

GRIFFITH PARKS and RECREATION BOARD

Minutes for the November 14, 2016 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. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

The meeting was attended by the following members:

Tim Diamond - John Dudlicek - Scott Muffet -Leah Dumezich, School Board Liaison
Al Markut, Park Supervisor - Pat Schaadt, Town Board Liaison

Leah Dumezich made a motion to approve the October 10, 2016 minutes. John Dudlicek seconded the motion; all approved. Motion passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Tim Diamond announced that the December 19, 2016 Park Board will take place at 6:00 pm; our regularly scheduled meeting will follow at 7:00 pm with a follow-up meeting after the regularly scheduled meeting if necessary. The date of the meeting is going to be moved due to an event for the Neighborhood Spotlight.

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 then welcomed Scott Muffet as the new Park Board member.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

REPORTS:

Treasurer's report: John Dudlicek presented the claims in the amount of \$46,297.26 (Forty-six thousand two hundred ninety-seven dollars and 26/100). John then made a motion to accept the claims as presented; Tim Diamond seconded the motion. Motion carried. John Dudlicek then asked that an apv register be sent to him ahead of the meeting so he can peruse the claims before the meeting. Leah suggested that it be sent to all the board members.

Park Superintendent: Al Markut reported that everything is winding down. He inquired if all the picnic tables should be moved out of the pavilion. In the past none were left out but he wondered if we wanted to continue this practice. He noted that last week a person was sleeping on one of the tables and that people move them all the time. Al then added that now that the leaves are down, his crew his working on cleaning them up. He then stated that the washrooms will all be closed and the sprinkler system has been winterized and flushed out. One of the bigger claims which was approved was for brakes and maintenance done on the trucks, which are now ready for winter. Because the vehicles are very old it becomes a safety factor if they are not functional in the winter. In addition the snowblower is in the shop being serviced and readied to go. Al explained that his crew plows Broad Street from the railroad tracks to 45th Street and around the Franklin Center and the parks. Leah Dumezich asked who plowed the Senior Center and was told that Public Works does the big lot, but that the Parks Department does around the building. Pat Schaadt commented that there had been problems at the "Y" with the sidewalks not being shoveled to the parking lot on the north side of the building. People had to walk in

the street to get to the building from the parking lot. Al responded that the lot had been plowed and the snow dumped on the sidewalks made it difficult to get the sidewalks cleaned. Leah suggested there be more communication between Public Works and the Park Dept. so that this doesn't happen again. Tim Diamond then asked who plowed the walking paths in the Park and Al answered that the Town does these sections. Lastly, Al stated that work will begin on the mowers between the snows; he does not see any big expense with this. Tim Diamond asked if the Park Dept. will be putting up any holiday lights. Al answered that they usually decorate the memorial and wishing well areas and the small bushes in the front of Central Park. Last year the fire department put up the decorations which are stored in Panther Park. He will find out if they will be doing this again this year.

School Board: Leah Dumezich extended congratulations to Jennifer Dildine for retaining her seat and to Gary Sutton on being the newly elected School Board member. She also extended congratulations to the Middle School Robotics team for their gaming performance competition at the Hammond Invitational and to the drama department for the good job on their play "And Then There Was None".

GSEC – On hiatus

Senior Center – Pat Schaadt reported that the parking spots needed to be restriped by Public Works. She also stated that the Griffith Swinging Seniors, who meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of every month, have had an increase in membership and so more people are now using the Center. Joelle McCoy is planning a Christmas event but the Center will then be closed between Christmas and New Year's. Tim Diamond mentioned that Al and his crew had cleared out all the leaves from the gutters there.

Neighborhood Spotlight Report – Tim Diamond announced that on Monday, December 12 this group will be having a celebration for the Quality of Life program which encompasses five different areas. Goals and action plans will be rolled out. The celebration will be held at the Franklin Center in the gym from 6 – 8 pm and food will be provided.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

John Dudlicek reported that he had met with the consultant to develop improvement plans for all the parks. They had started at Central Park with the dugouts at the major league field which don't drain well. John met with TLC Plumbing and Rick Kuna to discuss how to fix the drainage. The bathrooms are tied into the same drains and the sewage backs up into the dugout. They plan on separating the sewer and storm drains. There is also an issue with the volleyball court and ice rink drainage. Two proposals will be sought for these improvements. In addition, the playground and electrical issues will also be worked on. Tim Diamond commented that the original idea was just to do the paving but after reevaluating, decided to try and get all the work done before baseball season begins.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

Tim Diamond stated the Central Park playground area will be updated by replacing some of the older and broken equipment with modern equipment and making it handicap accessible as well as putting in a soft surface. We will be putting out a public bid as soon as we have finalized our plans.

Pat Schaadt then remarked that Al had not received any answer in regard to the picnic tables in the pavilion. After some discussion it was decided that Al should leave 2 tables in each park. He will take the newer ones in and leave 2 of the older ones. In addition, he suggested we get another dozen tables for next year so he won't have to move them around during the market season. Al then added that he still has not been able to cut the soccer field because it is so wet and wondered why it was so swampy. Pat Schaadt wondered if there was a leak in the water system; Tim Diamond said he would take a walk through and try to determine the problem.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

In regard to the Illinois Fire Softball Field Proposal, John Dudliceck made a motion to accept the terms of the September 16th letter for the use of Franklin & Cheever Parks using our new rental form and including \$15.00/hr for lights and incorporating a \$250.00 deposit which will be refundable. This amount consists of \$125/mo. per team for a total contract amount of \$1625.00 and will be subject to clarification of the Clerk Treasurer as how to handle the deposit. Motion seconded by Leah Dumezich. All in favor; motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

None

Meeting was adjourned by President, Tim Diamond at 7:40 pm.

Diane Kujawa
Recording Secretary