

## **GRIFFITH PARKS and RECREATION BOARD**

### **Minutes for the January 12, 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    -George Thiel    -Al Markut  
-Pat Schaadt, Town Council Liaison                      -Leah Dumezich, School Board Liaison

Susan Hoeser was absent

Michael Campbell, Town Attorney, was in attendance.

George Thiel made a motion to accept the December 8, 2014 minutes. Gina Smith seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

Claims in the amount of \$4432.80 (four thousand four hundred thirty-two dollars and eighty cents) were presented. Gina Smith made a motion to accept the claims as presented. George Thiel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Rob Bubala announced that the February 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.

Board Elections were then held. Gina Smith made a motion to elect Rob Bubala as president. George Thiel seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Rob Bubala made a motion nominating Gina Smith as vice-president. George Thiel seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Gina Smith then nominated George Thiel as secretary; Rob Bubala seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Lastly, Rob Bubala made a motion to nominate Susan Hoeser as treasurer. Gina Smith seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

A picture of our ice rink has been posted on the web. The rink is actively used with both regular skaters and ice hockey skaters.

### **REPORTS:**

Treasurer's report: Rob Bubala reported that we have received our final tax infusion for 2014. Our accounts are steady right now.

Park Superintendent: Al Markut explained that due to the lack of cold weather, the ice rink wasn't ready for winter break, but it is up and being used now. Lights are being put up as of today. Rob Bubala questioned whether the lights would be on a timer but Al didn't know as of right now. Mr. Markut added that his crew has cleaned up 15 Christmas trees already and still have 3 more to do. A new snowblower for the Park and Street Departments has been purchased to plow the sidewalks in deeper snow from the railroad depot to 45<sup>th</sup>. Al also added that the washrooms are coming along well and that the new tractor and mower should be ready in two weeks. In conclusion, he added that his guys are keeping up with the snow.

School Board: New School Board liaison, Leah Dumezich had no report today, but hopes to have something to report in the near future.

GSEC – Rob Bubala stated that this organization is still on hiatus until March.

Senior Center – Pat Schaadt remarked that all is going well at the Center. She mentioned that the Griffith Swinging Seniors meet at the Center and that bridge, pinochle and bunco are some of the activities going on there. Ms. Schaadt also added that lunches, which are only \$5.00 each, are going well also.

Central Market – Rob Bubala stated that Kathy Ruesken had let him know that the Market will begin on Friday, May 1. Pat Schaadt added that she hopes to help at the beer garden again, and that the person from excise has said that our Market is a good family activity.

Bike Trail Connection – As announced previously this project is still on the list for this year. Rob Bubala will check with Rick Konopasek this week regarding the possible start of this project in 2016.

Central Park Bathroom Rehab Proposal Project- Rob Bubala announced that this project is in process but that there are some issues with the cold weather snap. The remodeling should be done in time for the Central Market.

South Park – Playground replacement project. Rob will send out the bid package this week with a 30 day turn-around if the weather breaks.

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

Rob Bubala went over the items of unfinished business:

1. Tot Park Basketball hoops - Rob Bubala stated that he has not talked with the police department regarding activity here; he will wait until spring to do this.
2. New mower and hydraulic deck – Al Markut is talking with Riggs for this purchase. Rob expressed thanks to Brent Torrensa for getting work done to proceed with this purchase.
3. Bike Rack Project – still scheduled for 2015.
4. Tree Lighting Along Broad St. By Franklin Center and Central Park- Rob will talk with Susan Hoese about taking down the lights.
5. DNR tree project in Tot Park-Mike Catchur stated that more trees are available and that selections can be made. Information will be emailed to Rob as to when the pick updates are. Rob Bubala asked if Al Markut had locations in mind for new trees and Al responded that the trail from 45<sup>th</sup> to Pine needs more trees especially as one of the diseased trees by the High School needs to be taken down. Rob asked Mike Catchur to make recommendations and talk with Al again. Mr. Catchur added that he would like someone from DNR to come and make recommendations as well.
6. Al Markut brought the quote from the insurance company for the repair of the benches; the claim wasn't going to be filed and would be paid outright.
7. Bike Trails and Associated Parking Lots- We will be looking to get quotes for asphalt for the trails and lots.
8. Leases- Susan Hoese is looking at paperwork revisions for new leases in March.

9. Griffith Youth Baseball and Softball advertising signs – There have been recommendations to change the current contracts of signs for the outfields. Gina Smith made a motion to change to a one year lease contract from a two-year contract and keep all other verbiage as is. George Thiel seconded the motion. Motion passed.

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

Rob Bubala presented a certificate of thanks to John Wotkun for all his work on the LED lights for Franklin. The certificate was received by Valerie Wotkun in the absence of her husband.

Sue Hoese will be in contact with Pop Warner about issues at South Park.

Rob Bubala introduced and welcomed Ms. Leah Dumezich as new School Board Liaison.

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

Cheryl Satkus inquired as to who is taking down the ash trees in Town. She was informed that the Town Council is responsible for having them taken down. She replied that she has information from the DNR regarding \$100,000.00 grant money available to cities and towns that can receive up to \$20,000.00 to replace trees which have been cut down because of the emerald ash tree borer. Ms. Satkus was asked if the trees have to be replaced in the same proximity and she answered that she didn't think there was a location requirement. She will provide George Jerome with information about the grant program. Pat Schaad commented that Russell Tree Services has been working with the council on this project and suggested that Ms. Satkus try to get the information to the council for the 5:30 study session Tuesday. Cheryl Satkus then added that the trees on her parkway were originally missed and that she had to call to get them taken down. Rob Bubala suggested that Mr. Konopasek or the Town Council should be informed if there are any other trees that might have been missed.

Valerie Wotkun asked Al Markut if the Town flowerpots are in the way of snow removal and was told that, other than a couple which have already been moved, they are fine. Valerie also added that the lights in the trees at Franklin can stay up at least one year since they are wrapped looser than those in the past had been. Ms. Wotkun then inquired as to whether there were any plans to connect the Bike Trail to Columbia Street by Panther Park. Rob Bubala responded that Panther Park was not high priority at this time; Valerie then stated that she thought this would be a good idea to help people get into Town.

#### **NEW BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:**

None

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

Recording Secretary

Diane Kujawa