

GRIFFITH PARKS and RECREATION BOARD

Minutes for the September 9, 2013 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 -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 August 12, 2013 minutes. Gina Smith seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

Claims in the amount of \$11,497.07 (eleven thousand four hundred ninety-seven dollars and seven cents) were presented. Gina Smith made a motion to accept the claims as presented. Rob Bubala seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None

CORRESPONDENCE:

Rob Bubala stated that in response to the School Board donating Panther Park to the Town, a thank you note has been sent to them. He also reported that he received an email from Valerie Wotkun about the possibility of having a yoga class in Central Park. Rob asked if there were any issues and A. J. Lewis remarked that we should take in consideration the rentals of the park which have been scheduled through summer. Rob then asked if there would be any problems if the class was held outdoors without the use of the pavilion. A.J. stated that unless Pop Warner or baseball leagues had practices there shouldn't be any problems with holding the class in the park. Rob added that he will ask for more details and report back.

A.J. Lewis then stated that she received a letter at the Town office from an attendee of the Central Market who commented that she was very happy with the market but asked that we have recycle bins for cans and bottles. Kathy Ruesken had also brought up this issue. Al Markut said that he had put cans out for the Rock n Rail fest but not much was collected. He also added that anything collected would have to be stored outside until the following Thursday.

A.J. then added that the past park superintendent had donated the services of a tree company for treatment against the Emerald Ash Borer which includes another treatment in two years. She suggested we send a thank you and Rob Bubala asked her to follow up.

REPORTS:

Treasurer: Rob Bubala reported that he had a meeting with George Jerome, Clerk Treasurer, regarding about some items to be considered for 2013 and 2014 budgets. The Board will be looking into these items per his suggestions.

Park Superintendent: Al Markut announced that his men are keeping up with their normal duties which include fighting weeds and cleaning up more downed tree limbs. They have had no major breakdowns at this time.

School Board: Rich Muha reported that School Board member, John Dudliceck, might be able to help with dirt if the park needs it, especially in regard to the new Panther Park.

GSEC – Julie Anderson announced that the Creepy Crawler night has been changed to September 26. Rob Bubala has sent out a mass email which included this change.

Senior Center – Pat Schaadt stated that all is going well at the Senior Center. This Friday, Sept. 13, is the Summer Steak Cook-out. The Fire Dept. is furnishing the grill and Rick Ryfa has volunteered to fry the steaks. Rob Bubala asked if there has been any plans for a 2014 trip and was told that Joelle Mccoy is holding back depending on how the O'Bama Care will affect her hours.

Farmer's Market – Kathy Ruesken was not in attendance so Pat Schaadt commented that there were only 2 Markets left this year. The last weekend in September will be the Boy Scouts' event. Rob Bubala asked Pat Schaadt to let Kathy know how much we appreciated her hard work. Pat Schaadt then commented that during the last Central Market we had our biggest night at the beer garden, making over \$1400.00 which will be used to pay for the fencing and police presence at the garden. Rob asked if the vendors participated in the Rock n Rails fest and Pat replied that those who came did well but the bad weather caused some problems with their tents.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

Al Markut reported that he has called the painter who will begin painting the pavilion after the first of October.

A.J. Lewis stated that the fencing at the 39th Street Park is up and secure and looks good. Payment for this fencing is included in the claims for this meeting. Al Markut is working on the table and the swing parts for this park.

Rob Bubala reported that the 5 Year Plan is still under review, and that Scott Sutton and A.J. Lewis have agreed to do some studies on the staffing needs.

Rob also reported on the back-up power connection to the park garage. An additional circuit will be added to the public works generator. He had hosted a vendor meeting today but only one of three vendors had shown up; he will have their bid by the next meeting.

A.J. Lewis then added that there had been one quote on the security cameras at the pavilion and were waiting because the police department wanted to be involved. Rob Bubala explained that Chief Mance asked that we take no further action on this matter as his department and the safety board are in discussion for possible funding and additional security features for another park as well. Al Markut added that no cameras are working in the Central Park playground area. Two cameras are to be installed on the post there.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

Rob Bubala stated that the 5 Year Plan includes a playground evaluation. He also remarked that one fence on the western edge of Panther Park will need to be added. The Park Board will get costs for getting it surveyed and hopes to have that done by the next meeting.

Rob Bubala also reported that the park's main tractor is showing excessive wear. Al has gotten two quotes so far on replacing the tractor; he still has to get one more trade in value. Hopefully we will soon have some dollar amounts to evaluate a new tractor for the parks.

Rob then added that the South Park pavilion roof needs to be replaced; Al Markut will be getting three bids for this work and hopes to have them by the October meeting.

Next Rob Bubala asked Pat Schaadt if Kathy Ruesken had given any indication of when she wants to start talking about Central Market 2014. Pat said that she is just trying to get through the end of this year, but is getting contracts ready for next year. Many vendors have said they want to come back, but prices will be increased.

Also, one of the park vehicles needs to be replaced. One quote has been received for a new vehicle and two other quote requests will be sent out to dealers. A.J. Lewis made a motion to approve the purchase of a new truck for up to \$25,000.00 so that we can get the purchase done before next month. Gina Smith seconded that motion. Motion passed.

Lastly, the Central Park bathroom facilities were mentioned because of their condition and the lack of ADA compatibilities. Pat has received one quote for this work; we will consider other bids for the type of work which will be required.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

None

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Neerissa Dixon, 130 N. Ernest, and Scott Davenport, 442 Manchester, were at the meeting to introduce themselves as Treasurer of Auxiliary and President of the Cal Ripken League. Rob Bubala welcomed them and added that if they had any questions they should feel free to contact the Board members.

The meeting was adjourned by President Rob Bubala at 7:20 p.m.

Recording Secretary

Diane Kujawa