

## GRIFFITH PARKS and RECREATION BOARD

### Minutes for the September 12, 2016 meeting:

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 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              -Al Markut, Park Supervisor  
Pat Schaadt, Town Council Liaison

Gina Smith, Leah Dumezich, and Susan Hoese (who has resigned) absent.

No Quorum for the meeting. No claims or minutes approved.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Tim Diamond announced that the October 10, 2016 Park Board study session 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 needed. He then 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)

Tim Diamond introduced John Dudlicek as the new Park Board Member, replacing Rob Bubala who had resigned.

He then announced that Susan Hoese has resigned because she is too busy with her new job. He wished her well in her new endeavors. Al Markut publicly thanked her for her help in getting the South Park project accomplished. He is proud of the way the park looks and as a result of the improvements we are having twice as many rentals as we have ever had there.

### CORRESPONDENCE:

None

### REPORTS:

Treasurer's report: No approval of claims will take place today due to there not being a quorum.

Park Superintendent: Al Markut reported that there is not a lot going on at this time. He stated that there had been some discussions regarding the cutting of the ball fields and grass. He has developed some new procedures. He wanted the Board to know that if something has not been cut it would probably be due to rain or mud in order to prevent ruts. Tim Diamond asked Al to communicate to the president of the league if he cannot cut because of the weather conditions. Al said that there had been some mud tracks but not ruts on the field; some damage occurred from the soccer benches being dragged. In addition, Al stated that he had received emails regarding locks and hooks in the bathrooms but this had been taken care of. He also brought up the topic of soap in the bathrooms. The dispensers cost between \$80-\$90 and one has already been stolen out of the Central Park bathroom. He wondered if we should invest in the stainless soap dispensers, but he would need approval. Al would just as soon keep the hand pumps which can be can be bought cheaply.

In regard to benches, Al thought that an additional metal bench could be put in South Park by the sidewalk but a pad would be needed. Also one could be added at the tree side by the washroom and would also require a pad. Other benches like those on the bike trail would be cheaper than these metal benches. Tim Diamond asked Al to try to get the pads and benches priced out. Tot Park has two benches and Al feels that this is enough. There are a lot of benches on the bike path but they are all on one side. Al then said that Woodland Park has two benches already which is enough for that park; he does have two or three black benches in his yard for Broad Street. Central Park could use about 12 benches. Six or seven would go around the clock walk and the balance around the playground. In other news, Al reported that his crew is playing catch up with grass. As previously stated, he also wants to replace the mower he uses for the soccer fields, which was purchased in 2010. He cuts 50 to 70 acres plus the 2 ½ miles of trail. Tim Diamond asked him to get firm quotes to present to the Board.

School Board: No report; absent

GSEC – No report

Senior Center – Pat Schaadt remarked all is going well at the Center. There have been additional people coming in with the different activities occurring. She stated that there has been enough money donated so that the ½ door to Joelle McCoy's office can be completed which will stop her office from being a pass through.

Neighborhood Spotlight Report – Tim Diamond reported that he is heading up the Park and Recreation Task Force for the Neighborhood Spotlight Program. This group meets twice a month and it aims to put together a Quality of Life Plan by December with each task force coming up with goals and action plans. John Dudliceck asked for examples and was told by Tim that security was one issue according to the park survey. Some of the residents did not go to the parks because of safety concerns and because of the quality of equipment. Officer Grist is on the committee and one of the goals for safety initiatives was adding more cameras in all the parks. The Bike Path is also a concern as people are vulnerable on it. Some solutions might be more lighting (even though it is supposed to be closed after dusk) and possibly a police phone. Another area of concern was the lack of children's activities. The activity director at the "Y" will be working on a committee to address some of these issues. Lastly, Tim added that a 5 year plan for the parks was requested (he has already been working on this) and a beautification committee was also created with Valerie Wotkun working on the tree portion.

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

Tim Diamond went over the items of unfinished business:

1. South Park Pop Warner Field Lighting – Tim Diamond has met with the President of Pop Warner to check the layout of the lights, which ones work and what it would take to improve the lighting.
2. South Park/Cheever Restroom Doors – Both exterior doors to the restrooms would not close; there were no handles or hinges. Al Markut completed the South Park restroom and is going to work on Cheever Park next.
3. South Park Parking Blocks - There had not previously been any blocks at this park to prevent people from driving onto the soccer field. There are now heavy duty blocks installed.

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

1. Bike Trail Tree Risk Assessment – Tim Diamond reported that he is waiting for the arborist from Commercial Tree Service as he wants to do a risk assessment. Since he has been waiting for two months already, the Board may need to get a new vendor.

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

1. South Park Pipe Line seeding- Tim Diamond has checked with Enbridge and they have done what they could. The rest is up to us; he has proposals for weed and feed for next year and will see if we will have enough in the budget for this.

## **NEW BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:**

Tim Shepard, 1028 Elmer, as representative of Illinois Fire, appeared before the Board to ask for use of the Girls' Softball field with Griffith Girls' Softball having 1<sup>st</sup> priority. He explained that his group has 9 girls from Griffith on his teams and that he is willing to pay \$400/month and will mow and drag the fields. Tim Diamond asked Mr. Shepard to type up a proposal and get it signed by Griffith Girls' Softball then he will discuss it with legal and the Board. Tim Diamond then noted that the field seems to be dark and was told that the light near the concession stand does not work properly. Mr. Shepard said it has an automatic dimmer which may have a short in it so it does have to be looked at.

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

Diane Kujawa  
Recording Secretary