or via forest stand improvement. He stated that the county should consider bringing in a consultant forester to see if a timber sale would be cost effective and what revenue it may bring to the county.

Mr. Ford stated that county's plan to replace the amphitheater has the emerging threat of spotted lanternfly that will make this area largely unusable due to the excretion of large amounts of honeydew (sugar) during the lanternfly's feeding activity. He stated that the honeydew will cover the amphitheater and sooty mold will grow. Park staff would have to power wash the wood surfaces almost daily. He stated that the county might want to consider building the amphitheater out in the open.

Mr. Ford stated that the county should be employing an arborist/horticulturist that can apply pesticides as needed to the park grounds to control weeds, insects, along right of ways, and manage pests and diseases in the landscape when detected. He stated that the person managing the park should be carrying a valid PA Applicator License in Categories 23 and 10, and the lead maintenance person for the park should have some knowledge of landscape management practices and tree care.

Mr. Ford proceeded in his presentation by going down through the numerous photos he took of the tree species throughout the park and the issues found and recommendations for those issues.

**Sign Replacement.**

- Draft of Park Map.

Joe Keller stated that he would try to have a draft prepared for the December meeting.

**Trail Signs.**

Joe Keller stated that we are now ready to obtain quotes/bids for the signs.

Discussion followed.

**DCNR Grant.**

Joe Keller stated that he would be in contact with DCNR regarding Mr. Ford's recommendation of moving the amphitheater.

Discussion followed.

**Road Resurfacing.**

- On backburner until spring.

**General Permit for Valley View Park Streambank Stabilization.**

- On backburner until April 2022 as permit is valid through sometime in 2022.

**Valley View Park ADA Evaluation.**

- Melissa Harpster stated that Trina Illig would be attending the January 2022 meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- None

**VALLEY VIEW PARK ISSUES/CONCERNS:**

- None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

Motion by Tim Hite, seconded by Galen Bickel and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting.

**COUNTY OF BLAIR  
PARK AND RECREATION  
INCOME STATEMENT**

	NOV 2021	YEAR-TO-DATE 2021
Beginning Balance	\$ 143,390.91	\$ 134,109.63
Revenue		
Interest Applied	\$ 15.25	\$ 190.82
Pavilion Rentals	130.00	8,450.00
Soccer Field Lease Payment	-	-
Lakemont Park Rental	3,650.00	40,150.00
Lakemont Park Additional Rent	-	36,160.00
Refund of Prior Year Expenditure	-	-
Refund of Pavilion Rentals	-	-
Total Revenue	\$ 3,795.25	\$ 84,950.82
Expenses		
Electricity	\$ 91.98	\$ 1,002.18
Postage	-	124.58
Water	191.40	2,106.35
Advertising	-	666.94
Gasoline	213.76	1,485.44
Telephone	22.07	234.05
Trash	60.00	420.00
Penn State Arts Festival	-	-
CBRC Summer Playground	-	6,500.00
Employee Wages and Taxes	1,362.42	33,598.05
Background Checks and Drug Tests	-	100.00
Materials and Supplies	-	3,107.14
Vehicle Insurance	-	240.00
Park and Recreation Grant Awards	-	11,109.40
Park Improvements - Keller	-	1,846.79
Pavillion Electrical Project	-	-
Waterline Installation	-	-
Drainage and Grading Project	-	-
Tree Removal	-	11,200.00
Park Bench Plaques	-	75.00
Central Blair Summer Program	-	-
Total Expenses	\$ 1,941.63	\$ 73,815.92
Ending Balance	\$ 145,244.53	\$ 145,244.53

ACCOUNT	ACCOUNT NAME	ORG	EFF DATE	REFERENCE	BEG. DEBITS	CREDITS	NET CHANGE	END BALANCE	Parks & Rec November 2021
PER	JNL	SRC			0				
035-40-101-00	Hourly Wages - ST	35101	11/4/2021	RUN: 1 WARRANT: 211104	1,265.60	0	1,265.60	1,265.60	
*11					0				
35101-41030					1,265.60	0	1,265.60	1,265.60	
035-40-101-00	Er Medicare Tax	35101	11/4/2021	RUN: 1 WARRANT: 211104	18.35	0	18.35	18.35	
*11					0				
35101-41500					18.35	0	18.35	18.35	
035-40-101-00	Er Social Security Tax	35101	11/4/2021	RUN: 1 WARRANT: 211104	78.47	0	78.47	78.47	
*11					0				
35101-41510					78.47	0	78.47	78.47	

**\$ 1,362.42 Total Due to the General Fund**

**Melissa Harpster**

---

**From:** Chuck Gojmerac <chuck@morrisonscovememorialpark.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 30, 2021 1:50 PM  
**To:** Melissa Harpster  
**Subject:** Fwd: Civil war monument  
**Attachments:** IMG\_0793.JPG

**This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise Caution.**  
DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email.

Dear County Commissioners:

Please accept this correspondence as the Park's required follow-up letter as it pertains to the outdoor Civil War Monument which was only made possible through a grant from the Blair County Commissioners and the Park & Recreation Advisory Board.

Necessary copies of the paid invoices from the work performed will be dropped off at our meeting.

