

GRIFFITH PARKS and RECREATION BOARD

Minutes for the April 9, 2018 meeting:

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 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 -Christine Wroblewski -Dan Perez -Jennifer Dildine, School Board Liaison

Also in attendance was Rick Ryfa, Town Council President.

Tim Diamond, Al Markut and Jim Marker, Town Council Liaison, were absent.

Dan Perez made a motion to approve the March 12, 2018 minutes. Christine Wroblewski seconded the motion; minutes were approved.

Dan Perez made a motion to approve the claims numbered 17032 – 17049 in the amount of \$3227.58. Christine Wroblewski seconded the motion; motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None

CORRESPONDENCE:

Dan Perez commented that the Griffith Parks Facebook page (which is a locked down page) had gone public to coincide with the Panther Park grand opening. Tim has given Dan the rights to post information on the site; he can post the sale of bricks for Central Park here.

REPORTS:

Financial Report: None

Park Superintendent: Al Markut had given a report to be included in the minutes as follows:

1. Washrooms should be open this weekend; it has been 20 degrees below average this spring.
2. The zipline should be fixed this week; a broken part had to be replaced. This piece of equipment should be a lot stronger than before.
3. Central Market area has been reseeded already. He is now waiting for the weather to warm up so it can start growing.
4. He hopes to meet with the fertilizer people later on this week and hopes to get this project done after the May clean-up day.
5. Al is waiting for an estimate for the painting of the Central Park Pavilion. It was last painted at least 8-10 years ago. He wanted to know if it can be done this year.
6. Al wondered when the lines will be put in at the handball court. He said he will put up signs when it is finished and would rather attach them to the wall area than put posts up with signs.
7. The flag at Cheever tennis court is on the list to be fixed. It also needs to have a new rope on the tower so the company will get back to him.
8. Al made one last request for a new mower for the park department and wanted to have a definite yes or no.
9. The grand opening of Panther Park went very well. A sign there might be a good Eagle Scout project later this year. Al is going to try and get Public Works to level out the slight hump along the street.
10. Al again talked with A&E who is waiting on NIPSCO to finish the hook-up at Central Park. At this time we have no power at the outlets and no breakers in lock-up. He suggested we have no rentals until we have power.
11. The park guys have secured the inner fence at the pavilion but someone needs to repair the outer fence on the north side.

School Board Liaison's Report – Jennifer Dildine reported that the schools will be doing a safety audit. She announced that we have a new school superintendent and have replaced a school board member (Rich Leber). A second school board member will be chosen on Thursday to replace another one who is moving out of town.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

- a. Panther Park – Dan Perez stated that the equipment is installed and that there was a grand opening on Saturday morning. There was a great showing with the Girl Scouts holding a flag ceremony. The "Y", the Legacy Foundation, Imagine Griffith, School Board for the donation of the land and the Griffith

Rotary Club were all recognized. A ribbon cutting was done and demonstrations were done to show how the pieces of equipment can be utilized and what exercises could be done. We will be doing a follow-up on the grounds under the equipment as for now there is only grass.

- b. Directional signs – The Park Board will discuss whether it makes sense to discuss way-finding signs for the Bike paths.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

Central Park Brick Walk Repaving – John Dudlicek got some pricing on redoing the sidewalk in front of the new playground at Central Park as it is all broken up. Tim Diamond had wanted to do a blitz to try and get more bricks (charging \$75.00/brick). Rick Ryfa suggested doing a 30, 60 or 90 day campaign at a onetime reduced price (\$40 or \$50) to try to get 1500 bricks. John reiterated that the sidewalks do need to be replaced before new bricks can go in. Rick Ryfa then suggested that the Park Board should get a better idea of what needs to be done and what money is available. He suggested that he meet with them and go over financial reports so that they know what they have and what can be accomplished. He believes that the Park budget is better than what the board members believe.

- a. Skate Park – Rick Ryfa stated that he doesn't believe there is money for a skate Park. He then said that the Town Council wants to address other issues before talking about a skate park. John Dudlicek asked what needs to be done first. Rick mentioned that when we got the bond money, one of items on the wish list was a new bathroom and concession stand at South Park. The Town also wants to put a park at the north side of Town; he asked if there were any pieces of equipment left from Central Park. John Dudlicek replied that they had kept some that looked fireman-like. Rick would like the Town and/or the Park Department to re-apply for a matching grant again. Otherwise, Rick Ryfa suggested we just go ahead with a small park with swings and the used equipment, putting down mulch instead of the rubberized material. He also mentioned that that he had gotten another email from residents on the north side of Town requesting a park. He thought that recycling funds could be used for the mulch and perhaps swings if they were made from recycled material. Dan Perez inquired about the matching grant and was told that it was for that park in the amount of \$400,000.00 but we did not get it last year.

Rick Ryfa then added that CDBG money might be used for the bathroom at South Park and possibly for the sidewalks at Central if they were made handicap accessible. The subject of the sidewalks at Cheever was also brought up with Rick mentioning that they are a liability and that those south of the school should be abandoned if not in use.

Dan Perez then asked about the Pop Warner building. Rick Ryfa stated that this project probably wouldn't happen this year. The building originally had spec'd out at \$90,000.00 and went up to \$150,000.00 because of things such as utilities. Rick said that we have to see when the current bond is due to be paid off. It was originally taken out because of the limited funds of the Park Department and the thought was to use a revolving bond so that every 5 years a new bond could be taken out with minimal impact on property taxes.

John Dudlicek then commented that skate parks are good; Rick Ryfa answered that this subject would have to go before the plan commission because a public hearing is needed. John replied that this project is something that can't happen quickly, but he does like the park that Schererville has. Dan Perez added that this is not the only alternative. Skate Dot, which entails small pockets in strategic places is something that we could consider as this would be cheaper and more unique to our identity.

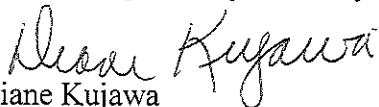
UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

None

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

None

The meeting was adjourned by Vice President, John Dudlicek, at 7:20 pm.


Diane Kujawa
Recording Secretary