

GRIFFITH PARKS and RECREATION BOARD

Minutes for the August 11, 2014 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 -Susan Hoese -Al Markut
-Pat Schaadt, Town Board Liaison -Rich Muha, School Board Liaison

Brent Torrenga, Town Attorney, was also in attendance.

Gina Smith made a motion to accept the July 14, 2014 minutes. Susan Hoese seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

Claims in the amount of \$12,341.85 (twelve thousand three hundred forty-one dollars and eighty-five cents) were presented. Gina Smith made a motion to accept the claims as presented. Susan Hoese seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Rob Bubala announced that we are awaiting word from the Town Council regarding a new Democratic appointment to the Town Board who will replace Scott Sutton.

He also added that next month's pre-meeting will begin at 6 PM with the option of a meeting after the regularly scheduled Park Board meeting if needed.

Rob also reminded everyone that if they see any damage, graffiti or questionable behavior to report it to the police non-emergency number, 924-3141.

In addition, the basketball courts on Lake and Broad St. will be closed on August 18, 2014 for reconstruction by Walsh and Kelly. We will keep all informed as to when they will reopen.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

REPORTS:

Treasurer: Susan Hoese reported that the funds look good and we have no major developments coming up.

Park Superintendent: Al Markut reported that July went smoothly with both the Park Full of Art and the Symphony having no major problems. He added that one half of the college kids who work for the summer are gone and the others will be gone by next week. Pat Schaadt asked if Public Works has been spraying the parks for mosquitos because there had been no problems with them; Al replied that Public Works has been doing the spraying.

School Board: Rich Muha announced that the football field should be done Friday for the 1st game.

GSEC – Julie Anderson reported that the symphony was great and she thanked Al Markut for the good job he did. She thought that our "One Call" system contributed to the big turn-out. Julie also announced that Creepy Crawly night will be held on September 18 and that there will be some kind of show on Halloween

night. Pat Schaadt suggested that next year more people should be sent through the crowds during intermission for donations during the symphony. Julie responded that they did not have enough volunteers, and Rob Bubala offered to put an ad out on the website if Julie would get him the verbiage. Aaron Pollock will bring up the idea of the firemen helping out GSEC, (especially at the 4th of July parade) when he attends their next meeting.

Senior Center – Pat Schaadt remarked that all is going well at the Center and people are still coming out even though it is summertime. A Potluck will be held on September 15, 2014 at noon. Another bus trip is coming up in December. Pat will provide details at the next meeting. She added that there had been an incident where kids were running through the parking lot at the Senior Center and another where a senior's car had been hit. Joelle McCoy, the Senior Center Director, had stopped the car and made it wait for the police. Joelle has mentioned that she sometimes gets intimidated when she is leaving the center. Pat Schaadt told her that she should call the police if she is carrying money that has to be turned in.

Central Market – Pat Schaadt informed all present that the police come at 6:30 – 9:00 pm when she is working at the beer garden and VEST is there at 6:00 pm. She gets help packing up and the police follow her home and help her into the house. She really appreciates this service. Pat added that the Market has been very successful—the income from the beer garden has doubled every night from the corresponding night of last year. Central Market will be open during Western Days, with the Rak Brothers performing. Last year both events did well being open on the same night.

Bike Trail Connection – This will be 2015 project with the engineering being done at that time to connect the two trails at Colfax.

Central Park Bathroom Rehab Proposal Project – This project is on hold and cancelled due to some issues. It will need to be rebid.

Both South Park and the Bike Trail Repair Projects are on hold with Enbridge.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

Rob Bubala went over the items of unfinished business:

1. Tot Park Basketball Hoops Review – We have been in contact with the police for monthly reports at this Park and our motion had been to keep the hoops up until August 18. Al Markut had heard that the posts at the courts at Lake and Broad were going to be pulled out by the Town on August 18th. Because of the closing of these courts Sue Hoese made a motion to keep the hoops up at Tot Park and to revisit this issue at a later date. Rich Muha seconded the motion. Motion passed.
2. New Mower and hydraulic deck- Multiple quotes from multiple vendors had been received for the new Tractor. Rob Bubala asked for a motion on this purchase. Sue Hoese made a motion that the Park Board purchase a new tractor and deck for the \$27,600.00 price which had been quoted which included a trade in for the current units. Gina seconded the motion. Motion passed.
3. 39th Street Equipment – A fence, seats, picnic table and chains have been replaced at this Park and painting has been finished. Pat Schaadt asked about the sign being touched up; Al will paint it as soon as possible.
4. Light Pole – Rob reported that the Little League pole is up and the bill is in the process of being paid.
5. Bike Racks- Al Markut informed us that the racks will be installed after Western Days.
6. Roof at Tot Park – Griffith High School's vocational training program is interested in this project. We will be hearing something in the next couple of months.

7. Proposal from Griffith Girls' Softball – The Park Board was asked at the last meeting if they would consider paying half of the cost of field improvements (total of \$3900.00) to Cheever's field. Sue Hoeser made a motion that the Park Board pay half (or \$1938.00) of the cost. Gina Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed.
8. Park Full of Art – Al Markut had heard that they did well with it.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

1. Rob Bubala reported that the replacement of the park pavilion roof at Cheever Park has not begun. Al Markut will get the status for the next meeting.
2. When Pine Street was being worked on, a tree had collapsed on the electric line and the fence on the Babe Ruth field along Pine Street. Both are now fixed.
3. Mulch needs to be put down at Tot Park. Al Markut will get estimates and time frames and get back to us.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

None

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Cheryl Satkus, 330 Indiana, who works for IDEM has found out through her contacts with DNR that there is a free tree program called "Neighbor Woods" in which communities can get 2 or 3 free trees. However, the decision to take the trees must be made immediately and she didn't know the type of trees available. The only stipulations are that the Town would have to plant them and that it would have to be publicized that those trees came from the "Neighbor Woods" program. She wondered if the Park Board would be interested. After some discussion, Gina Smith made a motion to authorize Al Markut to accept the trees provided they are free and to be able to decline the offer at any time. Susan Hoeser seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Ms. Satkus added that she has 2 ash trees in her parkway which are diseased. She had seen an article in the newspaper about how Munster is addressing the dying ash trees and had called Rick Konopasek. She was told that Griffith has no program. Cheryl has found out that there is a grant available called the U-Tree which covers \$20,000.00 on a match basis. However, the deadline is August 25, 2014 and we would be in competition with other towns. Also a tree inventory would have to be taken and the town would have to have a tree maintenance program in effect. Pat Schaadt commented that the Town Council has been looking at this problem and has contacted other communities to find out about their programs. She will refer Ms. Satkus' information on the grants to the Council and thanked her for bringing it to our attention. Cheryl also added that there is a grant writer available on the Solid Waste Board who could help the Town if needed. She will get Pat that information.

Al Markut stated that he did have an arborist grade the trees at Central Park. Rob Bubala asked that we try to get that report from him.

The meeting was adjourned by President Rob Bubala at 7:42 p.m.

Recording Secretary

Diane Kujawa