

GRIFFITH PARKS and RECREATION BOARD

Minutes for the June 13, 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 Hoese - Tim Diamond -Al Markut, Park Supervisor
-Leah Dumezich, School Board Liaison Pat Schaadt, Town Council Liaison

George Jerome, Clerk-Treasurer, and Brent Torrenga were also in attendance.

Gina Smith made a motion to approve the May 9, 2016; Sue Hoese seconded the motion. Motion passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Tim Diamond announced that the July 11, 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.

Tim then added that he has rekindled the email for Griffith parks which is griffithparks@griffith.in.gov. A link to an online parks survey will appear on the next water bill, and paper copies will be available at town hall.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Tim Diamond stated that Girl Scout Troop 1529 is looking to adopt a piece of the southwest corner of Central Park which they had helped clean during the Town Clean-up. He went on to make a motion to allow this and Gina Smith seconded the motion. Motion approved.

REPORTS:

Treasurer's report: Claims in the amount of \$7967.82 (Seven thousand nine hundred sixty-seven dollars and eighty-two cents) were presented. Sue Hoese made a motion to accept the claims as presented; Tim Diamond seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Park Superintendent: Al Markut announced that he has been working short-handed; one gentleman has been off for a month. He has had some problems with the mowers and they have had to be repaired. Everything else has been going pretty well. Al then presented Mr. Diamond some estimates for the Pop Warner field.

School Board: Leah Dumezich extended congratulations to the Class of 2016 and expressed thanks to the academic and sports groups from the School which helped with the Togetherness Day. She also thanked Imagine Griffith and the YMCA and complimented the park workers who did a great job as well.

GSEC – Julie Anderson announced that the parade apps are out; they are online and are also available at Town Hall. She can also be emailed and will send one out. There will be a run of the parade route (a little less than 1 ½ miles) one hour before the parade begins. It will start at Pine Street, go to Main and then turn around and return. It is not a timed event; registration can be beforehand or the day of the run. T-shirts and numbers will be passed out at 8 am with the run beginning at 9 am. Runners can go to runsignup.com to sign up and entrées will receive a t-shirt. Leah Dumezich did comment that she had forwarded parade information to the schools and

even though she had no response from them yet, Julie acknowledged that it was still early and that most of the entrees come in the week before the parade. If anyone is free the day of the parade, Julie always needs help lining up the entrees for the parade. She also asked Al Markut to put information about the run on the marquee at the park.

Senior Center – Pat Schaadt reported that the Center is doing fine; she extended thanks to Tim Diamond for the assistance and donation to help get the plumbing work done there. A donation for the electric doors has also been received to help seniors get in and out easier. There has also been a donation received for a half door to close off Joelle’s office from people passing through. A bus trip to Washington D.C. is being planned for the fall; anyone interested should call 924-1405 for information and reservations.

Central Market –Pat Schaadt stated that the Central Market has been very successful and moving right along. We have about 45 vendors signed up; some are full season, some are half-season (10 markets) and others are weekly. The pavilion is wonderful with a beer garden which includes a family area and another area for those over 21; ticket sales are fantastic.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

Tim Diamond went over the items of unfinished business:

1. Park Board Member Vacancy – Tim Diamond announced that the Town Council does have a short list for the vacancy and hopefully within the next month an appointment will be made.
2. South Park Pop Warner Field Lighting – Tim Diamond has just received information from Al Markut tonight which will be reviewed so that this can be resolved before football season.
3. Panther Park Paving – A section of this park from Columbia to the bike trail had been cleared out and graded during the Clean-up Day. We are waiting for Walsh & Kelly to pave it when they do their next street project.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

1. Sue Hoese made a motion to pass Resolution 2016-22 which is a resolution making a preliminary determination to issue bonds of the Park District of the Town of Griffith, Indiana. Gina Smith seconded the motion. All in favor; motion passed.
2. Leah Dumezich made a motion to approve Resolution 2016-23, a declaratory resolution of the Board of Parks and Recreation of the Town of Griffith, Lake County, Indiana approving projects of the Town’s Department of Parks and Recreation, and all matters related thereto. Gina Smith seconded the motion. All in favor; motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Valerie Wotkun, 1004 W. Elm, voiced her concerns about cars parking in the grass in the back end of Central Park during the Central Park during the Market. It is not only ruining the grass, but there are new trees planted and there are possibilities of someone being injured. Tim Diamond agreed as he had been in the Park with the arborist and was also concerned about the new trees which had been planted there. He will see that this issue is presented to the Town Council to see what the coordinators of the event can do.

Michelle Velez, who works with Kathy Ruesken at the Market, responded that in the first two weeks with the potential of rain, people were parking there. However, workers are now directing people in and out of the Park to prevent this.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Cheryl Satkus Wisemon, 330 N. Indiana, stated there is a tree at Tot Park, near Indiana, that is losing its bark. She wondered if it could be cut sometime this summer; Al Markut responded that he knew which tree she was concerned about and will get with the Park Board on this. Tim Diamond and Sue Hoese also had seen the

tree she mentioned. Cheryl then mentioned that there was a tulip tree whose support had been damaged. Al will get to it as soon as he can. Valerie also added that she is still looking for a new linden tree to replace the one on the bike trail.

Meeting was adjourned by President, Tim Diamond at 7:25 pm.

Diane Kujawa
Recording Secretary