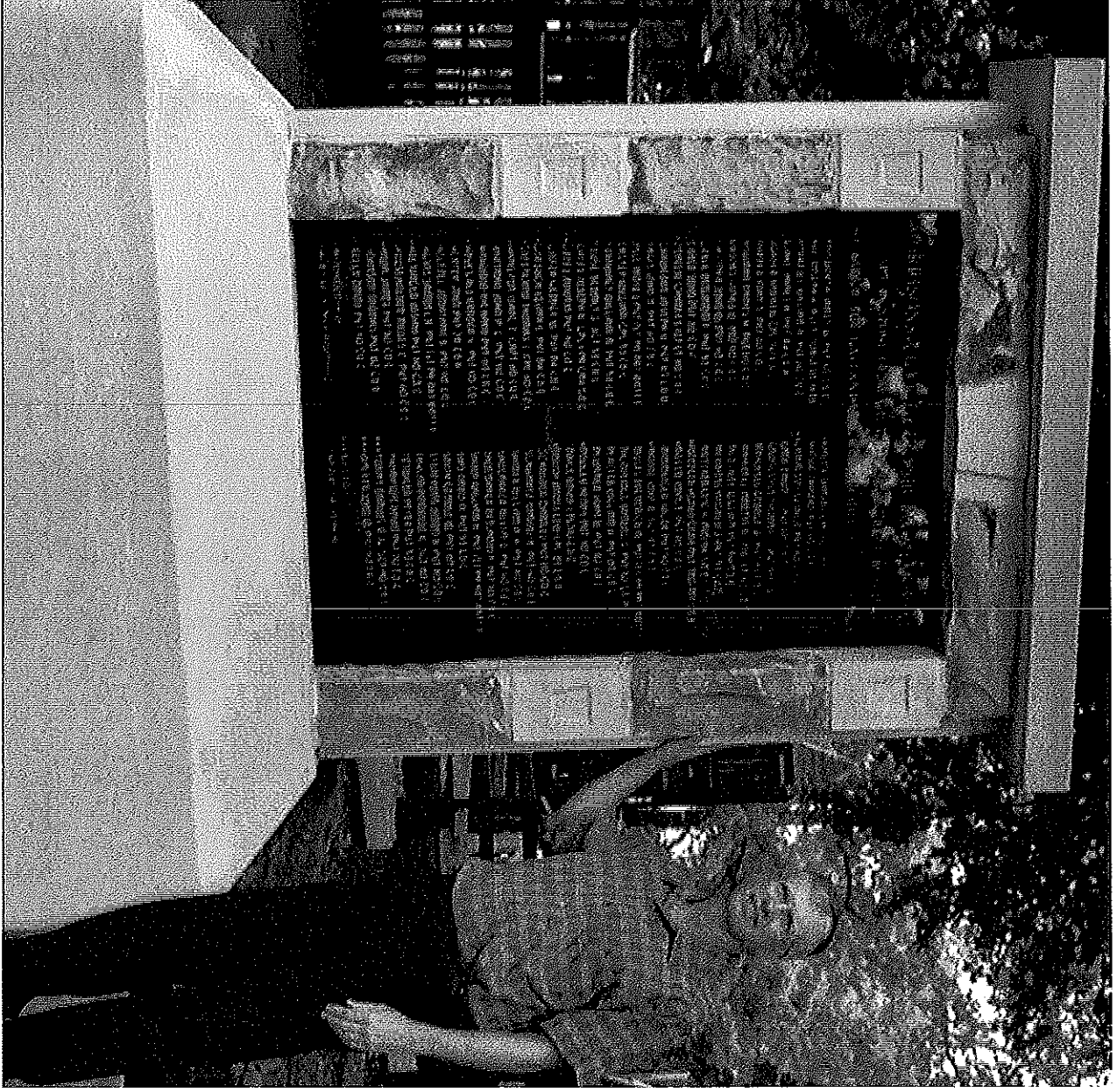
Attached is a photo of the finished project along with Randy Stoltz.

Our mission statement for *Morrison's Cove Memorial Park* is to make sure the area is available for generations to come. With the awarded grant, we are able to maintain our mission. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Chuck Gojmerac  
Park & Recreation Director

Date	Item - War Monument Costs	Cost	Balance
3/4/2021	Sun Precast Company	\$1,620.00	\$1,620.00
4/19/2021	Sun Precast Company	\$9,180.00	\$10,800.00
4/20/2021	Snowberger Construction	\$4,053.27	\$14,853.27
7/27/2021	Roots in the Cove	\$1,914.44	\$16,767.71
10/11/2021	Showmaker Monument Co.	\$1,000.00	\$17,767.71



## Melissa Harpster

---

**From:** Allison Senkevich  
**Sent:** Friday, November 12, 2021 1:19 PM  
**To:** Melissa Harpster  
**Subject:** Parks and Recreation

**Importance:** High

Hi Melissa,

Regarding the Sunshine Public Notice, please reach out to the other board members to confirm their approval the following schedule for 2022:

**Blair County Parks and Recreation:** Monthly meeting will be held the first Thursday of each month at 8:30 a.m., Conference Room 2B, Courthouse, with the exception of the June 3, 2021 meeting which will be held at Valley View Park, Pavilion 2. 814-693-3030

Please respond to me with your answer no later than **next Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 12pm.**

Thanks!

**Allison G. Senkevich**  
Assistant County Administrator  
Blair County  
423 Allegheny Street, Suite 441A  
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648  
814-693-3030