

GRIFFITH PARKS and RECREATION BOARD

Minutes for the August 10, 2015 meeting:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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 George Thiel -Al Markut, Park Supervisor
-Pat Schaadt, Town Council Liaison

Leah Dumezich, School Board Liaison, was absent.

Gina Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of July 13, 2015. George Thiel seconded the motion. Minutes were approved. George Thiel seconded the minutes. These minutes were approved.

Claims in the amount of \$8544.76 (eight thousand five hundred forty-four dollars and seventy-six cents) were presented. Gina Smith made a motion to approve the claims as presented. George Thiel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Rob Bubala announced that the September, 2015 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 reminded residents to call the police non-emergency number at 219-924-3141 if anyone sees any graffiti, damage or questionable behavior in any of the town parks during the day or evening.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

REPORTS:

Treasurer's report: Susan Hoese reported that as we approach the end of the third quarter we are in good condition.

Park Superintendent: Al Markut remarked that his crew survived July with the 4th holiday, the symphony and the Park Full of Art. Everything went well with his crew going above and beyond to help out. They are now fighting weeds and trying to spruce up the ball fields. Al has not seen any major damage or vandalism. Mr. Markut then brought up the subject of security cameras at South Park. Rob Bubala responded that Chief Mance was sent a sketch and they will be installed ASAP. Al was concerned because this is an out of the way area and can't be seen from the street. He also inquired as to when the blacktop will be done at Babe Ruth and Little League so he can schedule moving the necessary items. Sue Hoese stated that the paving in South Park will probably be done at the end of September and Central Park will be done in the mix of the street paving.

School Board: No report

GSEC – Julie Anderson was absent but Rob Bubala reported in her absence that GSEC is doing well; the symphony was fantastic. Al Markut commented that attendance was the most that he had ever seen and that Central Park left very clean after the event. Hats off to Julie and her GSEC crew. Rob Bubala stated that this organization is in need of volunteers and anyone interested can get in touch with Julie. He also added that Creepy Crawler night is coming up.

Senior Center – Pat Schaadt reported that everything is great; there are still openings for the trip. Attendance hasn't slacked off for the summer with people still coming for all the various games.

Central Market- Pat Schaadt announced that last Friday's Central Market attendance was second only to the 4th of July weekend market. There had been a tremendous crowd, and as a result they are looking for ways to expand the pavilion area.

South Park Playground Replacement Project – Sue Hoese reported that the equipment will be in starting the week of 8/24/2015. The following week the rubberized material will be poured. All should be done by the end of August. Nu-Toys is the vendor and they have also included two handicap accessible areas: a see-saw and a swing.

Bike Trail Connections - Will be a project in 2016

South Park Building Improvements – This will be a 2016 project.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

Rob Bubala went over the items of unfinished business:

1. Tot Park Basketball hoops – Rob stated that there have been no reports from the police on this item.
2. Bike Trails and Associated Parking Lots Review – Rob Bubala mentioned that in addition to the previous reports, South Park parking lot and basketball courts will be done by Walsh & Kelly. Baseball areas in Central Park will also be done this year.
3. Cheever Park Cell Tower Flag and Lighting – Al Markut still thinks that the lighting is not right even though a gentlemen was there about one month ago. Pat Schaadt added that there is no light on the flag at all; it just lights up the bottom. Rob Bubala stated that the Board will look into this matter and if needed will contact electrical vendors to see if we can get a pole installed and metered. Al commented that there are two different contacts for the cell tower; one for the lights and one for the flag. He also stated that he had been promised a bigger flag.
4. Park Security Cameras – We are waiting on the police for information on this topic as was previously discussed
5. Painting of Central Park Playground Equipment – Rob Bubala reported that we still need an estimate for this painting to see if we can get this project done with this year's funds. Al Market suggested we should wait until the kids go back to school to begin.
6. Picnic Tables – We are considering purchasing a large quantity of picnic tables and will be getting some pricing for these.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Aaron Pollack, 127 N. Rensselaer, was present to speak on behalf the Northwest Indiana Sox for their request for field usage. Rich Baker of the NW Indiana Sox was also present and stated that he had a proposal and certificate of insurance. They are requesting practice times in September and October, 2015 on Tuesday and Wednesdays. In 2016, they will need the field on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in April, May, June, and part of July. Sue Hoese responded that she had talked to the president of the girls' softball, Chris Linders, who is in the audience, and who stated that the league does use Cheever for practice. He is willing to talk about the different time frames requested, and Sue will have to coordinate these times with the two organizations. Rich Baker then responded that he is flexible on the times. He stated that his tournaments are on the weekend so he wouldn't need the fields then, and that he is willing to take a different field for practice if one is available. He added that even though he has 10, 11 and 12 year old teams, only one team would use the field. Sue Hoese then stated that she will coordinate with the softball league and will get back to Mr. Baker before the next meeting on September 14, 2015.

Rob Bubala then made a motion that negotiations occur between the Girls' Softball League, Griffith Park Board, and Northwest Indiana Sox to discuss the possible field leasing of Cheever Park in 2015 and/or 2016. Gina Smith seconded the motion; motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Chris Linders, 132 N. Elgin, President of Griffith Girls Softball, complained about the vulgar language, cussing and gestures occurring at the Broad Street basketball courts. He feels this is a bad representation of our Town to other towns. He also has had people asking to use the bathroom when he was having a board meeting. On one occasion he had to call police to report urinating on the floor. The police responded that they were too busy to come to the park. (July 12, 2015). Rob Bubala suggested the possibility of putting slot fencing in to take away the visual disruption and perhaps cut down on the auditory disruption as well. A discussion with Chief Mance needs to take place to determine what we may or may not do. A sign wouldn't work because of infringement of "free speech." Valerie Wotkun asked if there could be more of a police presence at these courts. Rob Bubala then stated that the bathrooms at the softball park are on public property; he needs to ask the council if signs can be used at the bathrooms, stating "softball use only." He said that the police need to be called when there are problems but will take this issue to the Town Council.

Cheryl Satkus complemented Pat Schaadt for help to getting picnic tables in Tot Park. Susan Hoese added that moving forward we will be ordering more picnic tables so that they will be available at all the parks.

Pat Schaadt then commented that the basketball court area in Tot Park near the Senior Center had many weeds; Al Markut stated that this issue had been taken care of today.

Meeting was adjourned by President, Rob Bubala at 7:45 pm.

Diane Kujawa
Recording Secretary