

## GRIFFITH PARKS and RECREATION BOARD

### Minutes for the March 13, 2017 meeting:

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 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:

Tim Diamond                      - John Dudlicek                      -Scott Muffet                      -Christine Wroblewski  
Al Markut, Park Superintendent -Leah Dumezich, School Board Liaison   - Jim Marker, Town Council  
Liaison

Scott Muffet made a motion to approve the February 13, 2017 minutes. Leah Dumezich seconded the motion; all approved. Motion passed.

John Dudlicek presented the claims for March numbered 11154-11167 in the amount of \$3032.14 (Three thousand thirty-two dollars and 14/100). He then made a motion to accept the claims as presented; Christina Wroblewski seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Tim Diamond announced that the April 10, 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](mailto:griffithparks.@griffith.in.gov)

CORRESPONDENCE: There will be a Town Clean Up Day on May 15. The Garden Club is running an "Adopt a Spot" in the parks and Town to help take care of certain areas.

### REPORTS:

Treasurer's report: No financial report.

Park Superintendent: Al Markut reported his crew has been doing the extra work normally done in the spring but they are looking forward to the snow tonight. He mentioned that there had been some trouble with the John Deere with a new leg having had to be put on. Al asked for confirmation to order the six bronze benches for Central Park and got an ok; he also asked for the decisions on the garbage cans. Tim Diamond said the Board will make a decision sometime this week. He then brought up the subject of benches for South Park; Al suggested different benches with 2 x 4 wood which are easy to put together and can come quickly. The hardest part would be digging a hole. Tim Diamond would like to order a different design. Al then added that he would like to replace the backs on the benches on the trail since they are about 14 years old. He could use the boards from the ice rink. John Dudlicek suggested a board member be assigned to take inventory of the amount and color of benches, tables and garbage cans. He suggested that Christine Wroblewski help with this project. In other business, Al also would like to start grass seeding in Central Park since the Market begins the first of May. Both sides of the main trail required seeding and he would like to work with Central Market to find another way of parking the market vehicles. The Board did approve Al to start seeding. He is still waiting on the weather to open the washroom; as soon as TLC says the pipes won't freeze, they will be opened. Tim Diamond then remarked that the parks are open until 10 pm and the washrooms are being closed at dusk. They should remain open until the parks are closed.

School Board Liaison – Leah Dumezich reported that this is Disability Awareness month so there will be a middle school and high school basketball game. The high school and middle school will also be having their college and career fair March 24. Kindergarten roundup starts beginning of April. Check the website for dates.

An open enrollment forum will be held on Thursday, at 7 pm. There is a counseling survey on the website and members are encourage to fill it out as the school is applying for a Lilly grant for counseling services for our students. Griffith has been named to the College Board AP Honor Roll. There will also be an Autism Resource Information Fair at NISEC on April 29, 10 am to 2 pm. In addition, the schools are partnering with Griffith Police Dept., Chief Mance and the Highland Schools to try to put together an opiates and heroin education program from kindergarten to high school. They hope to eventually create an intense drug course which would be part of the graduation requirement.

Neighborhood Spotlight Report – Tim Diamond stated that work is still being done on our action plan. Officer Grist is working with the schools to put additional cameras in some of the other parks and trying to find funds for the bike path cameras even though they are supposed to be closed after dark. Additional cameras at the high school may help as well as the possibility of call phones. Tim added that we are trying to get more information out on the sports sign-ups, and we will be collaborating with the YMCA on activities. Valerie Wotkun and her garden club are running their Adopt A Spot and are working on a master tree and garden plan.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:**

Tim Diamond went over the unfinished business:

