

GRIFFITH PARKS and RECREATION BOARD

Minutes for the April 10, 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 Vice-President, John Dudlicek. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

The meeting was attended by the following members:

- John Dudlicek -Scott Muffet -Christine Wroblewski
Al Markut, Park Superintendent - Jim Marker, Town Council Liaison

Absent were Tim Diamond and Leah Dumezich, School Board liaison.

Scott Muffet made a motion to approve the March 10, 2017 minutes. Christine Wroblewski seconded the motion; all approved. Motion passed.

Scott Muffet presented the claims for March numbered 11531-11553 in the amount of \$35,030.46 (Thirty-five thousand thirty dollars and 46/100). He then made a motion to accept the claims as presented; Christina Wroblewski seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

John Dudlicek announced that the May 8, 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: None

REPORTS:

Treasurer's report: Financial report being worked on.

Park Superintendent: Al Markut reported that everything was going pretty well. He and his crew have been tidying up loose ends. He added that one of the larger amount bills was for replacing the security light which was hit by lightning. The GFI and hanging light had to be fixed. John Dudlicek informed Al that the softball league had left garbage in the corner after they had cleaned up the field.

School Board Liaison – Jim Marker announced that there is a joint school/police meeting regarding the subject of heroin at the high school auditorium at 7:00 PM on April 11, 2017. Suicide deaths among recent graduates have prompted this subject.

GSEC – On hiatus

Neighborhood Spotlight Report –Valerie Wotkun and the Garden Club are sponsoring an Adopt A Spot program. Valerie was present and added that there are already twenty groups who have committed to this project for-all year care other than the watering. Some groups are working at the historical society's depot, on Broad Street, on the bike trail and at the "Y"; a few spots are still available.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

John Dudlicek went over the unfinished business:

1. Pop Warner Field lighting – This project is on hold due to the wet weather.
2. Baseball Field Fencing – Improvements are being done at all the baseball fields at Central. Posts are being painted and the chain link is being replaced.
3. Baseball field paving will start later this week.
4. Central Park Playground area – John stated that bids for this project will go out before the end of the month.

5. RFP Lawn Maintenance – Scott Muffet stated that he has received quotes and has started analyzing them.
6. Benches – not Central – Christine Wroblewski reported that South Park does need new benches, especially around the playground area. She hopes to get ones made of recycled material.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

1. OSHA Complaint – Policy compliance- John Dudlicek explained that this complaint was directed to Public Works; but he reminded everyone that there should be no smoking in Town vehicles or in public buildings. Also, safety belts should be worn when driving Town vehicles. Jim Marker added that yellow vests should be worn when working next to the road.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

None

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Valerie Wotkun, 1004 W. Elm St., spoke about the policy of driving and parking in Central Park during the market. The food trucks and other vehicles are driving through the park and compacting the grass. During the Art Fair no one parks in Central Park; they park at the west end of the park. Jim Marker agreed that the problem is the heavy food trucks coming in. He replied that one solution could be putting out 2 x 6's for the trucks to roll on. Another possibility might be designating a certain path for them to drive on; possibly hanging police tape to block off certain areas. John Dudlicek added that the Boy Scouts also stay off of the grassy areas when they have their Art & Craft Fair. Jim Marker suggested working with Rick Ryfa on this problem. John Dudlicek added that to help with this problem there is a plan to put a drain in the area near the playground that floods really bad.

Cheryl Wisemon, 330 N. Indiana, stated that she got a call from the DNR that they have trees available for the Town if we want them. They are walnut, pecan, black and white oak in bundles of 10 and have to be planted on public property. Discussion followed as to where we might plant the trees if we get them and how they would be watered. It was decided to contact Rick Konopasek and plant the trees temporarily at the dump until decisions are made as to where they should be planted permanently. Valerie thought that the fire department might be able to help water the trees in addition to using the Town's water truck.

Meeting was adjourned by Vice President, John Dudlicek at 7:27 pm.

Diane Kujawa
Recording Secretary