

GRIFFITH PARKS and RECREATION BOARD

Minutes for the January 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 -A.J. Lewis -Gina Smith Scott Sutton -Al Markut, Park Supervisor
-Pat Schaadt, Town Council Liaison -Rich Muha, School Board Liaison.

Also present was Attorney Brent Torrenga.

A.J. made a motion to accept the December 9, 2013 minutes. Scott Sutton seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

Claims in the amount of \$1432.15 (One thousand four hundred thirty-two dollars and fifteen cents) were presented. Gina Smith made a motion to accept the claims as presented. Scott Sutton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Recognition Awards for fantastic work for the Town were presented as follows:

Julie Anderson – recognized for being President of Special Events Committee

Kathy Ruesken – recognized for her work with the Griffith Central Market

Valerie Wotkun – in recognition for her work for the Imagine Griffith Committee (work included flowers and decoration for the town, monthly meetings and bike trail signage)

VEST – recognized for their service at the Griffith Central Market

CORRESPONDENCE:

Rob Bubala stated that he had received correspondence from Mr. Todd Queen regarding the 39th Street Park. This resident commented that the park is in need of renovation as the equipment is old. Rob has thanked him for his comments and responded that the park is still in our radar but that the Board has been dealing with other issues at this time. Rob Bubala also had also heard from Kathleen Spud who thanked the Park Board for the skating rink and he replied to her that the Board appreciated her comments.

REPORTS:

Treasurer: Rob Bubala reported that the Park Board has received its latest distribution from the tax dollars so the accounts are looking good at this time.

Park Superintendent: Al Markut reported that his men have been servicing the tractors, building a shed for Franklin and are keeping up with the weather.

School Board: None

GSEC – Julie Anderson announced that there has been no meeting as the committee is still on hiatus.

Senior Center – Pat Schaadt had no report other than all is going well at the Senior Center.

Farmer's Market – Kathy Ruesken stated that she is gearing back up and she is working on her music line-up for next year. She needs to finalize the new contract to get started with the vendors.

Bike Trail Connection – This project will connect the two bike trails to meet on Colfax and then North to Reder Road. The County will pick up the trail at Reder Road. Two companies have responded with bids but the Board needs to find out if more bids are required. A subcommittee which is composed of Rob Bubala and AJ Lewis has been appointed to deal with this issue.

An engineering firm has been hired to create a bid package for us including ADA compliance for possible renovation of the bathrooms at Central Park. The company has not been able to do the survey because of the weather and all the snow. Once it is done we will be able to get more information on bids and the funding available.

The Enbridge project at South Park is ongoing. Since our playground there has been eliminated we will be looking at an involved projected for a replacement once things get settled.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

Al Markut and Scott Sutton will discuss options snow removal from the ice rink.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

Kathy Ruesken provided a list of recommendations for Central Market for next year. (See attached). As part of the recommendations Gina Smith was appointed as member of the Central Market Committee.

AJ Lewis commented that the July 3, 2014 market may not be well attended because of the various activities in other nearby cities and towns. Kathy Ruesken responded that she asked for that date because there was only one scheduled day for the Market in July and the vendors don't like having such big breaks between the markets. Al Markut also added that he would not then rent out Central Park on July 4th as cleanup after the market would have to be done that day. Rob Bubala made a motion that a roll call vote be taken on the subject of having the Central Market July 3. A.J. Lewis seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Scott Sutton, Gina Smith and Rob Bubala voted in favor. AJ Lewis opposed. Rich Muha questioned whether many people would attend the market on the day before a holiday. Rob Bubala then made a motion to present this list, items 1-7 to the Town Council for their consideration of the 2014 Central Market. Gina seconded the motion.

All voted in favor of sending the list to the Town Council; Rob then asked Kathy Ruesken to really research the feasibility of having the July 3 market.

Dan Perez, 216 Elgin, of Griffith Soccer, stated that he was planning to be relocated to fields at Beriger and Ready for the spring season and possibly the fall because of Enbridge's slow progress at South Park. He will talk to the schools to secure the areas and added that if they get more registrations they may need to look for another medium field. Rob mentioned that a park board member would come to any meeting he might have if needed. He was informed that the process of the Town purchasing the fields has not yet been finalized. Lastly, soccer registrations are being held at this time.

A.J. Lewis reported that when the clock in Central Park was installed a maintenance agreement was made with the company for a yearly check. However, in the past couple of years the contract was not renewed but the clock is now in need of repair. We have received a quote of a yearly maintenance agreement for \$550.00/year. A.J. Lewis made a motion that we pay for a contract for maintenance to the clock at Central Park; Scott Sutton seconded. Motion passed.

In regard to the flag size and the lighting issue at Cheever Park, Al Markut had spoken to a gentleman who insisted that the lights and flag are still the same. AJ Lewis added that this is the third company that has owned the cell tower. All repairs are being made at no charge. Action is being taken to make sure the flag is

in the proper light. All work is being done by subcontractors but everyone has the same goal to get everything looking nicely.

We are still in the process of applying for a \$25,000 grant with Enbridge. We are trying to get details worked out on this matter with the help of Rick Ryfa.

Rob Bubala made a motion that the time of all pre-meetings of the Park Board be changed to 6 pm and to allow time for any meetings after the regular monthly meeting. A.J. Lewis seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Rob Bubala then proposed that the Park Board go back to nomination of officers instead of the current round robin format. A.J. Lewis commented that she likes the round robin because it gives everyone a chance to learn how everything works and the planning involved. Pat Schaadt added that all boards are obligated to appoint a new president and secretary every year. Attorney Brent Torrenga informed the Board that it is in the statutes that a Park Board should elect its officers at its first meeting of every year: a president, secretary and vice president. Rich Muha commented that round robin is still used by the School Board. He felt that it was good for everyone to “get their feet wet.”

Rob Bubala then made a motion that the previous agreement for the round robin method of choosing officers be abandoned and the Board should go through the nomination process of officer elections. Gina Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Rob Bubala then opened nomination of officers.

Scott Sutton nominated Rob Bubala as President; Gina Smith seconded the motion All in favor.

Rob Bubala nominated AJ Lewis for Vice President; Gina Smith seconded the motion. All in favor.

Rob Bubala nominated Gina Smith for secretary; AJ. Lewis seconded the motion. All in favor.

Rob Bubala nominated Scott Sutton for treasurer; Gina Smith seconded the motion. All in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

None

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Scott Davenport, 442 Manchester Court, President of Griffith Youth Baseball, appeared before the Board in regard to field rental and utilities' cost for yearly rental. A.J. Lewis informed Mr. Davenport that for the past four years the cost of utilities was about \$6000.00 each year. Scott Sutton will get the numbers together for year round rental for the March meeting. Dan Perez had also inquired about the roof the baseball building. Al Markut will get an estimate for the top facing the field and the flashing. Rob Bubala then added that Mr. Davenport needs to find storage for the items in the bathroom building.

Nerissa Dixon, 138 N. Ernest, commented that Pop Warner did share the fields with their league for the months of August 1 thru December. She was told that their portion of the NIPSCO bill would be reduced by the amount of the football league's fees. Nerissa also added that Youth Baseball wants to have a parade for opening day, 4/26/2014, going from the “Y” to the fields. She was told that she needed to make an official request to be presented to the Police, Town Council and Public Works. Lastly, registration is taking place at this time.

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

Recording Secretary

Diane Kujawa

