

GRIFFITH PARKS and RECREATION BOARD

Minutes for the July 13, 2015 meeting:

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 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

George Jerome, Clerk Treasurer, was also in attendance.

Gina Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of June 8, 2015. George Thiel seconded the motion. Minutes were approved. The June 15th special meeting minutes needed changes to the dollar amounts for the playground. Gina Smith made a motion to accept the minutes with the changes; George Thiel seconded the minutes. These minutes were approved.

Claims in the amount of \$25,571.86 (twenty-five thousand five hundred seventy-one dollars and eighty-six cents) were presented. Sue Hoese made a motion to approve the claims as presented. Gina Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Rob Bubala announced that the August, 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 now that it is warmer and there is more activity, 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.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

REPORTS:

Treasurer's report: Susan Hoese reported that for this quarter we are doing well.

Park Superintendent: Al Markut remarked that this is a busy month but that the park department is doing okay; holding their own with the 4th of July, Symphony, Park Full of Art, and the Central Market.

School Board: Leah Dumezich announced that per Mr. Graf of the Art Department of the high school, students from all schools will be displaying artwork for the Park Full of Art.

GSEC – Cathy Davis reported that the Symphony is coming up on August 1. She also mentioned that GSEC had 17 floats for the parade compared to 7 last year. Although GSEC could always use extra help, the parade ran smoothly.

Senior Center – Pat Schaadt reported that Joelle McCoy is planning a trip to Nashville on October 12-16, 2015. There are still openings and the cost is \$499 for 5 days and 4 nights; call 924-1405 if interested. Pat

presented the Board with a list of activities which occur Monday through Friday. She also announced that lunch is available for a nominal fee of \$5.00 but the order must be called in ahead. Pat then asked that the website be updated with current information.

Central Market- Pat Schaadt announced that Central Market is doing well as it brought in \$2800.00 of business last Friday. With the extended hours, the July 3rd Market sales were over \$5000.00. The Central Market now has 38 vendors; some full season, some ten-session and others weekly. The amount of vendors has increased over last year, and it seems that the Market is a very well accepted activity for the summer.

South Park Playground Replacement Project – Sue Hoeser reported that the trees are eliminated where the playground will be. A vendor has been chosen for the equipment, which takes 3-4 weeks to come in and then another week is needed for pouring the rubber material. She thinks the playground will be complete in Mid-August. Sue also stated that Al and his crew have taken care of the basketball hoops and boards; the horseshoe pit needs paint yet. The pavilion is done, the picnic tables are ready, the bathrooms have been power washed for painting and bushes have been removed around this area. It should all be finished by the end of August. Lastly, the road into South Park will be done when the parkway and streets are done in September.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

Rob Bubala went over the items of unfinished business:

1. Tot Park Basketball hoops – Rob stated that the police have not notified us of any new issues.
2. Bike Trails and Associated Parking Lots Review – Rob Bubala said that the Park Board will be working with Public Works to get quotes to have the paving done on the trails and parking lots.
3. Field leasing paperwork revisions- Rob Bubala announced that all leases are complete at this time.
4. Possible South Park Building Improvement – The Council will be handling this item in 2016.
5. Cheever Park Cell Tower Flag and Lighting – Al Markut has been in contact with the gentleman in charge and he will be replacing the 1000 watt bulb with a 1500 watt bulb and added that this flag is smaller than the previous one. Pat Schaadt asked Al if the vendor has been questioned regarding this and was told that the vendor does know of this issue.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

Al Markut had requested a sandbox for Cheever Park for which he has provided quotes. Sue Hoeser made a motion to approve a new sandbox and Gina seconded the motion. Motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

None

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Aaron Pollack, 127 N. Rensselaer, asked for permission for the Northwest Indiana Sox, a leading program of fast-pitch girls' softball, to lease Cheever Park two days per week in the spring. They would also like to offer free or reduced instruction and clinics to help develop the skills of girls 10-12 years old. Sue Hoeser asked where the team was out of and was told that they ran most of their indoor practices out of Triple Crown in

Schererville. Rick Baker is the general manager; the team practices at Andean and will be also practicing in Highland as well. Tryouts will take place at Meadows Park in Highland. Sue then reminded Mr. Pollack that no subleasing was allowed through the leagues; she also asked what time frame the team had planned, and Mr. Pollack answered that they would need the fields from April through November. Northwest Indiana Sox would pay any fee, maintain the fields and take full responsibility. Sue Hoese then stated that she needed to talk to Chris Linders, president of the league, and suggested the Board take this item under advisement.

Mr. Pollack, a member of the St. Mary Advisory Council, then said that St. Mary was hosting a 5k run being held on August 29, 2015. To advertise for this he asked if he could hand out fliers at Central Market and was told that he needed to get permission from the Town Council. Rick Ryfa, president of the Town Council, was in the audience and said that this would be fine. Mr. Pollack has already spoken with Commander Gang to have emails sent out and for traffic control. He also wanted to know if the race info could be put on our marquee at Central Park and would get Al Markut a flier. Al then asked if the race was going through the park, but was told that it would run past it and onto Pine Street, starting at St. Mary. The route will be through neighborhoods on streets including Indiana and Columbia and on the bike trail.

Valerie Wotkun, 1004 W. Elm Pl., announced that Enbridge had provided 53 new trees to the town. One half of them have been planted in the parks and one half on the bike trail. She thanked Al for watering the trees and was working on labeling the trees. Lastly Valerie mentioned that the drinking fountain at Central Park was not working; Rick Ryfa commented that he thought we were going to buy a new one. Al will follow up on this item with Rick Konopasek.

Meeting was adjourned by President, Rob Bubala at 7:32 pm.

Diane Kujawa
Recording Secretary