

GRIFFITH PARKS and RECREATION BOARD

Minutes for the October 13, 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 Board Liaison -Rich Muha, School Board Liaison

Brent Torrenga, Town Attorney, was also in attendance as was Clerk-Treasurer, George Jerome.

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

Claims in the amount of \$7946.62 (seven thousand nine hundred forty-six dollars and sixty-two cents) were presented. Susan Hoese made a motion to accept the claims as presented. George Thiel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Rob Bubala announced that the November 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 any graffiti, damage or questionable behavior is seen in any of the Town parks.

Rob then stated that the basketball courts on Lake/Broad Streets have been completed. The Board would like to thank Walsh and Kelly for the asphalt work they did. In addition Rob Bubala thanked TLC for their help pumping out some of the sewers by Little League dugouts.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

REPORTS:

Treasurer: Susan Hoese reported that everything looks good at this time.

Park Superintendent: Al Markut thanked Public Works for helping with the Broad Street basketball courts and with hanging the canvas around the Central Park pavilion. Mulch has been added at Tot Park and the playground equipment has been power washed there. The three trees we received from the Neighbor Woods program are in the yard and are ready to be planted. Before they go in, there will be pictures taken for the newspaper. Cheever Park pavilion has been re-roofed. His crew had cleaned up the 45th trail before the Trail Fest, which he believed went well. Fencing had been stained, bushes were trimmed and mulch had been added. The 45th, Avenue B and Broad Street trail parking lots have been relined. Little League and Babe Ruth blacktops are all clear of weeds. Mums have been planted and so far none have been stolen. The Park employees will be sprucing up Central Park for Veterans' Day. His crew has also mulched the five gardens at the corners on Broad Street.

School Board: No report

GSEC – Gina Smith announced that Julie Anderson has had back surgery but GSEC is still hoping to have their Halloween Party at 7:30 at Central Park on the 31st. Rob will have the information on the website.

Senior Center – Pat Schaadt remarked that all is moving along at the Center. There are 15 seniors in a new exercise group (a Federal Program which has been brought in) aimed at preventing falls and increasing morale. Joelle has organized an Octoberfest for this Friday, October 17 at a cost of \$8.00 per person. Lastly, a bus trip has been planned on December 6 to Purdue for a Christmas concert. Anyone interested in this can call the center at 924-1405.

Central Market – Pat Schaadt informed all present that the grand finale of the Market was a great success. At last Friday's Market, heaters and sidewalls were put up to keep everyone warm. Kathy Ruesken had told Pat that next year's Markets will start back up in May but will probably end in September.

Bike Trail Connection – As announced previously this project is still on the list for 2015.

Central Park Bathroom Rehab Proposal Project – This project is on hold. When we have more information we will notify the public.

South Park – We are still looking at replacing the playground here. More discussions are to be held with the Park Board about this. Sue Hoese stated that in the last three weeks Enbridge and contractors have been out at South Park levelling areas where the soccer fields were. They have put in grass seed and are still working on the field.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

Rob Bubala went over the items of unfinished business:

1. Tot Park Basketball Hoops – According to the Police, no issues have been reported in the last 2 ½ months at this park.
2. New Mower and hydraulic deck- The Board members have talked to some financial institutions and have spoken to Mr. Torrenga about what needs to be done to purchase the new mower. Brent Torrenga recommended that the Board allow the president to execute the necessary documents for the transactions. Susan Hoese made a motion that the president, Rob Bubala, be allowed to start the paperwork for the mower and deck with a three-year term loan from United Federal Credit Union. George Thiel seconded the motion; Gina Smith abstained from the vote. Motion passed.
3. The Bike Rack project didn't work out this year; it will be a 2015 project.
4. Roofing project for Tot Park – A motion was made by Susan Hoese that the Park Board seek 2 or 3 bids for the Tot Park roof replacement and to have the authority to finalize this project this year at a cost of no more than \$3500. George Thiel seconded the motion. Motion passed.
5. All the Tot Park mulch has been replaced this month.
6. We have received the trees from Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources with the help of Griffith resident, Cheryl Satkus. We will have a media day to thank the DNR and show the planting of the trees. As soon as we get the date we will advertise it on the website.
7. The Park Board is looking at different vendors for the tree lighting along Broad Street and at Franklin Center. We will have more information on this in the near future.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

None

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

David Thompson, 247 N. Indiana, attended the meeting to let the Board know that he is working on a 25 year Griffith High School reunion and will be using the Park's facilities. He invited the Park Board to join his Facebook group as they plan their celebration.

Chris Linders, 132 N. Elgin, was in attendance as the new president of Griffith Girls' Softball. As per the agreement with the league and the Park Board to get Cheever Park's work done, he had brought the finalized invoice and presented it to Susan Hoese. She asked that he get her a copy of their cancelled check so that the Board can begin the process of getting the Town's portion paid. Mr. Linders will be the contact person for Al Markut. Susan Hoese then asked for a list of all new officers and was told that the Girls' Softball website is updated with this information.

Rob Bubala announced that the Board is working to update the paperwork for the leases for next year and will try to get this information out by the end of January or early February.

The meeting was adjourned by President Rob Bubala at 7:18 p.m.

Recording Secretary

Diane Kujawa