

## **GRIFFITH PARKS and RECREATION BOARD**

### **Minutes for the August 12, 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 Superintendent  
-Pat Schaadt, Town Council Liaison    -Rich Muha, School Board Liaison.

A.J. made a motion to accept the July 8, 2013 minutes with the change of address of 1717 to 717 N. Elmer for the location of the proposed day care. Gina Smith seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

Claims in the amount of \$14,013.96 (fourteen thousand thirteen dollars and ninety-six cents) were presented. Scott Sutton made a motion to accept the claims as presented. Gina Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Rob Bubala announced that this Board will have one more study session beginning at 6:00 p.m. He also announced that due to some work done at South Park, Pop Warner has been moved for the 2013 season to Central Park. There have been no complaints from the leadership or the parents. He then reminded the softball and baseball leagues that all signage should be removed by August 15, 2013. In addition, Rob informed all that the School Board has donated the park on Columbia to the Town and it will now be known as Panther Park.

A.J. Lewis added that new signs were put up on the bike path, saying "Entering Griffith" and "Exiting Griffith". She noted that Al Markut had noticed that before the signs were put up there was no protective covering to prevent graffiti so he ordered plexiglass to be put on the signs as protection and was commended for this effort.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Rob Bubala received correspondence asking why the Town did not conduct its 12<sup>th</sup> Nite burning of the Christmas trees. Some of the reasons relayed to the resident were that there were problems burning some of the trees, there was some damage to property, there were possible dangers and there was also not much participation.

He also received an e-mail from a resident regarding the fencing at the 39<sup>th</sup> Street; this will be discussed later in the meeting.

### **REPORTS:**

Treasurer: Rob Bubala reported that appropriations are on target. He asked if Al Markut was aware of any major expenditures coming up and was told not at this time.

Park Superintendent: Al Markut announced that his men are keeping up with their normal duties. It was hectic at the beginning of the month with the cutting of trees; they are now keeping up with the weeding. Three trees have been lost at Central Park, three trees had to come down at Cheever and his crew took down one tree on the trail. Replacement chains and seats have been ordered for the playground equipment at Central Park. He is hoping to get another park's items replaced. The painting of the pavilion will be done in

September or October, after our Friday markets. Mulch has been laid in Woodland and Central Parks and he has received many compliments about it. Also the Park Full of Art and the Symphony went on without a hitch.

Rob Bubala commented that he did receive compliments from GSEC on the how nice the park looked and that his team did an excellent job.

Al Markut continued on to say that the light has been changed at Cheever Park; but Pat Schaadt added that the flag there still hangs in the dark so Al will check out the light.

He then added that the hoops are ready to go back up at Tot Park, that the Christmas lights on the pear trees have been removed and asked how long the bikes which are decorating the town will be out and where they will be stored for winter. He thought Panther Park might be a good place.

Rob Bubala will check with Valerie Wotkun of Imagine Griffith Committee about the storage.

Lastly, Al Markut commented that he has been working with Dan Perez, the soccer president, to move bleachers because the fields are being reconfigured. He also announced that his summer help is gone and he praised the college kids for their efforts this year.

School Board: No report

GSEC – Julie Anderson thanked Al Markut for his help and added that the parade went on without a hitch (except for a small issue with barricades). The next event will be the Creepy Crawler event in September.

A.J. Lewis asked where GSEC mail should be sent and Ms. Anderson informed her that a mailbox should be set aside here at the Town Hall for their mail.

Senior Center – Pat Schaadt reported that all is great at the Senior Center. They had their luau and it was enjoyed by all. Their special event was cancelled in August due to lack of interest and many vacations. In September they will have a steak cook out. The Senior Center does have a Book Corner with six bookshelves and a book club has been formed which meets on the second Tuesday of the month. People are welcome to borrow and trade their books.

Farmer's Market – Kathy Ruesken emailed that the market is going very well.

Al Markut voiced his concern about the traffic congestion with the market going on and St. Mary's Western Days being held at the same time.

Pat Schaadt then added that for the weekend of the Rock n Rails Fest, there will not be a Farmer's Market, but the vendors will have the opportunity to set up on Broad Street, north of the vendors which are downtown.

