

GRIFFITH PARKS and RECREATION BOARD

Minutes for the May 8, 2017 meeting:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, 111 N. Broad Street in Griffith, Indiana by President, Tim Diamond. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

The meeting was attended by the following members:

- John Dudlicek -Tim Diamond -Christine Wroblewski-
Al Markut, Park Superintendent

Absent were Scott Muffet , Leah Dumezich, School Board liaison, Jim Marker, Town Council liaison

Christine Wroblewski made a motion to approve the April 10, 2017 minutes. John Dudlicek seconded the motion; all approved. Motion passed.

John Dudlicek presented claims#11973-11987 & 12031 in the amount of \$38,490.46. John then made a motion to accept the claims as presented; Christine Wroblewski seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Tim Diamond announced that the June 12, 2017 Park Board meeting will be held at 7 PM. A study session will be held at 6 PM before the meeting; one will follow if necessary.

He reminded residents to call 911 if any graffiti, damage, or questionable behavior is seen in any of the town parks.

General comments regarding the Parks Department or bike paths can be directed to griffithparks.@griffith.in.gov

CORRESPONDENCE: Tim Diamond announced that May 13 is the Town Clean-Up day. Rich Leber, chairman of the event, was present and commented that everything was in order. Mulch will be brought in this week; John Dudlicek is coordinating the equipment, and Karl from the “Y” is getting a list together of volunteers. Sign-ups will be held at the “Y” Saturday from 8-9 and work will be done from 9:00 – 12:00. This 3rd annual Togetherhood day is held in conjunction with the National Day of Togetherness for the “Y” . Imagine Griffith committee is working with the “Y” with work being done on the bike trails, parks and around town. Tim Diamond extended thanks to Rich for all his work organizing this event.

REPORTS:

Financial Report: Tim Diamond reported that this year’s Park budget is \$295,624.00; \$51,145 has been spent leaving 83% of the money left. \$27,577.00 is in the bank but we expect to get more funds with the distribution of the tax levy at the end of June.

Park Superintendent: Al Markut reported that this is the first week his summer help is available. The crew is getting into their mowing sequence and he is looking forward to this Saturday.

School Board Liaison – No report; Leah absent.

GSEC – No Report

Neighborhood Spotlight Report –Tim Diamond stated that the Park Dept. has received a grant of \$8000.00 from the Legacy Foundation towards a fitness area at Panther Park. Another \$6000.00 has been made available for a conversation station (outdoor meeting space). The Neighborhood Spotlight group is looking at installing cameras for the other parks, especially Cheever.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

John Dudlicek went over the unfinished business:

1. Pop Warner Field lighting – This project was on hold until the flag football season ended. The lights will be moved around for a football layout.
2. Baseball Field Fencing – The fences have been painted in black and the broken pieces have been fixed.
3. Baseball field paving – Repaving has been done around the Little League and Babe Ruth fields.

4. Central Park Playground area –Plans have been finalized and bids are going out. They are due May 22, 2017.
5. Handball Court – We are receiving quotes to repave this area at Cheever Park. The wall will also be refurbished as there is some interest in starting a handball league there.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

1. Pavilion Rental Sales Tax – Tim Diamond reported that Clerk Treasurer John Volkmann had been informed that we are expected to collect sales tax on park rentals. From now on any rentals will include a sales tax charge.
2. Panther Park – The Rotary Club is willing to donate \$2500.00 to help with the cost of 4 exercise stations. They also want to donate \$1000.00/year for the next 10 years in order to expand the space. Imagine Griffith has plans for a mural and we hope over time to add a water fountain there.
3. 5 Year Plan Amendment –The Park Board got approval from the Town Council and the Fire Chief to use land at the grassy area by fire station 3 for a park. Because this park was not included in the 5 Year Plan, we need to get an addendum to the Master Plan for the DNR . Once this is done we can apply for a grant to try and get 50/50 matching funds of up to \$200,000.00 . John Dudlicek made a motion to accept Amendment 1 to Town of Griffith Indiana 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan 2017-2021. Chris Wroblewski seconded the motion; motion passed.
4. Bike Trail Connection – The County is looking to connect the Oak Savannah to the Erie Lackawanna Trail. They are breaking ground on Oak Ridge Prairie portion and looking to start the Griffith side soon. The project should be done by the end of August.
5. Bike Trail signage – NIRPC has been working on revising and upgrading the signage along the entire bike trail, including mile markers.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

None

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Aaron Pollock, 127 N. Rensselaer, introduced Walter Sandoval who is interested in leasing out Cheever Field for his Schererville, Indiana softball team's practices. He wants to rent the park for 12 weeks and will do weed control and will drag the field to make it playable. Mr. Sandoval handed the Park Board members a proposal for a 12 week rental, 3 months at \$140/month for a total of \$420.00. He would like to hold practices Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 5-8 pm. John Dudlicek replied that he would have to pull the lease as the park is already rented part time by the Illinois Fire team. He will check the time frame and get back to Mr. Sandoval.

Cheryl Wisemon, 330 N. Indiana, informed the Board that Tot Park has lost a slide and a sandbox and has only 2 small old benches along Indiana and none along the access road or side street. She suggested looking for money for playground equipment there. Tim Diamond remarked that he has been asking Al Markut for the age of the equipment in all the parks; there is a possibility of relocating some of it. Cheryl then brought up the subject of planting the trees which the Town had received. She stated that only 38 have survived and have been put in pots. She said that there was room on the west side of the high school by the bike trail and possibly by the Historical Society and Franklin; she hopes to get these in on the 13th.

Laura Gaby, 1010 W. Elm Place, remarked that as she walks the bike path between 45th and Main Streets she sees painting and markings on the bike path done by those running races; she feels it mars the surface and looks bad. Laura also noted that NIPSCO also has written addresses on the path in paint. John Dudlicek added that some of the markings are done by runners or bikers on the trail so they know where they are. One of her suggestions was to use cones instead of the paint. Aaron Pollock added that he did ask the police for permission to mark the trail in paint which will eventually wear off since the chalk will rub off. Laura asked if the markings could be blacked out after the races are complete. Tim Diamond will talk to the police chief to see what could be done.

Valerie Wotkun, 1004 W Elm Place, remarked that there was a low section along the bike path between Elm & Pine Street which doesn't drain. She wondered if a load of dirt could be brought in to help drainage. John Dudlicek said he knew of the problem but that the solution is a difficult one. If he filled the area, the water would just go somewhere else; also, there is already an underdrain there. Lastly, he added that if the asphalt was raised, it would cause a dam because the water wants to go to the west.

Meeting was adjourned by President, Tim Diamond at 7:37 pm.

Diane Kujawa
Recording Secretary