

## **GRIFFITH PARKS and RECREATION BOARD**

### **Minutes for the October 14, 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    -Al Markut, Park Superintendent  
-Pat Schaadt, Town Council Liaison    -Rich Muha, School Board Liaison.

Scott Sutton was absent.

A.J. made a motion to accept the September 9, 2013 minutes. Gina Smith seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

Claims in the amount of \$33,359.16 (thirty-three thousand three hundred fifty-nine dollars and sixteen cents) were presented. Gina Smith made a motion to accept the claims as presented. A.J. Lewis seconded the motion. Motion carried. Rob Bubala mentioned that the reason the claims were so high was because of the purchase of a full-size pick-up for the Park Dept.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

None

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Rob Bubala stated that Mr. Moulesong who lives near the 39<sup>th</sup> street park appreciated the new fence and table at the park in that area. He will keep us informed of any trouble there.

### **REPORTS:**

Treasurer: Rob Bubala reported that the Board did a full review at the pre-meeting and they are evaluating some options for the rest of the year with the funds that are available.

Park Superintendent: Al Markut announced that his men are busy keeping up with the grass and catching the leaves. They have moved more tree limbs and have weeded the area around Franklin. Also both fences on the south trail at Colfax and Avenue B have been stained. The mulch by Avenue B has been cleaned and replaced, and the swings and chains have been replaced at Tot Park. The picnic bench has been repaired there and the tree at the entrance has also been trimmed. The Central Park Pavilion has been painted and the covers of the electric receptacles have been replaced to match the color of the pavilion. The issue of the bees at Central Park and South Park has been addressed. This had been a problem when the Boy Scouts were in the park; Guardian Pest Control had come out within an hour of being called. Everything went well for the Craft fair and for the Depot event. Also, the bench, which had been damaged, has been put back in the pavilion at Colfax; one has been removed from the circle. There had been about \$800.00 in damage. In addition someone had run into one of the garbage cans at Avenue B; his employees put it back together. Lastly, there had been some graffiti in the Central Park washroom. The park employees were instructed that a police report had to be made.

School Board: Rich Muha reported that the new softball field is moving along.

GSEC – Julie Anderson announced that the Creepy Crawler night worked out well; it was a beautiful night and there were approximately 350 children attending. She added that Halloween show will start at 7:30 pm and asked that the bathrooms be open. Al Markut replied that as long as weather permits, they will remain open. Julie announced that since this is their last event for the year, she will come to the November meeting and then be on hiatus until March.

Senior Center – Pat Schaadt stated that all is going well at the Senior Center. The Swinging Seniors meet there on the first and third Tuesday. The Police chief has been there twice; once to introduce himself and the second time to show the seniors one of the new cars the police have purchased. Robert Gutierrez has also been at the Senior Center with the police dog. This week the Fire Department, represented by Dale Verkuilen, will speak to the Seniors. Pat suggested that someone from the Park Dept. come to the Senior Center to tell the seniors what it takes to keep the parks the way they are and to tell them what the plans are for the future. Also, a costume party will be held this month for the seniors with prizes for the best costume. Lastly, she announced that Joelle McCoy is planning a trip to North Carolina for the seniors.

Farmer's Market – Pat Schaadt commented that the beer garden did extremely well the last two markets and this revenue would pay for the security and fencing. The police should be commended for their assistance so Pat is preparing a letter to the police chief. She added that the community support was terrific.

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

Rob Bubala went over the items of unfinished business:

1. He announced that the payment for painting of the Central Park Pavilion has been approved.
2. The 39<sup>th</sup> St. fencing is completed and more work is planned for the spring.
3. Our 5 year plan is still under review as are our staffing needs.
4. The back-up power connection from the Public works garage has been delayed as the second estimate had to be canceled and rescheduled.
5. The playground evaluation will continue through this winter and into spring.
6. Some ideas are floating around in regard to the Panther Park building and land; board members will speak to Rich Muha after the meeting tonight.
7. We were going to do a tractor evaluation this year but because of funding issues this has been pushed back to 2014; more discussion will be held with Al regarding trade-ins.
8. The Park Board is planning to have a new roof put on and brick work done at the South Park pavilion. Bids have been received and reviewed at the pre-meeting. A.J. Lewis made a motion that the roofing bid not exceed two thousand dollars and the brick work not to exceed \$6000.00. Gina Smith seconded the motion; motion passed.
9. Rob Bubala went on to say that there was to have been a discussion with Kathy Ruesken regarding the 2014 Central Market, but this has been postponed to the November meeting.
10. Also, a new park vehicle has been purchased and another truck may be purchased next year.
11. Enbridge has begun flagging areas at South Park and Griffith Soccer has been relocated. There has been some discussion regarding saving some of the trees there.
12. Before Enbridge had done work there, a problem with bees occurred at South Park and Guardian Pest Control had to come and spray all the cut telephone poles at the park.
13. The Central Park ice rink may have to be replaced due to the harsh winter conditions of last year. More discussion will be held on this item at the November meeting.

#### **NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:**

None

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:**

None

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

Nerissa Dixon, 130 N. Ernest Street stated that she was asked by her Treasurer, Melanie Cartwright, for a breakdown of the Nipsco charges because they are sharing it with Pop Warner this year. She also asked if she needed permission to sell hot chocolate, coffee, hot dogs and baked goods when the ice rink opened. Rob Bubala didn't think there would be an issue as long as they brought in their own water.

Aaron Pollock 127 N. Rensselaer, of Griffith Girls Softball would like to extend his lease through March and next year sign a lease for the entire year. A.J. Lewis asked if any residents have voiced their concerns to him regarding the locked fields as she has had a couple of calls regarding this issue. Aaron responded that no one has ever brought up this problem to him at any meeting. Rob Bubala then added that Al Markut got a quote to clean up the tree along Griffith Boulevard, outside the fence at the field. The amount of the quote is \$1000.00; the tree should be watched for any large branches coming down.

Rob Bubala then mentioned that Soccer did pay a full lease through October 31, but because of the Enbridge situation were not able to use the fields. A.J. Lewis made a motion that the Park Board refund half the cost of the lease, \$720.00, to the Soccer club for the inconveniences incurred. Gina Smith seconded the motion; motion passed.

Rich Muha then remarked that he had been at Central Park at 11:30 on a Sunday and saw that the baseball field gate was open. He was told that when the league is not using the fields, they are kept open. At that particular time, Dave Griffin had been using the fields. Nerissa Dixon then asked if their league could extend its lease and Rob said it was possible but that she needed to give at least a week's notice to get the contracts ready.

Pat Schaadt then commented that there had been some discussion with the Town Council regarding the locking of the fields. Aaron Pollock stated that only two of the fields are being locked. There are other fields that are open to the public -- one is at Cheever and one is at Wadsworth. He would be willing to talk to the council members if necessary.

Nerissa Dixon then asked who actually owned the concession building which they use. Rich Miller had informed her that the Park Department owned the building. The building needs a new roof and her insurance didn't cover this. Rob Bubala said he would have Donche Andov, the building commissioner, look into property records and see where this falls.

Al Markut then asked Rich Muha how to find property lines by the bike trail and was told to contract Jan Bapst at the superintendent's office.

The meeting was adjourned by President Rob Bubala at 7:38 p.m.

Recording Secretary

Diane Kujawa