

## **GRIFFITH PARKS and RECREATION BOARD**

### **Minutes for the May 11, 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              -George Thiel              -Susan Hoeser              -Al Markut, Park Supervisor  
-Pat Schaadt, Town Council Liaison              -Leah Dumezich, School Board Liaison

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

Claims in the amount of \$4,653.02 (four thousand six hundred fifty-three and 02/100) 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 June, 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 Hoeser reported that the funds look really good for the second quarter.

Park Superintendent: Al Markut remarked that his guys are getting into the swing of mowing sequences. He has 4 female and 3 male college students working for him and is trying to get two more hires. Al also informed us that Franklin playground is taken care of with mulch and that there is an issue with the lights in the pavilion. A&E Electric will be coming out tomorrow to look at them. Al then added that there had been vandalism in Tot Park to one of the baby swings. His men had taken it down before the police report could be made; it was replaced right away. There also had been an incident at South Park with one of the benches getting damaged; kids like to stand on these tables. All in all vandalism has been low but according to the police the week before school lets out and the week before it begins again in the fall are the worse times.

School Board: Leah Dumezich announced that on Wednesday, 5/13/2015, there will be a band concert where all the different school bands come together led by Debbie Korak.

GSEC – Julie Anderson reported that GSEC held its first meeting this month. She had sent an email to Rob with the scheduled dates of their activities. The parade will be on July 4, 2015; the Symphony in the Park will be on Saturday, Aug. 1, 2015; Creepy Crawler Night is Sept. 17, 2015 and the Halloween Magic Show is scheduled for Oct. 31, 2015. Julie also added that all the band applications for the parade have been mailed out.

Senior Center – Pat Schaadt stated that the Senior Center had a very successful champagne brunch and fashion show. Two weeks prior to the show only 28 tickets had been sold, but after the announcement was put in the church bulletin, the event was a sell-out, making more than twice the money than was expected. Pat also announced that another 8 week exercise program geared for seniors will begin at 9:00 am at the Senior Center; she intends to report on it next week. A previous 10-week session had been held and was well attended.

Central Market- Pat Schaadt reported that this week's Market was very slow because of the rainy conditions and was one of lowest we have ever had since it closed down at about 7:30. However, last week's Market was bigger than any on opening night. The Market crew is looking forward to a great year.

Central Park Bathroom Rehab Project - Rob Bubala said that this project is officially done.

South Park Playground Replacement Project – Rob Bubala informed all that after discussion with our counsel we are going to have to reject the three bids we have received. Susan Hoese made a motion to send out a new solicitation for equipment and surface for South Park. George Thiel seconded the motion; motion passed.

Girl Scout Troop Project – There was no update as of yet.

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

Rob Bubala went over the items of unfinished business:

1. Tot Park Basketball hoops – Rob checked with Lt. Gang and Officer Moore and there had only been one complaint about playing too late at this park and one animal complaint.
2. Bike Racks in Central Park – Al Markut had talked with Rick Konopasek regarding the racks. He had three in the compound and he thinks some have been placed on Main Street and one by the old Boz's; Al plans on ordering a few more. Rick Ryfa, Town Council President, thought there were about a dozen bike racks and asked Al to check again before placing any order.
3. Bike Trails and Associated Parking Lots Review –Rob Bubala is expecting the final report within the next week which the Board will then review.
4. Volleyball Courts – Al Markut informed us that he has put up the posts but the nets are not up yet. He is waiting until the kids get out of school to finish.
5. Field leasing paperwork revisions – Rob Bubala stated that our attorney recommended that we do another motion to allow the Park Board President to sign the revised leases to the Parks from the Redevelopment Commission. Sue Hoese made this motion; Gina Smith seconded the motion; motion passed. Sue is still working on the leases with the leagues.
6. Possible South Park Building Improvement – Rob Bubala has received a lot of information on this subject from the leagues and from one contractor for field goal posts; the Board is still in discussion on what to do there.

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

1. Rob Bubala reported that there have been complaints from both Pat Schaadt and George Jerome regarding the flag at Cheever Park. He informed all that the flags are on a six month rotation, and that Cheever Park is due in May. There seems to be a problem with the lighting even though an adjustment had been made the other day. Al Markut stated that there are only two ways to adjust the light. The vendor may have to come up with something new for the flag to be properly lit. Pat

Schaadt commented that the flag is a tribute to all servicemen and women and if a new light is needed, the Park Board should purchase one and if necessary light it ourselves. Rob Bubala then added that we cannot mount a light on leased equipment. We will have to contact the cell tower company.

2. Cheever Park Tennis Courts – A vendor from Indianapolis who handled the high school courts has been in Town last week but we have no quote yet.
3. Rob Bubala then stated that the police department wants additional cameras at Central and Tot Park to help keep our residents safe. The Town Council and Police Department will both help with this project.
4. Al Markut mentioned that he has some issues with cars driving through Central Park too fast. Rick Ryfa stated no traffic is allowed in the park unless there is a special event. He believes the issue has been resolved as the vendors are supposed to stay until 9 p.m.; if they leave early they need to be escorted. The Council has spoken with Kathy Rusken regarding this topic.
5. Sue Hoese informed all that the YMCA Volleyball league will begin around July 7, 2015. Also, she has been in contact with Soccer and Pop Warner and will be walking through South Park with them. She also reported that there had been an incident regarding baseball which has now been resolved.

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

None

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Cheryl Satkus, 330 N. Indiana, asked if there were any plans for the corner at Tot Park where the Griffith sign is. Al Markut stated that he has plans to pull the bushes and replace them with a Golden Victory. The area also needs to be edged and cleaned.

Valerie Wotkun, 1004 W. Elm Place, reported that there will be Canvas Escapes party (paint class) in the park on the Wednesday evening after Park Full of Art. It will be a family event. She then asked if there has been any progress on replacing the garage roof at Panther Park; Rob responded that this item was still on the agenda with the Town Council.

Rich Leber, 309 N. Ernest, announced that Imagine Griffith is holding a community clean-up and flower planting on Saturday between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. Those interested can meet at Central Park by the wishing well or at Tot Park. There will be a command center, and Al Markut will help out with garbage bags and five trimmers. Mr. Leber then mentioned that Moody Bible Institute in Chicago is looking to sell picnic tables which have been refinished and wondered if our parks could use them. Rob Bubala suggested that he get pictures of them to see if they would work for us. Leah Dumezich then added that he should send the pictures to the School Board as well.

Al Markut then added that he does not want to use the garbage mulch at the golf course; it goes back to dirt quicker. He would like to replace some of the mulch on the islands with new mulch.

Leah Dumezich asked if there was any need for coffee and water on Saturday for the volunteers doing clean-up; Rich Leber said that drinks, water and hot dogs were covered but that she could supply some coffee if it was practical to do so.

The meeting was adjourned by President Rob Bubala at 7:29 p.m.

Recording Secretary,

