

GRIFFITH PARKS and RECREATION BOARD

Minutes for the September 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
-Pat Schaadt, Town Board Liaison -Rich Muha, School Board Liaison

Al Markut was absent

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

Gina Smith made a motion to accept the August 11, 2014 minutes. Susan Hoese seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

Claims in the amount of \$9520.93 (nine thousand five hundred twenty dollars and ninety-three cents) were presented. Susan Hoese made a motion to accept the claims as presented. Gina Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Rob Bubala announced that George Thiel has been appointed to fill the remainder of Scott Sutton's term.

He also stated that the October Park Board pre-meeting will occur at 6 pm and a follow-up meeting will be held after the regularly scheduled meeting if one is needed.

Rob then reminded residents to please call the police non-emergency number, 219-924-3141 if any graffiti, damage or questionable behavior is seen in any of the town parks.

He then added that the basketball courts on Lake and Broad St. will be open soon. The Town would like to thank Walsh and Kelly for replacing the surface and reinstalling the rims and Public Works for refinishing the poles, backboards and rims.

CORRESPONDENCE:

One email was received with concerns regarding the Bike Trail. This information was given to Al Market to look into.

REPORTS:

Treasurer: Susan Hoese reported that we are being cautious with our funding at this time.

Park Superintendent: No report. Al Markut was absent but he did previously share some information on some projects with the Board.

School Board: No report

GSEC – Gina Smith announced that Creepy Crawler night will be held on Thursday, Sept. 18 at 7:30 pm. for ages kindergarten through 3rd grade.

Senior Center – Pat Schaadt remarked that all is fine at the Center. A nice lunch was had by all last week.

Central Market – Pat Schaadt informed all present that the Market had been rained out Friday. Rick Ryfa had told all to clear out because of the incoming rain. Central Market is scheduled to run through October 10th depending on the weather.

Bike Trail Connection – As announced previously this project is still continuing.

Central Park Bathroom Rehab Proposal Project – This project is on hold.

South Park – on hold as far as the playground is considered.

Bike Trail Repair – Per Al Markut the repairs needed from the Enbridge Project have been completed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

Rob Bubala went over the items of unfinished business:

1. Tot Park Basketball Hoops – We have not yet received any information from Lt. Gang regarding issues at this park the last few months.
2. New Mower and hydraulic deck- We are still looking at additional options for this.
3. We are still planning with our vendor to put bike racks in Central Park.
4. The Cheever Park pavilion roof has been completed and we are still working on mulch replacement at Tot Park.
5. We are still trying to partner with the schools on building projects. Rich Muha commented that we used to have programs in welding, carpentry and electricity and are trying to get kids involved in these trades again. Rob Bubala stated that we hope to work with the Schools on a pavilion project next year.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

1. Cheryl Satkus, 330 N. Indiana, stated she and a few others attended a tree stewardship seminar and is in contact with the DNR. They want to know where the trees which the Town received through the Neighbor Woods Program will be planted. They need to be in the proper location for the type of tree chosen. Rob responded that the trees will go in Tot Park between the basketball court and the existing tree line. The Town has chosen a sycamore, elm and redbud. She will pass on the information to her contact about our choices and let her know that we are looking at a park study. Ms. Satkus added that there is a list of trees which should not be planted, and she will share that information with the Park Board. She also would like the Town to apply for the U-Tree Program for replacement of ash trees. George Jerome, Clerk-Treasurer, replied that the Town does need an inventory of trees with their species, size and condition; Cheryl added that there may be grants available for inventorying trees. Mike Catchur, 302 Manor Drive, suggested that we look at pictures of trees as there are many different kinds available in Indiana. George Jerome added that there are soil maps available; Brent Torrenga said that there is an Indiana GIS map that provides that type of information as well. Mike Catchur said that there was a woman at the seminar who looked at every species of tree in East Chicago and diagrammed the information. He will get her contact information and pass it on to the Town Council.
2. Rob Bubala stated that the Park Board is looking into re-lighting the trees as we do every year at Franklin and Central Park.
3. Rob announced that as of yet Pop Warner has not paid their lease. We are currently in talks with them to get this done. Susan Hoese will be handling the Park leases from now on, which Scott Sutton had previously done.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

None

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Valerie Watkun, 1004 W Elm Place, reported that there has been standing water on the Bike Trail between Pine and Elm Streets. The School was to take care of the drainage here but as of yet nothing has been done. She also questioned if the roof on the Panther garage was to be replaced. Rob replied that the plans for Panther Park have not been discussed yet. She replied that it is only a screen and lights had been stored there had gotten wet. Her husband is going to try to fix those that are salvageable. She is also looking at the possibility of a different kind of lighting for the trees as the string lights could cause damage to them. Valerie also announced on behalf of Imagine Griffith that we will be participating in the Festival of the Trail with Highland. Vendors including Grind House Cafe, Anytime Fitness, Lady's Popcorn, and Natural Balance will be set up near 45th and the Bike Trail. We want people to come out and enjoy the trail. It will be held on October 11 from 11 AM to 4 PM. Valerie also mentioned that she attended the Tree Stewardship class as well. The attendees are supposed to donate 15 hours of volunteer time so if the Town would like to use their skills, they are available.

Cheryl Satkus did mention that there have been kids in Tot Park at 8:00 pm and after. She wondered if the police can put this park on their route every night. There had been one incident when there was a large group in the park, shining their lights and playing loud music. She had called the police and was told someone would come by but never did see anyone. Rob Bubala suggested that she email Chief Mance or Lt. Gang and let them know this information.

The meeting was adjourned by President Rob Bubala at 7:32 p.m.

Recording Secretary

Diane Kujawa