

GRIFFITH PARKS and RECREATION BOARD

Minutes for the June 9, 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 - Al Markut, Park Supervisor
-Pat Schaadt, Town Board Liaison -Rich Muha, School Board Liaison

Susan Hoes and Scott Sutton were absent.

Brent Torrenga, Town Attorney, and George Jerome, Clerk-Treasurer were in attendance.

Gina Smith made a motion to approve the May 12, 2014 minutes. Rich Muha seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

Claims were not approved as there were some issues that will be resolved over the next month.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Rob Bubala announced that the July Park Board Pre-Meeting will occur at 6 PM; a follow-up meeting after the regularly scheduled meeting will be held if needed.

He also reminded residents that anyone seeing any graffiti, damage or questionable behavior in any of the town parks should call the police non-emergency number at 219-924-3141.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Rob Bubala received some correspondence from a Lowell resident regarding issues with softball field usage. A copy of the email has been forwarded to all Board members.

He has also received an email from Linda Carter regarding usage of Central Park for karate lessons. She will be notified of our rules concerning rental of the parks.

Rob has also received an inquiry from Maggy Dietrich who wants to hold yoga sessions in Central Park. Park rental information will be forwarded to her as well.

REPORTS:

Treasurer: Rob Bubala reported that the all our finances are doing very well; Al is going a great job.

Park Superintendent: Al Markut reported that his employees are keeping up with Park duties. All his college help has been hired but two need additional training.

School Board: Rich Muha stated that the football field project is coming along. He added that the baseball team lost to Andrean in the regionals.

GSEC – Gina Smith did not attend the last meeting but Julie Anderson has sent over a list of dates of their activities which Rob Bubala will put on the Town website.

Senior Center – Pat Schaadt reported that the dishwasher, stove and refrigerator have been replaced at the Senior Center. This Friday, the Center will be having a “Spuds and Suds” luncheon at 12:00 PM. Everything seems to be going along well.

Central Market – Pat Schaadt stated that the family garden revenue has more than doubled every Friday thus far; attendance overall has improved.

Bike Trail Connection – Because this project has become more involved than anticipated, it will be moved off the weekly reports. The work will probably not be done until 2015-2016.

Central Park Bathroom Rehab Proposal Project – Per Larry Ballah, the work on this project has begun.

South Park and Bike Trail – Enbridge has started restoration at South Park.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

1. Tot Park Basketball Hoops Discussion

Per Lt. Gang, there have been no issues at Tot Park this month.

2. Consideration of New Mower and Hydraulic Deck

Bids have been received; the Board is continuing to research this item.

3. 39th Street Equipment Repainting

There have been some issues with vendor bids on this project. The Board is re-evaluating this project.

4. Griffith Little League Light Pole Status

The Pole and lights have been repaired. Al Markut needs to know when the fence can be replaced.

5. South Park Pavillion Brick Wall Repair

Gina Smith informed us that this project will be finished up today.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

In regard to the bike racks, Al Markut stated that a gentleman had approached him to talk about an area to put the bike racks. He said that two of the racks would be south of the wishing well. Between the wishing well and the first big tree towards the sidewalk there would be another pad with three more bike racks. Rob Bubala asked Al to contact the person putting in the racks this week; Al said he would and did mention that the racks would be buried in the ground and not just bolted in.

The Park Board is in the process of getting quotes for roofs for the Tot Park and Cheever pavilions.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Aaron Pollock, 136 N. Rensselaer, reported that the bid for redoing Cheever Park has been submitted to the contractor.

The YMCA had no report other than that the volleyball games, held at 6:15, 7:00, and 7:45, are going well.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

George Jerome reported that Al had mentioned that there is only one brown bench on hand. He stated that the Town will get more benches ordered and the Town Council will pay for them. He would like them to be put in facing the sidewalk on the perimeter of Central Park on Oak Street.

Pat Schaadt has received complaints from residents regarding the lack of handicap parking around Central Park. Rob Bubala has also had a discussion with a resident and has talked to Rick Ryfa about this problem. The Town Council will be looking into this matter. George Jerome added that Park Full of Art uses spaces on the grass by the ball fields for handicap parking.

Aaron Pollock then brought up the fact that the water fountain in the park at Miller and Broad St. is not working. He asked when it could be fixed and Al Markut responded that he will call TLC. Al then informed Mr. Pollock that he had found that the gates to the ball field had been left opened one day.

The meeting was adjourned by President Rob Bubala at 7:15 p.m.

Recording Secretary

Diane Kujawa