

GRIFFITH PARKS and RECREATION BOARD

Minutes for the January 9, 2017 meeting:

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. at the Town Hall, 111 N. Broad Street in Griffith, Indiana by President, Tim Diamond. A moment of silence was taken in respect for Pat Schaadt, councilwoman who had passed away. 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

New Board member, Christine Wroblewski, was introduced.

Leah Dumezich was absent.

John Dudlicek made a motion to approve the December 19, 2016 minutes. Scott Muffet seconded the motion; all approved. Motion passed.

John Dudlicek presented the claims numbered 10296-10300 in the amount of \$1882.79 (One thousand eight hundred eighty-two and 79/100). John then made a motion to accept the claims as presented; Scott Muffet seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Tim Diamond announced that the February 13, 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

Tim Diamond formally introduced the new Park Board member, Christine Wroblewski.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

ELECTIONS: Scott Muffett nominated Tim Diamond for office of president. No discussion followed. Tim accepted the nomination. All were in favor. Christine Wroblewski nominated John Dudlicek as vice-president. No discussion followed. John accepted the nomination. All were in favor. Tim Diamond stated that he had gone over the ordinance for the Parks and had found that there were no requirements that the Board have a secretary or treasurer so these offices were eliminated.

REPORTS:

Treasurer's report: Tim Diamond remarked that we will have a financial report at the next meeting.

Park Superintendent: Al Markut reported that things have been relatively quiet because of the lack of snow. His crew has had time to cut down four trees on the trail. A new ice rink has also been installed; Al would like to improve this area next year. He did comment that this is an excellent liner and the rink had come out really well. He stated that everything else is running smoothly; his men have been working on repairing the mowers

and changing oil. They are pretty well caught up with things in the garage. Tim Diamond inquired as to whether Art Maynard has retired, and Al informed him that he had after 17 years. Al then said that someone had made a comment about installing a bench for Pat Schaadt. He would like to order one and install it as soon as possible. He would need to pour pads for it, and has three spots along the clock walk where it might be put. He mentioned that he might be able to use concrete from the paving once it begins. Al then mentioned that Public Works helped a great deal with the rink; John Dudlicek remarked that it did turn out well. Al would like to have more sand put in for the volleyball court next year. John responded that Al should jot down some of his issues and email them so the Board can discuss them.

School Board: John Dudlicek reported that a high school robotics regional competition will be held next Sunday at the Griffith Fieldhouse beginning at 9 am and lasting all day. He encouraged all to attend stating that this is “Sports for the Mind” and that Griffith is the defending state champion.

GSEC – On hiatus

Senior Center – no report

Neighborhood Spotlight Report – Tim Diamond announced that the first phase of this project had been completed in December. The group is hoping to get new grant money from the Legacy Foundation. There will be a Park and Rec group meeting tomorrow putting goals and action plans together; nothing right now needs funding.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

John Dudlicek reported that the Board has been trying to decide what capital improvements to make with the bond money it has received for the Parks. DVG consultant representative, Jeff Ban, met with the Board at the study session to help prioritize and get costs for the different projects. At Central Park, the focus will be the baseball fields and the playground. Improving the fence, working on the infield, putting down sod, improving the lighting and drainage and doing paving will be the priorities. Also, 70 foot base pads are needed to host travel ball tournament play. Moving the fence on the major field will have some impact on the Babe Ruth field as well. In addition the Board is looking at improvements at the volleyball courts. At the minor league field the fence may be repaired and power installed for a pitching machine.

A big focus will be replacing the playground at Central Park and the Park Board has been approved to get proposals for new equipment. Jeff Ban, of DVG, added that between the major field and the sand volleyball court a storage/gathering area is proposed. In addition to storage this area would include an open component where people can get out of the sun in the summer and hopefully out of the cold during skating season.

John noted that not all of these projects will be done for next season.

In regard to South Park, Pop Warner Football has been met with, but soccer still needs to have a meeting. Parking improvements are required here and drainage issues need to be addressed. Since the Pop Warner football practices on the old baseball field, lights need to be relocated and turf needs to be redone. A storage and concession building and improved paths to the neighborhood are also being considered.

Tim Diamond then added that there is some grant money available for Central Park playground; the Board has approved putting out bids for the equipment at the last meeting. He also is working on the 5 year Master Plan which will include some of these enhancements. John Dudlicek then stated that the Board needs to hear from the community about their concerns.

Tim Diamond brought up the subject of the pavilion rental. He stated that when requests for weddings in the parks are received, we need to be able to take those request immediately. He has been working on a calendar in order that dates can be reserved 1½ years ahead. Al remarked that he just needs to know what dates are NOT available as he keeps a reservation book in his office.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

1. Lawn Maintenance – Scott Muffet made a motion to seek quotes on lawn maintenance (cutting, trimming and weeding) and compare these costs to those we incur by doing these tasks ourselves. John seconded the motion; all in favor, motion passed.
2. 2017 Field Leases for Sports Teams – Tim Diamond stated that these leases are signed in March, and that the Board needs to start working on them. John Dudliceck reported that he has put together a form for football. He will also be working with Mr. Linders from softball and with Mr. Hernandez from soccer.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

None

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Anthony LaRocca of Crown Point appeared before the Board asking if there were any plans for restoring the racketball/handball court at Cheever Park. He said that it is the only one in the area and wondered if it can be repaired. He also stated that these courts are usually fenced in. John Dudliceck will meet with Mr. LaRocca to determine what improvements might be made. It was also brought up that this area has been used for tennis training and girls' softball practice.

Meeting was adjourned by President, Tim Diamond at 7:38 pm.

Diane Kujawa
Recording Secretary