

GRIFFITH PARKS and RECREATION BOARD

Minutes for the December 9, 2013 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 -A.J. Lewis -Gina Smith - Scott Sutton -Al Markut, Park Supervisor
-Pat Schaadt, Town Council Liaison -Rich Muha, School Board Liaison.

A.J. Lewis made a motion to accept the November 11, 2013 minutes. Gina Smith seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

Claims in the amount of \$13,762.75 (thirteen thousand seven hundred sixty-two dollars and seventy-five cents) were presented. Scott Sutton made a motion to accept the claims as presented. Gina Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A.J. Lewis announced that she is submitting a request to serve another term on the Park Board.

Rob Bubala stated that the January 2014 pre-meeting will be held at 6:00 pm. Future pre-meeting start times will be announced meeting by meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Rob Bubala reported that he had received correspondence from Tony Terzari regarding usage of the Griffith Girls Softball fields. Mr. Terzari, 211 N. Elgin, who coaches a girl's traveling softball team, felt that as a Griffith resident he should be allowed to use the fields. He has been informed that Cheever is available, but he felt that field has not been kept up and is not safe. Mr. Terzari also added that there should have been more notification given to Griffith residents about the yearlong lease and the locking of the fields. Rob Bubala stated that he has not responded to Mr. Terzari's last communication so the Board can make its own comments. A.J. Lewis commented that the Park Board meetings are public and have consistent dates so that residents who are interested in field usage may attend at any time; Rob added that all our minutes are on line for public viewing. The Town Council meetings have public comment sessions as well.

REPORTS:

Treasurer: Rob Bubala reported that revenue from the tax dollars will be received in December which replenishes some of our funds.

Park Superintendent: Al Markut announced that his men are in winter mode now. All that had to be done in the fall has been completed. The new roof has been completed at the South Park pavilion and Central Park pavilion has been painted. Currently all the lawn mowers are being serviced and the employees are taking care of any snow which may be falling.

School Board: Rich Muha asked if everything is okay with Panther Park and was told by Al Markut that all was fine.

GSEC – Gina Smith reported that all activities have been wrapped up; they will meet again in April.

Senior Center – Pat Schaadt reported that all is well at the Senior Center; the final party of the year, a Christmas party, will be this Friday. Joelle sponsors this event and has been taking reservations. They will start over again in January.

Farmer's Market – Kathy Ruesken will meet with the Town Council discuss dates for next year's markets. Once they are set, they will be posted on the web for vendors to apply. Also, rates will be going up in 2014.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

Rob Bubala went over items of unfinished business:

1. Due to the weather change and other projects in process, the 39th Street swing replacement has been put on hold.
2. Rob announced that South Park is still a mess with the Enbridge project, but the new pavilion roof has been completed. The Park Board has applied for an environmental grant with Enbridge for the new playground at South Park, but nothing will be known until January.
3. Due to thawing and refreezing and some vandalism of the old ice rink, a new one has been ordered. It should be received this week. Mr. Markut will work with Public Works to get it installed. An announcement will be put on the web stating when the rink is available for skating.
4. The Park Board has been working with Town Councilman Larry Ballah on a bid package for ADA compliance for redoing the Central Park bathrooms. Funds will have to be spent for the engineering of this project. A.J. Lewis made a motion that engineering for plumbing and electrical work be done for a cost not to exceed \$6500.00. Scott Sutton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

The Town Council has notified the Park Board that the Welcome to Griffith signs are the responsibility of the Park Department for upkeep. Meyer's Electric may do some work and even some volunteer work on the 45th street sign.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Nerissa Dixon, 130 Ernest, asked if Scott Davenport had emailed the Park Board regarding the roof at the concession stand. She was told that he had not and she responded that she will follow up with him.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Bob Ince, 205 Harvey, inquired if the tennis court at Cheever could be redone. He has been in talks with someone in Pittsburg regarding clay courts. Maintenance would be less on the clay courts and initial cost would be the same as asphalt. Rob Bubala asked if the asphalt on the courts could be resealed; Al Markut felt that these courts should be redone along with the basketball courts. He did not agree with putting clay courts in. Rob asked that Mr. Ince stop and get his email so that he could share any further details with him.

In response to Mr. Terzari's correspondence, Aaron Pollock, 127 N. Rensselaer, stated that over \$27,000.00 in improvements have been done to the Girls' Softball fields over the last couple of years. When teams have used the fields in the past, they have not cleaned up. Since the gates have been locked no damage has been done. He also added that the fields could possibly be subleased through the Park Dept. provided the lessee had proof of insurance and paid the proper fees.

Phil Drozd, 337 N. Lillian, spoke in support of keeping the fields locked to keep them safe.

Also announced was a softball clinic to be held at Wadsworth from 6 – 8 pm this Thursday. Dates are on the Town calendar. Rob Bubala added he will put registration dates on the web once he gets emails from the different organizations.

Nerissa Dixon then asked how she can get the dates for baseball signups on the Central Park sign. She was told to contact Al Markut.

The meeting was adjourned by President Rob Bubala at 7:28 p.m.

Recording Secretary

Diane Kujawa