

GRIFFITH PARKS and RECREATION BOARD

Minutes for the February 9, 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 Hoes	-Al Markut, Park Supervisor
-Pat Schaadt, Town Council Liaison			-Leah Dumezich, School Board Liaison	

Brent Torrenga, Town Attorney, was in attendance.

George Thiel made a motion to approve the minutes of January 12th with the correction of marking Susan Hoes as absent. Gina Smith seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

Claims in the amount of \$4526.07 (four thousand four hundred five hundred twenty-six and 07/100) were presented. Susan Hoes made a motion to accept the claims as presented. George Thiel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Rob Bubala announced that the March, 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.

Leah Dumezich announced that a new athletic director was hired at Griffith High School.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Rob Bubala stated that we have received more emails about the ice rink and that it is working out well. Rick Ryfa had asked that an email be read complimenting Al Markut and his staff for the fine job they did in removing the snow around Franklin Center, Central Park and the area sidewalks.

REPORTS:

Treasurer's report: Susan Hoes explained that the funds are doing wonderfully since it is the beginning of the year.

Park Superintendent: Al Markut remarked that his guys went over and beyond keeping up with the snow from the last storm by working all weekend to get as much done as they could, even working on the weekend. The biggest problem was the parking lot at the Town Garage. Al added that their new tractor would be in within the next week or so. Also, the ice rink liner will need to be re-ordered for next year. They did remove the snow from the ice rink with the new tractor. Rob Bubala added that a new liner will be ordered next September. In closing, Al Markut stated that the perimeter of the volleyball court needs to be refurbished. Rob Bubala replied that he will be getting with Robinson Engineering to get a full review of all the asphalt in town. He asked Al to get a couple of quotes for the volleyball court as well and suggested calling a landscaper or possibly a company such as Grimmer for the work. Lastly, Mr. Markut complimented the Public Works department for their help plowing the snow on the trail.

School Board: Leah Dumezich had no other report other than that Stacey Adams had been hired as Athletic Director. Susan Hoes brought up the issue of having high school students volunteer to help Al Markut during the summer. Because of the new policy of open enrollment at the high school, Rob suggested that any volunteers be Griffith residents on a first come first serve basis, and then if necessary consider the open enrollment students. Leah Dumezich agreed because of the transportation issue. Sue Hoes then asked if our new open enrollment policy of accepting 10 out-of-town students per grade could be changed especially since it was made before the new school board members were elected. Ms. Dumezich said it was her understanding that any policy could be overturned.

GSEC – Rob Bubala stated that this organization is still on hiatus until March, but made the announcement that the Symphony in the park would be Saturday, August 1, 2015 instead of on Friday.

Senior Center – Pat Schaad remarked that all is coming along well at the Center. There are a lot of activities going on Monday through Thursday. There will be a Valentine Day party Friday, Feb. 13, 2015 for which there is a waiting list available. Ms. Schaad also added that the Center had received a generous donation from Mr. & Mrs. Len Bezat which was very welcome because the Center had purchased a new stove, dishwasher and refrigerator last year.

Central Market – Rob Bubala reported that Kathy Ruesken did advise that a new contract is being worked out with Rick Ryfa. When this is available it will be put on the website as many vendors are already asking about it.

Bike Trail Connection – Rob Bubala reported that this project may not get engineering until 2016 with construction in 2017.

Central Park Bathroom Rehab Proposal Project- Pat Schaad commented that this project is coming along and that when they can work, the men are very busy trying to get the men's & women's bathrooms, new roof and family room all finished by spring.

South Park Playground replacement project - Rob has not yet sent out bid packages because of the snowfall. They will go out after the weather warms up.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

Rob Bubala went over the items of unfinished business:

1. Tot Park Basketball hoops – a review of the hoop situation is on hold until spring.
2. New mower and hydraulic deck – Riggs will be delivering the new mower and deck and picking up the trade in. The lease purchase paperwork will be worked out with the bank.
3. Bike Rack Project – Al Markut will make sure this project gets done this year.
4. Bike Trails and Associated Parking Lots Review (2015) Project- Rob Bubala is waiting for warm weather to get with Robinson Engineering on this project.
5. Ice Rink for Central Park – Al Markut reported that lights for the rink have not yet been hooked up. The poles are in but the meter is not connected; they are waiting for NIPSCO.
6. Leases- Sue Hoes will have pre-meetings with the leagues. They will get their invitation to appear Monday, March 9 at which time, insurance, contacts and dollars will be due. Sue then made a motion to limit any leases for the Athletic fields to no more than 9 months during any 12 month period. Gina Smith seconded the motion; motion passed. It was reiterated that all outfield signage contracts will be yearly at the parks.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

We are still waiting to talk with Pop Warner regarding some field issues we have with them. Sue Hoesel will bring this up when she has her meeting with them regarding their lease.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Mike Catchur, 308 N. Manor Drive, reported that he is still working on getting trees for the Town. He stated that nothing is as free as he thought; he is working on some leads through Taltree in Valparaiso. Sometimes they have trees which are leftover and he will investigate as to whether they would be available for us. Rob Bubala added that we may have to purchase more trees if we have more insect damage. Al Markut stated that out of 5 trees planted last year for the schools only 2 took. Mr. Catchur suggested possibly planting some pine trees near any roundabouts or bench areas. Rob Bubala added that any recommendations from Valerie Wotkun, Cheryl Satkus or Mike would be welcome. Sue Hoesel then asked if the Park Board knew that Enbridge has given \$25000 for trees for South Park. Al Markut did remark that Enbridge still hadn't finished leveling off and reseeding the area by the houses in the South Park area. Pat Schaadt commented that Rick Ryfa was to meet with Enbridge but that she didn't know the results.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

None

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

Recording Secretary

Diane Kujawa