

GRIFFITH PARKS and RECREATION BOARD

Minutes for the December 7, 2015 meeting:

The meeting was called to order at 7:25 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 -Al Markut, Park Supervisor
-Leah Dumezich, School Board Liaison Pat Schaadt, Town Council Liaison

Gina Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of November 9, 2015. Susan Hoese seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

Claims in the amount of \$4068.78 (Four thousand sixty-eight and 78/100 dollars) had been presented. Gina Smith made a motion to approve. Sue Hoese seconded the motion; claims were approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Rob Bubala announced that the January, 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.

He also urged residents to call the police at 911 if anyone sees any graffiti, damage or questionable behavior in any of the town parks during the day or evening, since all calls (emergency and non-emergency) go through 911. Al Markut added that at the present 219-924-4161 is still an active number to call; Pat Schaadt remarked that is it to be closed down eventually.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

REPORTS:

Treasurer's report: Susan Hoese reported that as this is the end of the 4th quarter, the Park Board is being very cautious with its funds.

Park Superintendent: Al Markut thanked the Park Board for everything that has been accomplished this year. He added that one of his priorities for next year includes redoing the fence, bushes and mulch around the memorial at Central Park.

School Board: Leah Dumezich stated that Pop Warner cheerleaders placed 2nd in the nation at Disney. She also mentioned that last Saturday's Breakfast with Santa at Beriger was very successful and that the High School varsity basketball team has posted its first win. Rob Bubala added that the middle school robotics team will be at Fort Wayne this weekend for the state championships. Leah suggested that maybe they could come to the park next summer to show off their skills.

GSEC – Per Gina Smith this committee is closed down until April.

Senior Center – Pat Schaadt reported that the Senior Center is doing great. The Christmas party is this Friday with a charge of \$8.00/person which does include special entertainment, catered by Griffith Meat Market. The Griffith Swinging Seniors meet at the Center on the first and third Tuesdays of every month; they had their Christmas party at St. Mary's last Saturday. Some of the activities held at the Senior Center include pinochle, scrabble, bridge, bingo, bunco, poker and nickel shuffle. Ladies meet on Thursday to talk, embroider or work on their quilts, and there is also a book club which meets there.

Rob Bubala stated that the Bike Trail Connection Project, Girl Scout Troop Project and South Park Building and Improvement Project are all 2016 items, and there is no new information on them at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

Rob Bubala went over the items of unfinished business:

1. Basketball hoops – topic is on hold until 2016
2. Bike Trails and Associated Parking Lots Review - project on hold until 2016
3. Cheever Park Cell Tower Flag and Lighting – Rob Bubala stated that he has driven past the flag and that the light on the flag looks a lot better. However, Pat Schaadt voiced her displeasure saying that the light appears to be brighter on the pole but not on the flag.
4. Park Security Cameras – Rob Bubala said that almost every park has cameras that are active. Chief Mance is handling a few of the last issues. Al Markut asked if anything has been determined regarding the damage at the South Park Soccer field where someone had come in from the football area (the gravel road) and had gone into the newly seeded area. Susan Hoese stated that some kind of bumper or fencing had been requested for the front of the parking lot. Rob asked Al to talk to Rick Konopasek to see if anything can be put there.
5. Painting of Central Park Playground Equipment, Paving project and Field Leases for Sports Teams will all be done in 2016
6. Central Park Ice Rink Liner- Rob Bubala reported that the new ice rink liner should be showing up on December 22; it had been late because the company had run out of material, selling so many of this item. The maker and the truck driver have Al's information to work out the delivery with him.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Aaron Pollock, 127 N. Rensselaer, expressed the appreciation of the Sox softball team for the use of Cheever Park. He added that another team may be added and that there is interest in using Cheever again in the spring and summer. He asked if there had been any negative feedback and none had been received. Sue Hoese remarked that she needs to get with the president of Girls' Softball and see how many teams they will be having. Their season usually starts first week of May and runs through June, with All Stars in July. Aaron Pollock stated that his teams would want to start using the field in March and go through the end of the fall. He added that he hopes to bring a tournament to town (possibly on a Labor Day weekend) and would need all three fields if he did so. There could be anywhere between 6 to 26 teams, ages 9 through 18 in a tournament. Aaron will talk with Rick Baker about this possibility.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

None

Meeting was adjourned by President, Rob Bubala at 7:40 pm.

Diane Kujawa
Recording Secretary