1. Baseball field drainage-This project was done at the major field; the paving will be completed when asphaltting can be done. John Dudlicek reported that drains and catch basins all have been replaced and stubbed for future drainage going to volleyball courts. There are inlets in the paved areas by the stands. Al remarked that the third base side in the grassy area was very wet with the last rain. John replied that there was no storm drain there but it may be possible to tap off the storm sewer.
2. Pop Warner Field lighting – Tim Diamond reported that changes have been approved a few months ago, with poles having to be moved. Contractors have been waiting for a freeze, but the project should be done by May. John Dudlicek said that receptacles need to be fixed and poles moved.
3. Central Park Playground area – Tim Diamond announced that we are still in the middle of this process. It will be another 30 days before it is out to public bid.
4. RFP Lawn Maintenance – Scott Muffet stated that he had sent out 5 requests for weed & feed and lawn maintenance quotes. He had received only 2 so far, from Great Lakes and C&T. He is waiting to receive a few others.

#### **NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:**

1. Five Year Master Plan - Tim Diamond said that this plan is on the website and has been sent to the DNR; once they have accepted it we are eligible for additional grants. John Dudlicek mentioned that we will need a grant writer now that we may be eligible for them. Tim Diamond went on to explain that the plan began with a survey on how people use the parks, and why they are not using them. The parks other than Central were found not to be used by many people mainly due to safety and park condition. Officer Grist is working to change the safety perception. The Board visited every park to identify needs. A dog park and splash pad were suggestions from the survey, but maintenance and personnel are concerns. Any enhancements to be considered should entail less maintenance or at least remain neutral. Tim noted that Lake County Parks are now working on a 5 year plan and hoped that they might incorporate some of our ideas in their plan for Oak Ridge Prairie. He went on to state that improvements in Central Park revolve around the ball fields, especially drainage and fencing. The fences need straightening and painting; the girls' softball field fence has already been painted. The fields also need to be regraded and will be done by partnering with the baseball leagues. Other improvements might be an expanded storage shed, enlarging the length of the baseball field to be able to use it for tournaments, a new scoreboard and improved lighting for Babe Ruth, and making the minor field safer and cleaner. The main concern at South Park is the lighting as the soccer field is in pretty good shape and has its own watering system. This field may need benches and a concession/storage building between soccer and Pop Warner. The stumbling block is the ditch. The 39<sup>th</sup> Street Park is in need of more playground equipment. One option is to partner with Kaboom, where installation is done by volunteers with a contractor as supervisor. Cheever Park is in need of improvements to its walking path and possibly adding some exercise equipment. The handball court has been neglected and needs repaving and repairing of the wall. The tennis courts could use fencing, new surface and possibly sidewalks. The Franklin girls' softball field fence has been painted and irrigation and electrical work have been put on their list. Improvement to Panther Park (the area off of Columbia and the bike path) include a mural on the wall of the building and possibly adding exercise equipment. Griffith Rotary is interested in adopting this park. Tot Park enhancements include added special rubberized surface and the Board is looking for ideas for Woodland Park in addition to adding the rubberized surface. Tim Diamond then concluded by saying that a Fund has been created for the Griffith Parks in the Legacy Foundation which does a lot of fund raising; we hope to eventually to use this money instead of having to float bonds.

2. Resolution of Master Plan Adoption- John Dudlicek moved to approve the Park Board 5 Year Master Plan Acceptance Resolution. Scott Muffet seconded the motion. All in favor; motion passed.
3. Sport League Leases – John Dudlicek has asked the Griffith Youth Sports teams here to enter leases with them. Scott Muffet made a motion to give John Dudlicek the power to enter and sign the leases. Christine Wroblewski seconded the motion. All in favor; motion passed.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:**

None

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Diane Kujawa, 433 South Park Drive, commented that on the Griffith Parks Facebook page it is noted that bids are out for Central Park improvements. She asked that it be clarified so that people do not come to the Clerk's Office expecting bid packages at this time.

Lastly, Tim Diamond stated that Lake County is working on connecting the two bike trails. Walsh and Kelly is the contractor on this job.

Meeting was adjourned by President, Tim Diamond at 7:45 pm.

Diane Kujawa  
Recording Secretary