

## **GRIFFITH PARKS and RECREATION BOARD**

### **Minutes for the March 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, Rob Bubala. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

The meeting was attended by the following members:

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

Tim Diamond made a motion to approve the minutes of February 8, 2016. Susan Hoese seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

Claims in the amount of \$1,290.10 (One thousand two hundred ninety and 10/100 dollars) were presented. Gina Smith made a motion to approve. Tim Diamond seconded the motion; claims were approved.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Rob Bubala announced that the April, 2016 Park Board pre-meeting will occur at 6 P.M., and a follow-up meeting will take place after the regularly scheduled meeting if needed.

Rob also reminded residents to call 911 if any graffiti, damage, or questionable behavior is seen in any of the town parks as all emergency and non-emergency calls should be directed Lake County dispatch.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Rob Bubala announced that he has notified the Town Council that he will be resigning from the Park Board, but the date has yet to be determined.

### **REPORTS:**

Treasurer's report: Susan Hoese reported that the Park Board is at a decent budget but we will be in a little better shape in June.

Park Superintendent: Al Markut commented that he and his men are in the process of opening for the ball seasons and for soccer; they have also been getting tables out for the park rentals. Al then went over a list of items which need to be okayed by the Board.

1. He will need new flags for the three poles in the parks—3 American flags and one POW for a cost of about \$500.00. He got an ok from the Board for this.
2. An order for garbage bags, toilet paper and paper towel for a cost of \$800-900 will be required. Rob suggested that Al buy these in parcels and he was told that is what is being done but that the first of three orders which needs to be placed now. This order was approved by the Board.
3. Since he held off spending money last year, Al said that he needs to spend about \$200.00 on blades for the mowers. He was okayed for this expenditure.
4. Sand will be needed for the volleyball court for which he has received a \$2000.00 estimate and Al does not want to put the nets up until this is done. Rob Bubala suggested he talk with Tim Diamond regarding having public works share some of the cost. Al would like to open these courts ASAP; Sue Hoese added that the YMCA does have leagues beginning in June.
5. The sandbox at Tot Park either needs to be replaced or pulled out as it is a \$1500.00 item. Al was asked if it was a safety issue and when he responded that it was, he was told to pull it out.
6. Because of the recent windstorm, some shingles were also lost at the Cheever Park bathroom. Rob Bubala suggested Al get three quotes and present them to the Board.

7. The dugouts at Cheever need to have some sheeting which may run \$200 -\$300; Rob Bubala agreed that he should go ahead with this project.
8. Railing repairs are required at the Senior Center. Rob again told Al to get three quotes and the monies will be discussed with the Town Council.
9. Three poles at Central Park need to be re-concreted; the railings need to be taken apart and pulled out. Al will talk to Rick Ryfa and get back to the Board.
10. The curtains at Central Park are another issue that needs to be addressed. He will talk to Rick Ryfa about this also.
11. Al then mentioned that he would like to run electric to turn lights on at Cheever Park bathroom. Sue Hoese asked what hours the park bathrooms were open and was told they close at dusk. Rob suggested the Board discuss this item.
12. Since South Park has been painted, Al would like to paint Cheever Park. This would cost about \$250.00. Sue asked if this could be a May 14 project; Al thought there might be a safety issue because of the lack of lights. Tim Diamond thought that this painting should be done professionally and Gina Smith recommended that the bathroom be painted by volunteers. Al would like to focus on painting the benches on the trail on the May 14 volunteer day.
13. The dugouts need work at Cheever with a cost of approximately \$200-\$300.00. He suggested going with a corrugated fiberglass. This expenditure was approved.
14. Al wondered if the thirty car stops for the soccer field could be purchased by the Town. Sue Hoese had spoken to the Town Council and it was thought to be more of a Town issue. Al thought Enbridge was going to replace them when they did their work there. Rob Bubala remarked that the Board will discuss this issue later.
15. Al would like to put up a couple of dog waste dispensers which would cost \$100.00 each. One would be put on Avenue B and the other by the high school. Sue Hoese said that the Board will have to discuss this item.
16. Tim's Landscaping has been asked to give Al an estimate to redo the memorial by removing the old dirt and mulch, purchasing 2 evergreens and replacing the 4 spirea and adding a similar wooden fence. Rob Bubala told Al to present the estimate when it is received. Al was hoping it would cost under \$1000.00.
17. There is a dying tree at the clock walk which may need to come down and another which has been damaged which may come back.
18. Al then added that he has given the Boy Scouts the ok to redo the sign at South Park. He had paid for material for the other sign on Broad across from the depot, but later had received a check from the Scouts. The boys will start in April and will get their material at Krooswyck.
19. The ice rink liner is not reusable due to the damage from the mild winter.
20. Lastly Al reported that his guys have seeded, raked and fertilized at Central Park and the cost came up to about \$300.00.

