

GRIFFITH PARKS and RECREATION BOARD

Minutes for the August 8, 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:

Susan Hoese - Tim Diamond - Al Markut, Park Supervisor
Pat Schaadt, Town Council Liaison

Gina Smith and Leah Dumezich were absent

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Tim Diamond announced that the September 12, 2016 Park Board pre-meeting 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

The movie "The Good Dinosaur" will be showing in Central Park this Wednesday, August 10, 2016.

CORRESPONDENCE:

South Park Pipeline Grass – Tim had received correspondence regarding the grass where the old playground was, the location where Enbridge had put in new pipe. More weeds than grass have been growing but there is no water source there except for the water truck which waters the trees and flowers every Tuesday. Al Markut believed that area had not been reseeded and that area was mostly sand. Sue Hoese remarked that Enbridge had indeed seeded in some areas, but that area did always have mostly weeds. She and Tim Diamond will be going around to all the parks because of the bond. Seeding and weed and feed will be done but will have to wait until fall or in the springtime because there is no sprinkling system.

REPORTS:

Treasurer's report: Sue Hoese commented that no approval of claims will take place today due to there not being a quorum. Approval of claims will be at the next meeting, and a special meeting will be scheduled to go over the claims and the bond.

Park Superintendent: Al Markut stated that this had been a rough month for his department with people being off of work because of death in the family and illness, the weather, and the drought that killed the grass and brought the weeds. Now they are having a hard time keeping up with the mowing with all the rain we are getting. He then remarked that he would like to get mulch for Woodland Park and possibly pay for it out of recycle funds. Al will be having two of his part-timers stay for Central Market and Oktoberfest; Sue Hoese added that they can be used at South Park as well. Al then went on to say that he has one mower that needs to be renewed as it is 6 years old, being bought in 2010. He thought recycle money could be used for it. Al added that the bleachers and concessions stand are gone at South Park; he would like to order the parking stops and have them installed. They will be heavy duty and twice as high as the rubber ones. Tim Diamond then asked Al to put the picnic tables around the perimeter of the park for the movie, which will be at the pavilion facing north. In regard to the dead tree at Tot Park, Tim announced that it has been taken down; Al said it had a cost of \$900.00 and stated that there is one tree on the trail that also needs to be removed.

School Board: No report; absent

GSEC – Julie Anderson reported that the two biggest events are now done. The parade was great; the symphony went very well. The next event is Creepy Crawler Night which is always the third Thursday in September. Al Markut said that he will have the sound system available for Julie. She stated that the committee is still unsure about Halloween because of the three years of terrible weather and poor turn-outs. They have been thinking about partnering with the First Christian Church for their Trunk or Treat and perhaps having the magic show afterwards in the park.

Senior Center – Pat Schaadt remarked that she had met with Rick Konopasek about the parking lot. They are going to restripe it and come up with 3 or 4 more spaces for handicap parking. They will stripe the whole lot and possibly do it in yellow. This project will be done after the weather cools down. She also reminded all that Joelle’s trip to Washington D.C. is in September.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

Tim Diamond went over the items of unfinished business:

1. South Park Pop Warner Field Lighting – The Park Board has received quotes on additional lighting and will be doing a follow-up on some of the poles in order to possibly provide the additional lights.
2. Bond Issue Update- The bond has been finalized and we are awaiting the funds. The Board will get together to go over the list of improvements.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

1. South Park/Cheever Restroom Doors – Tim Diamond reported that the bathrooms have been painted and new sinks and faucets put in but the outer doors do not close. Proposals will be sought to get this worked on.
2. Bike Trail Tree Risk Assessment – Tim Diamond said the Board is working with an arborist to see if there are any high risk trees. As a result there will be symbols and letters placed on the trees which are being numbered by risk.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

None

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Brenda Rizzo, 511 Oxford Circle, stated that her house is right at the back of South Park. She knew that there had been drought resistant natural grass at South Park before Enbridge had done their work there. She had spoken with representatives of the company telling them that seed shouldn’t be put down in mid-summer. An abundance of weeds is the result; she also feels that the playground is in a dangerous spot. Sue Hoese replied that because of the layout of the pipeline and because it had to be handicap accessible, the playground was put in its current location. Ms. Rizzo then added that after the grass came up as crab grass, Enbridge did reseed the area, but because it was done in the middle of summer; the grass did not come up well. The Board will follow up on this subject. Ms. Rizzo also asked who was in charge of cutting the grass on Avenue D by the pipeline and Al Markut told her she would look into it even though it wasn’t the Park’s responsibility.

Aaron Pollock, 127 N. Rensselaer, asked the Board when the Sox Softball can renegotiate their lease. Sue Hoese responded that she will meet with the President of Girls’ Softball and get back to him. She then asked if Aaron was still planning on holding a Labor Day tournament. He responded that there was no easy way to bus the four teams and their fans from St. Mary to the fields without closing down Griffith Boulevard and Miller Street. Aaron added that there are five girls from Griffith in the league now. The teams are forming and will start practicing again soon, probably on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 5 PM on.

Cheryl Wiseman, 330 N. Indiana, brought up the subject of the trees at South Park. Tim Diamond asked Ms. Wiseman and Valerie Wotkun to check out these trees, see how they are planted and to include them in their inventory. She also stated that there are two dead ash trees in the parkway at 213 Elmer, and Valerie Wotkun asked that someone check out the trees behind the condos on Elmer behind Wadsworth School as well. Tim Diamond will send a message to Rick Konopasek.

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

Diane Kujawa
Recording Secretary