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

A.J. Lewis stated that the permit has been picked up for the 39<sup>th</sup> Street fencing so construction will be started at any time.

Rob Bubala reiterated that the painting at Central Park will be in Sept. or October. Al Markut said it will be done after the third week in September.

The vote regarding the hoops at Tot Park at the July meeting was considered null and void; the vote was 2 to 1 with only 3 members present. A. J. Lewis again made a motion that the Park Board put up the hoops when school starts (August 15). The date of the hoops coming down would be determined after a six month review. She felt that our parks should be open to everyone. Scott Sutton seconded the motion. A verbal vote resulted in 2 yes and 3 no. Rob Bubala then made a motion for a roll call vote which was seconded.

Roll Call vote was as follows:

Rob Bubala no  
A.J. Lewis yes  
Scott Sutton yes  
Gina Smith no  
Rich Muha no

Basketball hoops will remain down until other action is taken.

A.J. Lewis made a motion to review the Tot Park basketball hoop situation at the February meeting (6 month review). Scott Sutton seconded the motion. Motion passed.

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

A.J. Lewis stated that the video cameras are not in working order at Central Park pavilion and bathrooms. The Park Board has received a proposal to repair them in conjunction with the Police Dept. because their cameras and cars are hooked into viewing them from the internet. This proposal included two cameras, cables and labor for a total of \$1407.00. The Park Board hopes to be able to cut some of the high labor costs involved by working with IBT, our current video camera company, to see what kind of agreement could be worked out.

A.J. made a motion to work with IBT on the video camera repair. Scott Sutton seconded the motion.

Rob Bubala announced that the Park Board will be reviewing their 5 Year Plan to become more proactive with the parks. This will be a couple month project and once a new version is approved, it will be posted on the website. Included in the plan will be playground equipment, staffing and equipment evaluation. Rob also brought up the power situation at the park garages. Once the power is lost neither the park department or public works can get out vital equipment. When Public Works installed their generator they made provision to allow an additional hook up to be done there. Public Works has agreed to help out with this project. He hopes to have a vendor meeting with electricians and Rick Kuna to get proposals to get the manual transfer switch installed with possible outlets.

Al Markut stated that he was under the impression that everything was ready to go except for digging the ditch to run the cable. Rob will double check with Rick Konopasek on this subject.

Rob Bubala then reported that Griffith Girl's Softball has requested that their lease be extended from Aug. 16 thru Nov. 15, 2013. Aaron Pollock, of Griffith Girl's Softball, was present and was asked to stay after the meeting to sign the lease. He was reminded that the advertising signs still had to come down. The gates will remain locked. Mr. Pollock added that he is looking to host some pitching clinics in the fall. He is also going to the fire department regarding the charity game between the firemen and police. The gate fees will go to the charity of their choice. Also, he has been looking to do field improvements which include the possibility of a new sprinkling system and painting the backstops. He reported that someone did sneak in and used the fields, so the locks had to be changed.

A.J. Lewis asked if the use of the fields interfered with the "Y"'s programs. Aaron Pollock informed her that their programs are on Saturdays and that he is working with them. Their mush ball league has been cancelled but they do have a 4 team t-ball league.

Rob Bubala then reminded Aaron that he will have to file permits if he does go ahead with the sprinkling system.

Al Markut commended Aaron on the work he has done at the softball fields at which time Mr. Pollock added that he hoped to eventually have a travel team for the younger girls.

Pat Schaadt commented that the music in the Park both on Wednesdays and at the Market on Fridays has been wonderful and that Al Markut has done a great job making sure the lights and washrooms are taken care of.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:**

Brian Clark, 140 S. Elgin, manager of the 10 year old Playmakers baseball team, wants to lease the field for the fall practice. He was informed that he needs to meet with Ken Mulderink, president of the Little League. He would like to practice Wednesday and Sunday from the present until October 5<sup>th</sup>. Scott Sutton was asked if he would call Mr. Mulderink and relay the information back and forth. The league would need to pay \$70/month, provide proof of insurance and sign a lease. A. J. made a motion that we accept that Scott Sutton would work out the details of this lease.

Rob Bubala reminded Mr. Clark that there would be some utility costs if the field was going to be used at night.

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

Recording Secretary

Diane Kujawa