

GRIFFITH PARKS and RECREATION BOARD

Minutes for the December 8, 2014 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 -Susan Hoese -George Thiel -Al Markut
-Pat Schaadt, Town Council Liaison

Rich Muha, School Board Liaison was absent.

Brent Torrenga, Town Attorney, was also in attendance.

Sue Hoese made a motion to accept the November 10, 2014 minutes. George Thiel seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

Claims in the amount of \$7343.67 (seven thousand three hundred forty-three dollars and sixty-seven 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 January, 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: Susan Hoese reported that all is good with the funds.

Park Superintendent: Al Markut gave a summary of the year's accomplishments:

1. Four roofs have been put on (Little league, Cheever and Tot and the brickwork was completed at South Park).
2. Most of the playground equipment has been repainted and chains and seats have been replaced. The 39th St. Park looks top notch now. The Board should be given recognition for all the work that has been done.
3. The basketball court on Broad and Lake has been redone with the help of Public Works. The backboards were pulled out and painted by them.
4. Central Market went really well and ran smoothly.
5. Park Full of Art was a success.
6. This year's symphony in the park was the best ever.
7. Creepy Crawler night was really nice.
8. Al extended "hats off" to the Oktoberfest committee for an excellent job.
9. The Boy Scouts Craft fair had a good turn-out.
10. Veteran's Day Services was held in the pavilion because of the rain; but it was a success.

In conclusion, Mr. Markut stated that the parks got a big work-out and that the Park Board should be proud of what happened there. Rob Bubala thanked Al Markut for his work and then asked Al to thank his employees and the college kids who worked during the summer for all their hard work.

School Board: No report- Rich Muha has not been re-elected. We will be looking to the new board to appoint a new liaison when they meet for the first time in January.

GSEC – Rob Bubala announced that GSEC is now on hiatus until March, 2015. Thanks to them for all their work this year.

Senior Center – Pat Schaadt remarked that all is going well at the Center. The seniors are enjoying their bridge, pinochle, sewing club and a new Bunco Club. There have been 25-30 women coming for bunco which started in October. On December 19 the Senior Center will be having their Christmas party and anyone over the age of 50 is invited. Reservations can be made at 924-1405 for dinner, prizes and games.

Pat went on to give a little history of the center, stating that it began in 1991 as part of the LCEOC. A year later it became the responsibility of Griffith, no state or federal funds are involved. Rob Bubala announced that he put information for rental of the center in the Informer. Additionally, Ms. Schaadt complimented Joelle McCoy, the Senior Center director, for her work and her great rapport with the seniors. She looks out for them and will contact the family if she thinks more supervision is needed. Rob Bubala asked Pat to thank Joelle for her efforts. Lastly, Pat Schaadt suggested we honor Rich Muha with a plaque since he had served the Board so diligently as School Board liaison.

Central Park Bathroom Rehab Proposal Project- Rob Bubala announced that this project will officially be starting over the winter with availability by spring.

South Park – Playground replacement project. Gina Smith made a motion to reject the bid from Kidstuff Play Systems from October 14 and George Thiel seconded the motion. Motion passed. Brent Torrenga, Park Board Attorney, explained that the necessity to reject the bid was because bids were not solicited according to statute. Gina then made a motion to invite quotes for new playground equipment for South Park and, if necessary, to hold a special meeting in December to receive the quotes. George Thiel seconded the motion; motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

Rob Bubala went over the items of unfinished business:

1. New Mower and hydraulic deck- Attorney Torrenga has worked with our financial institution to get the proper documentation in order for the purchase of the mower. Sue Hoeser made a motion to approve Resolution 2014-01 authorizing the Park Board President, Rob Bubala to enter a lease of purchase agreement for new tractor and mowing deck with United Federal Credit Union. George Thiel seconded the motion to approve the resolution. Motion passed. Gina Smith abstained. George Thiel then made a motion allowing the Park Board President to sign a lease agreement for a loan it entered on Dec. 8 with United Federal Credit Union. Susan Hoeser seconded the motion. Gina Smith abstained. Motion passed.
2. Roofing project for Tot Park – Al Markut stated that this project has been finished.
3. The DNR tree project. Rob Bubala thanked Cheryl Satkus for her part in this project and inquired as to how the new trees were doing. Ms. Satkus responded that they were doing fine, “holding their own”. Rob Bubala thanked all who were involved. Then Mike Katchur stated that more trees will be available through DNR in the near future and that he will provide the information when it becomes available. Al Markut also extended his thanks to Cheryl Satkus and Mike Katchur and added that he will meet with Mike to discuss locations for more trees.
4. Tree Lighting Along Broad St. By Franklin Center and Central Park- Susan Hoeser and Rick Ryfa were thanked for their help in getting the trees lit and the Imagine Griffith Committee was also thanked for getting the sponsors for the various decorations. Rob Bubala reported that some of the trees had been vandalized on Sunday but that Valerie Watkun did her best to fix them.
5. Ice Rink for Central Park- Al Markut informed everyone that there were not as many holes in the liner as he had thought; everything went well getting the liner down. He doesn’t know if the liner will be able to be used next year; he will have to wait and see how this season goes. Rob Bubala mentioned that there had been reports of kids throwing things into the ice rink and he again urged the public to call the police if they see this type of behavior. He also added that someone had burned one of the benches on the bike trail damaging some of the bricks as well. The police will increase patrols in these areas.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

Rob Bubala presented a certificate of thanks to Cheryl Satkus for spearheading the tree project and for watching out for Tot Park.

Rob Bubala then announced that all paperwork will be revised regarding leases; they will be presented at the March meeting.

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

As of yet, there has been no new School Board liaison named for the 2015 year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Cheryl Satkus mentioned that Tot Park has been quiet with kids just playing basketball there. Al Markut stated that he hadn’t seen too many kids at the new courts on Broad either.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Cecil Wright, 207 N. Lafayette, asked if the basketball courts at Tot Park could be used for ice skating. Rob Bubala stated that the rink at Central Park's volleyball area has been there for 4 years now, and the Council even plans to install lights there. He feels that because of its location in the middle of Town, it is easy to keep an eye on the rink at Central Park. However, he added that if skating becomes more popular, a rink at Tot Park could be a future option to consider.

Rob Bubala wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and then adjourned the meeting at 7:27 p.m.

Recording Secretary

Diane Kujawa