

## **GRIFFITH PARKS and RECREATION BOARD**

### **Minutes for the July 11, 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:

-Gina Smith                      - Susan Hoeser   - Tim Diamond   -Al Markut, Park Supervisor  
-Leah Dumezich, School Board Liaison      Pat Schaadt, Town Council Liaison

George Jerome, Clerk-Treasurer, and Councilman Jim Marker were also in attendance.

Sue Hoeser made a motion to approve the June 13, 2016 minutes; Leah Dumezich seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Tim Diamond announced that the August 8, 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.

Any questions or general comments regarding the Parks Department or bike paths can be directed to [griffithparks.in.gov](http://griffithparks.in.gov)

The Park Board is conducting an online survey going on; link is listed on the July water bill with paper copies at Town Hall. The survey will conclude on July 25, 2016.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

None

### **REPORTS:**

Treasurer's report: Claims in the amount of \$4738.60 (Four thousand seven hundred thirty-eight dollars and sixty cents) were presented and approved by the Park Board members. Sue Hoeser made a motion to accept the claims as presented; Gina Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried. Sue Hoeser then commented that the budget is looking well and that business regarding a temporary loan will be discussed later in the meeting.

Park Superintendent: Al Markut announced that he and his men are in the process of a third week in a row of getting a work-out in the park with preparation of Blues Fest, clean up of Blues Fest and Park Full of Art. Tim Diamond inquired as to whether the sprinkler system is functional at Central Park. Al replied that he hadn't been out there but would check tomorrow. Sue Hoeser then asked if the sprinklers were on a timer and Al informed her that they ran between 10 pm and 9 am and are running every night. He replied that the grass in the Park is pretty hardy.

School Board: Leah Dumezich followed up about a Literacy grant which Karl of the YMCA secured for Griffith third graders who needed extra help with reading skills in order to pass the required tests. The goal was to work with 16 kids; the "Y" had 12 or 13 signed up. Besides reading, the children also received breakfast, lunch, snacks and camps during the day which also helped the parents who dropped them off. An assessment is being planned to determine how much growth the children achieved during the summer. George Jerome

wondered if the school identified the kids and Leah responded that the superintendent's office had worked with the teachers.

GSEC – George Jerome stated that Symphony donations have been dragging but we have received donations from North Shore of \$3500.00 and \$1000.00 from American Water. Neither of these two had contributed before. He felt that the parade went off fairly well.

Senior Center – Pat Schaadt reported that all is well at the Center. A party was held last Friday to celebrate Independence Day. She reminded everyone about the trip to Washington D.C. in September and stated that the final payment is coming up soon. The automatic doors have been installed for the handicapped but the work on the office door has not yet been started.

Central Market –Pat Schaadt commented that the Market is doing very well with last Friday being a great night. She stated that the Market will be back after Park Full of Art.

### **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 from Al but has determined that additional reviews from other organizations are needed. An evaluation of the property is required and the poles are very old.
2. Resolution 2016-26 – REPAYMENT OF A TEMPORARY LOAN FROM THE RAINY DAY FUND  
Last year the Park Board fell short in funds and had to make a temporary loan. Tim Diamond made a motion to repay that loan in a single payment. Sue Hoese seconded the motion; all in favor. Motion passed.
3. Park District Bond Issue- Tim Diamond announced that a special board meeting will be held Monday, July 18, at 8 pm at Town Hall. The purpose of said meeting is to consider:
  - i. Approving the Confirmatory Resolution after a public hearing
  - ii. Approving the Additional Appropriation Resolution after a public hearing
  - iii. Approving the issuance of the Town of Griffith, Indiana Park District Bonds.

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

Sue Hoese acknowledged Greg Phelps, President of Youth Baseball, for his help with the lights at Central Park during the Blues Festival.

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

In regard to the Tot Park dead/damaged tree, Tim Diamond had taken an arborist to look at the tree and it has been earmarked for removal.

Tim then remarked that he had been investigating the parking problem at Central Park and that most of the parking was left and right of the pavilion. There was not much near the younger trees by the marquee. Tim had found that our own park vehicles were too close to the trees. Al stated that his concern was the area by the wishing well and tank because of the children playing there. Tim said that the last time he was there no one was parking in that vicinity. Al then said he was then told that someone drove through the trees and out to Griffith Boulevard. Tim Diamond then replied that he had watched the park the last two events and saw that VEST was directing traffic.

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

Valerie Wotkun, 1004 W. Elm Place, informed the Board that she and Chery Wisemon are now certified Tree Stewards and stated that they would like to volunteer their knowledge and services for anything tree related that the Town is planning to do. She also stated that Woodland Park has no picnic tables; Al Markut responded that normally he puts some there but he does not have any at this time. Valerie also questioned the sprinkler system at the “Y” to make sure it is watering the new landscape. Lastly, she wondered why anyone has to park on the grass in the Park; people can unload and then move their vehicles. Tim replied that some of it is due to necessity and that there may need to be some changes to ordinances.

Cheryl Wisemon, 330 N. Indiana, commented that there are areas at Tot Park, especially the ground around the basketball court, where we are losing grass; there is nothing but dirt and weeds there. She suggested that this area be seeded in the fall. She has also observed that the grass by the Senior Center is green and is watered all the time. Al Markut noted that there is a lot of shade in that area because of all the trees and this helps to keep the grass looking nice. There was also some discussion about the name of “Tot” park – George Jerome was to look into census records. Cheryl also commented that the Blues Fest was great but she suggested an information booth for next year.

Meeting was adjourned by President, Tim Diamond at 7:32 pm.

Diane Kujawa  
Recording Secretary