School Board: Leah Dumezich remarked that the School Board is still working on ideas on how to get students involved in the Volunteer Help Program. She also extended congratulation to the Robotics and Bowling teams. The high school/middle school held their annual disability awareness basketball game which went off very well today. Also, on March 15 & 22, 2016 there will be a special needs dress shop at the "Y". The Special Needs prom hosted by the YMCA will be held on 4/2/2016. The Schools are trying to get students involved in the Volunteer Day as there had been a good turnout of athletes and other organizations last year; they are hoping for an even bigger turnout this year.

GSEC – on hiatus until April

Senior Center – Pat Schaadt reported that the Center is doing fine and that the lunch program is doing very well. She is glad that the Meat Market continues to only charge \$5.00 for lunch. She reminded those who do plan on having lunch to call a day ahead for a reservation. If there are any no-shows they must pay the \$5.00.

Central Market – Pat Schaadt announced that she has received nine contracts so far for this year's market. Kathy Ruesken has revised the contract to include prices for 220 and 110 amps electric if using it for oven and grills and a \$10.00 price if just using lights or fans. The Central Market will also be reimbursing the park for the electric use.

Bike Trail Connection – Rob Bubala stated that the state is still working on information for this project. Hopefully the environmental study and some engineering will start this year.

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

Rob Bubala went over the items of unfinished business:

1. Tot Park Basketball Hoops – Since the police have not reported any incidents at Tot Park, Sue Hoese made a motion to remove this item from the agenda. Tim Diamond seconded the motion; motion passed. Pat Schaadt added that there have been no problems at the Senior Center either.
2. Sports' leases will be signed at the end of this meeting.

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

1. Babe Ruth field electric - will be hooked up as soon as NIPSCO gives us the ok.
2. Advertising of pavilions –Tim Diamond said that at the April meeting we approved changing some of the prices for pavilion rental. However, some adjustments have since been proposed after talking with the Town Council. He made a motion to change the prices of rental as follows: for Central Park, residents \$150.00/day, non-residents \$300/day and an increase in the deposit to \$100.00. South Park would be \$125 for residents, \$250.00 for non-residents with a \$100 clean up deposit. Cheever would be \$75.00 for residents, \$150.00 for non-residents and \$100.00 clean up fee. Sue Hoese seconded the motion; motion passed. Mr. Diamond also stated that the Town has an ordinance about alcohol. The Town departments and non-profits can have different events where alcohol is consumed. He proposes that we change the ordinance to allow alcohol to residents only (beer & wine, no glass) and add an additional \$50.00 to the rental cost. Tim Diamond then made a motion to recommend that this change be made to allow alcohol at park rentals to Griffith residents who will be charged an additional fee of \$50. Sue Hoese seconded; motion carried. Tim then announced that the prices for the bricks and plaques will be changing. Fees for the bricks will go from \$50.00 to \$75.00 and 4 bricks will sell for \$250.00. The plaques for benches, trees, and light poles were \$1200.00 and he recommended they be changed to \$750.00. Mr. Diamond then made a motion to amend these prices and Susan Hoese seconded; all in favor; motion passed.

**NOTE: It was determined that these changes needed approval by the Town Council before they could become effective ; they were to be presented to them on April 5, 2016.**

3. Rob Bubala announced that Volunteer day is May 14, 2016.

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

None

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

Greg Phelps, 411 N. Woodlawn, of Griffith Boys Baseball asked if the drains at the fields at Central Park could be routed out as seeds and sand gets pushed down into them. There especially was a problem on the first base side last year; he would like to see if a catch basket could be put in that drain. Mr. Phelps would take responsibility to empty it. Al Markut replied that TLC had routed the drains last year; Susan Hoese added that she would like them to continue to work on these drainage issues. Al then remarked that the water is on at both Central Park and the Little League field. Mr. Phelps also brought up the issue of food being left in the chest freezers by the Boy Scouts at the concession stand. When the power was lost there, things melted and got moldy. Sue Hoese was to investigate this matter.

Mr. Phelps then added that he would like to see if Hammond or Highland teams might want to come and play at the Babe Ruth field to fill out the schedule there. He also asked if there was any way to get some help for a scoreboard to serve the 13-15 year olds. He was told to get a couple of quotes and he is going to try and get some sponsorship. He already had a couple of sponsorships come in for signs and had thought that he might perhaps host a home run derby through Cal Ripken to raise some funds. Tim Diamond then brought up the subject of signage and Sue Hoese went over the details of the signs for him.

Meeting was adjourned by President, Rob Bubala at 7:48 pm.