

## **GRIFFITH PARKS and RECREATION BOARD**

### **Minutes for the May 12, 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    - Scott Sutton    -Susan Hoese    - Al Markut, Park Supervisor  
-Pat Schaadt, Town Board Liaison    -Rich Muha, School Board Liaison

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

Scott Sutton made a motion to accept the April 14, 2014 minutes. Gina Smith seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

Claims in the amount of \$6059.36 (six thousand fifty-nine dollars and thirty-six cents) were presented. Gina Smith made a motion to approve the claims but holding back the claim to Midwest Electric in the amount of \$912.16 for further discussion with that vendor. Susan Hoese seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Public Works has notified the Park Board that they will be installing a fire hydrant by the volleyball court (where the ice rink is in the winter) and running new lines for the bathroom in that area. The installation is one day behind due to some storm damage. Griffith Youth Baseball has been notified of this work.

Rob Bubala reminded residents that all Park Board meeting minutes are posted on the Town website. Also he asked residents to call the police non-emergency number at 219-924-3141 if they see any graffiti, damage or questionable behavior in any of the parks.

Next month's pre-meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. with a post meeting if needed.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Rob Bubala received some correspondence regarding the Tot Park basketball hoops and sports fields' usage which will be addressed under unfinished business.

### **REPORTS:**

Treasurer: Rob Bubala reported that the accounts are all still healthy and we will continue to keep an eye on our finances.

Park Superintendent: Al Markut reported that his guys are getting into the swing of summer projects. Two part-time summer employees are working and he expects to hire five more.

School Board: Rich Muha reported that progress is being made on the football field's new turf.

GSEC – Gina Smith stated that all events have been scheduled and will be posted on the web and Rob Bubala added that the parade application is on the website as well.

Senior Center – Pat Schaadt reported “business as usual” at the Senior Center.

Central Market – Kathy Ruesken has asked the Park Board to consider recycling containers for use during the Central Market in order to support our recycling effort. Susan Hoese made a motion to allocate \$2000.00 for the purchase of recycling containers and Scott Sutton seconded. Motion approved. Pat Schaadt commented on the success of the Central Market and reported that she has received many comments on the beauty of the park.

Bike Trail Connection – No information is available at this time

Central Park Bathroom Rehab Proposal Project – Because of the work being done on the bathroom, the Park has agreed to provide porta-potties at Central Park. Rob Bubala made a motion to spend \$1000.00 for rental of these items. Sue Hoese seconded the motion. Motion passed.

South Park – No new information is available regarding the playground replacement. However, the north wall of the pavilion at South Park needs repair. This work is to be completed next weekend.

The Five Year Plan Review/Updates will be posted on the web once the new version is done.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:**

### **1. Organized teams and sports fields**

Aaron Pollock, 127 Rensselaer, appeared before the Board to discuss issues with travel teams at Cheever Park. Mr. James Wright has been using the field there for practice and has been interrupting a t-ball team practice. The travel teams also have been hitting things into the fences which will damage them. Mr. Pollock had to use 15 minutes of his practice time to clean up after the travel team and some base plugs have been lost as well. Because his league has allocated \$500.00 to repair the dugouts at Cheever, he doesn't want to see any additional damage done to this park. Aaron had asked Mr. Wright to come to the Park Board meeting to get on the schedule, show proof of insurance and pay rental fees as everyone else does who rents the fields. Al Markut stated that this could be a police issue since the travel team does not have permission to be on the fields. Susan Hoese remarked that he may think he should be able to use the fields for his team practice because he lives here in town. Phil Drozd, 337 N. Lillian, commented that the point of bringing this travel team's use of the field in front of the Board is to control the damage at the park. He doesn't want to see the fields torn up.

Rob Bubala then added that while he was taking part in the Park Board walk-through of the parks, another coach associated with the same team approached him and blamed the town for planting trees in the park to stop the girls from playing ball there. A couple days later this gentlemen's son-in-law from Lowell, who has a daughter on the team, also called agreeing with his father-in-law that they didn't have to follow the process of getting insurance and paying the fees. An invitation to the meeting was extended to him. He was supposed to send an email with details he wanted to share if he couldn't attend, but he hasn't done so.

Bob Moulesong, 1436 N. Wood, said he felt that anyone using the fields should be paying their fare share.

Pat Schaadt suggested that the Park Board post rules at the park regarding field usage.

Rob Bubala commented that we should try to be civil to people wanting to use the fields, but if no recourse is found then it should be a police matter.

Omar Gonzalez, 9511 Forest Ave., Highland, of Griffith Youth Baseball commented that his team had also encountered problem with damage at the end of their lease and had to do repairs in the spring.

Robert LaPointe, 746 Indiana, of Griffith Girls Softball, reported that he saw teams hitting basketballs into the fences at Cheever.

## 2. Tot Park Basketball Hoops Discussion

Judi Schoon, 304 N. Dwiggin, appeared before the Board and stated that she had previously sent an email requesting that the hoops be taken down. She again asked that the hoops be taken back down. Scott Sutton read a police report regarding an incident at Tot park on April 27, 2014 where a juvenile male was spitting on the ground and the complaintant told him to stop and was threatened. Judith Schoon was present to explain the situation. Susan Hoese asked if the juvenile had been playing basketball or if he had been in Tot Park and had come up to her. Ms. Schoon explained that there had been a group of about 30 kids by the basketball hoops and then between 6-8 came into Tot Park where one of the kids was spitting on the playground equipment. When the individual was asked to stop he got rude and threatened her. Rob made a motion to take Ms. Schoon's comments under advisement and keep the hoops up under review with the police department. Scott Sutton seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Rob Bubala then stated that the Park Board cannot take action because of just one report. Al Markut then asked Ms. Schoon if she knew for a fact that the individual had been playing basketball; she wasn't sure just that he had come to the playground area and started spitting.

Rich Muha had asked if the incident occurred at night and was told that Ms. Schoon was there in the afternoon.

Rob Bubala asked Al Markut if everything was settled with the flag and lighting at Cheever Park. Al reported that the lights are on and he will check on the flag tonight.

Rob also reported that the Central Park Clock has been repaired, the roof repair has been completed at the concession building at Griffith Youth Baseball field, and that the light pole will be replaced in the near future.

YMCA lease – David Palmer of the "Y" was present. He will be running the T-ball program there.

## **NEW BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:**

Aaron Pollock made a proposal for improvements at Cheever Park, which includes improving the field and replacing home plate. He had a previous estimate of about \$4000.00. Rob Bubala asked that a newer estimate be brought to the next meeting. Aaron added that this work would only take about one day. He also added that there had been an incident at the softball field where some kids were approached by men asking to buy their toys and bikes.

The meeting was adjourned by President Rob Bubala at 7:48 p.m.

Recording Secretary

Diane Kujawa