

GRIFFITH PARKS and RECREATION BOARD

Minutes for the April 13, 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 Hoese -Al Markut, Park Supervisor
-Pat Schaadt, Town Council Liaison -Leah Dumezich, School Board Liaison

George Thiel made a motion to approve the minutes of March 9, 2015. Gina Smith seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

Claims in the amount of \$4,869.31 (four thousand eight hundred sixty-nine and 31/100) were presented. Susan Hoese made a motion to approve the claims as presented. Gina Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Rob Bubala announced that the May, 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.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Rob Bubala reported that he had correspondence from Bob Ince, Griffith resident, who had written that he enjoyed the handball courts at Cheever, but wanted to know if we are going to improve the surface. Rob responded that this would be included in the Robinson Engineering evaluation.

An email had been received from Craig Van Gorp who had commented that he enjoyed the new bathroom facilities but that soap and a changing table were still needed there. These items will be taken care of in the near future.

REPORTS:

Treasurer's report: Susan Hoese reported that the second quarter is starting with the funds in good shape.

Park Superintendent: Al Markut remarked that his guys are getting the parks ready and have been seeding the heavy traffic areas damaged from the Market. They have also replaced Memorial Bricks by the wishing well. The washrooms are open but Doppler still has to nail signs into the concrete blocks. Soap dispensers have been ordered and the changing table will be provided by Doppler. They also found that there is no water by the drinking fountain between the playground and the minor league field. Rob Bubala stated that he will talk to Larry Ballah about that. Al added that work is being done to clean the fences to get ready for the opening days, and he is in the process of moving bleachers which we had been using for the soccer field. He got a call from the irrigation people regarding turning on the irrigation for the soccer field which they are not using. He needs to know the status of that park. Lastly, there was a problem with the light pole at Avenue B and the trail. It is broken at the base and we are waiting on a bid to fix this; the globe which was missing has been replaced.

School Board: Leah Dumezich announced that the boys' varsity baseball team beat Andrean 3-1; the basketball team was running up at state. Griffith also hosted its annual wheelchair basketball game in honor of Disability Awareness Month.

GSEC – Gina Smith stated that this organization will be back in session next Monday.

Senior Center – Pat Schaadt stated that the Senior Center is doing fine and is well-attended. There are still a few tickets left for the May 2nd Fashion Show.

Central Market- Pat Schaadt informed all that the Market preparations are coming along. The vendor applications are coming in and weather permitting, it will begin on May 1, 2015.

South Park Playground Replacement Project - Bids were opened for the new playground project. Sinclair Recreation of Holland, Michigan's bid had two options: Option 1 was \$33,000.00; Option 2 was \$29,995. Kidstuff Play Systems of Gary's bid was \$42,605.00; Snider Recreation of Ohio also had a bid which could not be determined at this time. Gina Smith made a motion that the Park Board accept the bids and to allow the legal representation and Board to review the bids. George Thiel seconded the motion; motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

Rob Bubala went over the items of unfinished business:

1. Tot Park Basketball hoops – Rob has asked for reports from the police regarding activity at the basketball courts; he has not received any information as of yet.
2. Bike Trails and Associated Parking Lots Review –Rob Bubala is working with Robinson Engineering on this project. He hopes to hear from the project manager this week.
3. Volleyball Courts – Al Markut informed us that he wants to let the area dry before he puts in the sand and nets for volleyball.
4. Field leasing paperwork revisions – Revelopment Commission wanted to redo the leases for the Park Board and the leagues which lease from us. Some changes were needed to the lot numbers in the lease, but the main part of the agreement is there. Sue Hoese made a motion to allow the Park Board to sign leases with the pending changes regarding the lot numbers. Gina seconded the motion; motion passed.
5. Possible South Park Building Improvement – Rob Bubala stated that the Park Board will get back to the public when more information is available.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

Rob Bubala stated that Kathy Ruesken had requested that an additional little library be added at Wiggs and Elm. Sue Hoese made a motion to approve this library and George Thiel seconded; motion carried.

The Griffith Rotary Club had approached the Board at the last meeting to propose a Dog Park near Tot Park. Rob Bubala stated that the Board feels this is not the prime location for it but will discuss with the Rotary Club regarding another location.

Rob Bubala announced that a special meeting will be held Tuesday, April 21, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.

Sue Hoese explained that she had been approached by Scott Davenport of Griffith Youth Baseball regarding lightning damages at their park. Lights have been damaged and there has been no working scoreboard by Babe Ruth field for about 2-3 years; repairs cost as much as a new scoreboard. Since they will be hosting

interleague games, they feel that they need a working scoreboard. They are asking us to donate or supply money for ½ the cost of a new scoreboard and lights. Griffith Youth Baseball had a cost of \$1800.00 worth of repairs last year for which we did not have to pay since the work had been donated. Sue then made a motion that the Park Board pay half the cost of a scoreboard and lights, not to exceed \$1900, to Griffith Little League. Gina seconded the motion; motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

None

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Greg Phelps, 411 N. Woodlawn, President of Pop Warner appeared before the Board to request use of South Park after July 4th to host a summer conditioning camp. It would run from 6 – 8 PM two or three days during the week for about three weeks. This could mean additional revenue for the league as well as bringing in more kids. The camp would be three weeks earlier than the normal practices. Sue Hoese made a motion to allow Pop Warner to extend its lease to host a summer clinic. George Thiel seconded the motion; motion carried.

Nerissa Dixon, 130 N. Ernest, and representatives from Girl Scout Troop 181 came before the Board to request permission to host a movie night in Central Park in the baseball field as part of a service project for Daisies and Brownies. They would like to use the baseball field because it is gated in. The Baseball League has okayed the event which would be held on a Wednesday evening in July. Ms. Dixon asked if they could borrow our projector screen but George Jerome informed them that it had been leased from the company which showed the movie. Rick Ryfa stated that he knew of one which they could borrow. Rob Bubala then stated that since this project falls in the purview of the baseball lease and they approved, no motion was needed.

In addition, Girl Scout Troop 10181 asked for permission to work with local businesses to fundraise for a beautification project for 39th St. Park in order to work toward their silver award. They want to try and raise money for new equipment for this park. Nerissa Dixon then added that after hearing the cost of equipment, the girls may only be able to contribute one piece or get a bench and plant some flowers. Rob Bubala said that the Park Board would be happy to support this endeavor and offered to appoint a liaison to work with them.

The meeting was adjourned by President Rob Bubala at 7:24 p.m.

Recording Secretary

Diane Kujawa