

GRIFFITH PARKS and RECREATION BOARD

Minutes for the March 9, 2015 meeting:

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 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 Hoes	-Al Markut, Park Supervisor
-Pat Schaadt, Town Council Liaison			-Leah Dumezich, School Board Liaison	

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

Claims in the amount of \$2735.88 (two thousand seven hundred thirty-five and 88/100) were presented. Susan Hoes made a motion to approve the claims as presented. Gina Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Rob Bubala announced that the April, 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:

None

REPORTS:

Treasurer's report: Susan Hoes reported that the 1st quarter went really well using only 10% of our funds.

Park Superintendent: Al Markut remarked that his guys survived the tough February and that the John Deere snowblower worked very well; 95% of the area has been cleaned. His crew is gearing up to open the parks and start the spring tune-up. They will also be starting to put up the banners in the park.

School Board: Leah Dumezich announced that Ben Geffert has been hired as the new football coach and that the boys' basketball team has won their sectional.

GSEC – Rob Bubala stated that this organization is still on hiatus and we look forward to seeing Julie Anderson next month.

Senior Center – Pat Schaadt stated that the Senior Center will be hosting a fashion show on 5/2/2015, and she asked if the information for it could be put on the website. On Friday, 6/5/2015 the Center is planning an event with Mo's Blues Band from 1-2 pm and in September they will be going on a bus trip to Nashville. She hopes that the parking lot will be asphalted where the stumps were removed once the weather warms up.

Central Market- Pat Schaadt informed all that the Market will begin on May 1, 2015; contracts have been coming in. Seasonal ones are available for \$175.00 and a few weekly people will pay \$25.00/wk and they will have to apply. These payments will be made Thursday before the Friday market.

Central Park Bathroom Rehab Proposal Project- Rob Bubala stated that the bathrooms should be done in the next month or month and a half; Pat Schaadt remarked that they should be done by the end of the month and in time for the Central Market. There will be men's, women's and also a family restroom where parents can take their children.

South Park Playground-Park Board has sent out bid requests to a couple of prospective vendors for a new playground at South Park and they were dated to come in before our next meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

Rob Bubala went over the items of unfinished business:

1. Tot Park Basketball hoops – Rob will be talking to the police in the next month or so.
2. New mower and hydraulic deck – Al has his new mower and deck; the old one has been taken away.
3. Bike Trails and Associated Parking Lots Review –Rob Bubala has initiated a quote with Robinson Engineering to evaluate the parking lots and trails. A motion was made by Susan Hoese to approve the quote not to exceed \$7000.00, to include the Senior Center parking lot, and to allow the Park Board president to sign the quote. Motion was seconded by George Thiel. Motion passed.
4. Ice Rink for Central Park – Lights have been placed around the ice rink with the meter finally being installed. The lights will go off at 10:00 pm. Al added that the volleyball players will appreciate having the courts lit.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

Leases- Sue Hoese met with every sport team representative; the YMCA will meet with her tonite. A lot of issues were found within the lease, so it will be amended as soon as the Park Board gets a new lease from Redevelopment Commission (since they own Franklin Field and South Park). Individual meetings will take place once the new leases are available to us. Nothing should hamper the beginning of the seasons.

Rob Bubala announced that discussions are being held with the council regarding improvement to the soccer and Pop Warner fields which include goal posts, storage building, concession stand and additional bathroom.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

John Dudliceck, 223 N. Elgin, presented some concept drawings regarding the goal posts and layout of the fields. Consideration is being given to the terrain of the field and surveys regarding grading and the location of the pipeline will be done once the snow is melted.

Susan Hoese mentioned that Scott Davenport, president of Boys' Baseball, asked about their parade on April 25. They will have to go before the Town Council and the Safety Committee, and they will need to have the parade route.

Valerie Wotkun, 1004 W. Elm Place, asked if the contract with the tree decorator included charges to remove the lights in the pear trees. Rick Ryfa, President of Town Council, responded that the plan was to leave the lights in the trees this year. Valerie added that some of the lights had been tripping the ground fault probably due to the snow; her husband had been taking care of this problem. She also added that there are Christmas decoration in the garage at Columbia which we will not use anymore so she has emailed Highland, Dyer and Schererville offering them for free but has no takers as of yet. Rob Bubala stated that he will make other inquiries.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Ray White, 433 N. Lafayette, representing Griffith Rotary Club, presented the Board with information regarding a fund raiser for the Town for the possibility of a dog park along along Tot Park and the CN railroad tracks near the Senior Center. There's a fence along the east side of the tracks which could be matched and then head north to the Senior Center lot. Recommendations include removing the alley and putting a parking lot to the south. The cost will be about \$26,000. Fred Doppler, 14820 Iowa St., Crown Point, added that he has talked to Reeves regarding fencing. He has looked at Lowell, Schererville, Dyer and Munster parks and 5 foot fences are recommended. One quarter of the area would be for bigger dogs and three quarters for the smaller dogs. Rob Bubala asked if there would be a fee for key access or a membership requirement. He was told that Schererville has a FOB or a code; Munster is similar. We would try to keep access within the community, probably installing a gate with a code to get in or out. A fee could be charged to help with maintenance; water would have to be brought in. Eventually play things and even some hills could be added. Rob Bubala then said that this idea would be brought up for discussion and that Fred or Ray would be contacted for questions. Fred Doppler suggested that putting the parking lot on the end would help segregate the Senior Center from the dog park. People could also park on Indiana and walk over.

Greg Phelps, 411 N. Woodlawn, president of Pop Warner requested permission to put yard signs up in Town and in Central Park for registration. Rob Bubala informed him that any permission for signs have to be brought before the Town Council.

The meeting was adjourned by President Rob Bubala at 7:27 p.m.

Recording Secretary

Diane Kujawa