

GRIFFITH PARKS and RECREATION BOARD

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

The meeting was attended by the following members:

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

Susan Hoeser was absent.

Gina Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of January 11, 2016. Leah Dumezich seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

Claims in the amount of \$2,994.45 (Two thousand nine hundred ninety-four and 45/100 dollars) had been presented. Tim Diamond made a motion to approve. Leah Dumezich seconded the motion; claims were approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Rob Bubala announced that the March, 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 necessary.

Rob also reminded residents to call 911 if any graffiti, damage, or questionable behavior is seen in any of the town parks.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Tim Diamond stated that a couple of seniors from Illiana Christian School had been looking to do volunteer work in our town. He had invited them to this meeting to clarify if this was a one-time project or whether it would be a rotation of students. He had not heard back and Rob Bubala asked Mr. Diamond to reach out to them one more time.

REPORTS:

Treasurer's report: Rob Bubala reported that the Park Board is looking for ways to make up for the deficiencies in the budget.

Park Superintendent: Al Markut commented that he and his men are working under reduced hours as of January and February, and he hopes that they will not lose their dedication. He gives them credit that they are abiding by the new schedule. Mr. Markut then gave a list of upcoming projects that will need to be done:

1. Central Park Pavillion – the area needs to be re-landscaped and the timbers need to be changed. He would like to get an estimate from a landscape company to give him an estimate and an idea of how it could be done; perhaps the Park Dept. could even do the work. Leah Dumezich asked if Imagine Griffith may be able to help with this project but Al thought it was too involved.
2. The awnings at Central Park had come away from the wood last year because the fascia board was too thin to hold them. Also, where the railings had been cemented into the ground, the concrete of the patio had been broken. Rob Bubala instructed Al to get three quotes to have these repairs made.
3. Rental fees for the parks need to be addressed.
4. A total of at least thirty stop bumpers for South Park still need to be installed. He had a price of \$90 a piece for this project.

5. The asphalt at the Little League and Babe Ruth fields needs to be redone.
6. Possibly two of the pear trees near the Clock Walk at Central Park need to be replaced. Al will be getting an estimate from Tim's Landscaping for replacements.
7. A quote of \$400 per load for five loads was received for replacement of the sand at the volleyball courts. Rob Bubala questioned the removal and was told the sand was too dirty and had been used in some of the water breaks in Town. Leah Dumezich asked if it was worth getting another quote and Rob asked Al to get at least two quotes.

School Board: Leah Dumezich recognized the Griffith High School Robotics Team for getting 5th of 27 places. They earned the Rookies Sensational award and were a finalist for the THINK Award. She also mentioned that the schools had lost teacher Lynne Lukmann last week. The next School Board meeting will be on February 11th at 7:30 p.m. and the Education Foundation dinner will be held February 19th. Leah then mentioned that a discussion regarding the need for student volunteers took place at the last School Board meeting and this subject will be followed up at the Feb. 11th meeting. She is hoping to build a relationship with the Park Board and the high school as a way to reduce costs for the Park Department. For example, she would like a team to get together and help every Saturday for the months of June, July and August. Al Markut then reminded Leah that no one other than the Park employees can drive vehicles or use the Town's equipment. Leah replied that the volunteer work would include emptying garbage, trimming with clippers, pulling weeds, cleaning bathroom, painting or watering. Al then remarked that he can't always depend on people who need community service or volunteer; Rob Bubala said that the project would need to be re-evaluated if the workers didn't show up. Rob also stated that this project first needs to be approved by the School Board to see if it is acceptable before we discuss the details. Tim Diamond then asked if documentation from the insurance standpoint was needed; perhaps a waiver or volunteer form would suffice. Lastly, Leah announced that a talented group of kids from our schools called Capernum was going to perform at Bridges on February 13, 2016 and urged all to attend if possible.

GSEC – on hiatus until April

Senior Center – Pat Schaadt reported that everything at the Senior Center is going fine. A Superbowl party was held last week which was well attended. The Center is hoping to get an automatic door opener to make entering and exiting easier for the seniors. Pat remarked that she believes the cost is around \$3000-\$4000. Al Markut suggested contacting an organization like the Lions Club for a donation. Since there are more people attending the Center and more money changing hands, Pat explained that a half door is needed to prevent people from exiting through Joelle McCoy's office; the Lion's Club is willing to help with this project. She then added that lunches provided by the Griffith Meat Market can still be ordered by for a cost of \$5.00 and anyone 50 and over can participate.

Central Market – Pat Schaadt didn't know if the details for the new contract have been worked out. She will be working with Kathy again on approving the contracts and by selling tickets at the beer garden.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

Rob Bubala went over the items of unfinished business:

1. Tot Park Basketball Hoops – Tim Diamond made a motion to remove this item from the agenda due to lack of activity. No second was made. The item will remain on the agenda.
2. Bike Trails and Associated Parking Lots Review - No new information on this topic
3. Painting of Central Park Playground Equipment - No new information on this topic.
4. Paving project at Central Park – Still working with the Council on this project.

5. 2016 Field Leases for Sports Teams – Rob Bubala reported that Susan Hoese is communicating with the leagues for next month's signing of the leases.
6. South Park Pop Warner Field Lighting – Rob Bubala commented we still need to work on getting this fixed.
7. Central Park Ice Rink Liner - Rob reported that the liner has taken a beating this year but it is still being used.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

Rob Bubala explained that power needs to be restored at the Babe Ruth field and that Austgen Electric had proposed \$2290 to complete the job. Gina Smith then made a motion to accept the proposal and Leah Dumezich seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Rob Bubala informed all that Tim Diamond has proposed pricing increases and decreases for the park rentals as well as fees for curtain rental. Tim then made a motion to approve the proposed pavilion rental fees. Leah Dumezich seconded the motion. Motion passed. Fees will be going into effect on 3/1/2016 and will be put on line.

Al Markut mentioned that Rich Leber had approached him with a date for the Town cleanup and cook-out at Central Park. However, it had been the date the Police Department was having their Safety Day. Al had recommended South Park instead and had made a list for the Mr. Leber and his group. He went on to say that all the efforts are appreciated and that he does get a lot of compliments on the parks and trails.

Pat Schaadt then stated that she thought the flag on the cell tower was still meagerly lit even though the pole itself is fine. Rob responded that Al Markut should get two electrical quotes to get additional lighting for the flag.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Aaron Pollock, 127 N. Rensselaer, appeared before the Board to follow up for leases for the Northwest Indiana Sox as the team would like to start using the fields in March. Rob Bubala will text Sue Hoese after the meeting so she can get back to him at the end of the week. Aaron stated that he needs to know what the practice field fee will be, when to sign the lease and what field he could use by next month, indicating he would use Franklin if available. Mr. Pollock felt that he should be able to use the fields if the Board wants him to run a tournament. He also asked the Board if it would be possible to close Broad St. from Miller St. and south for tournament parking and to have VEST available to allow those with parking passes to park there. He was told he would have to go before the Town Safety Board.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

None

Meeting was adjourned by President, Rob Bubala at 7:55 pm.

Diane Kujawa
Recording Secretary