

GRIFFITH PARKS and RECREATION BOARD

Minutes for the June 10, 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 -Scott Sutton -Al Markut, Interim Park Superintendent
-Pat Schaadt, Town Council Liaison -Rich Muha, School Board Liaison

A.J. made a motion to accept the May 13, 2013 minutes with the correction as follows: Enbridge could begin their construction at South Park anytime between June and November). Scott Sutton seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

Claims in the amount of \$4959.85 (four thousand nine hundred fifty-nine dollars and eighty-five cents) were presented. Scott Sutton made a motion to accept the claims as presented. Gina Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Rob Bubala again announced that the pre-meetings will be held at 6:00 p.m. instead of 6:30 p.m. from now until September 13, 2013. He also informed all present that the memorial at Central Park was damaged last month. Rob asked that the police or the police tip line be called if any suspicious activity is seen.

CORRESPONDENCE:

A.J. Lewis reported that she is still in talks about the lights that shine on the flag at Cheever Park.

REPORTS:

Treasurer: Per Rob Bubala everything is still in order with the park's finances.

Park Superintendent: Al Markut announced that his men are keeping up with the grass mowing. They have been losing one day a week to rain or mechanical breakdowns. He also said that playground equipment at Central Park had been damaged in the amount of \$1400.00. Residents have to keep in mind that the playground is for children 12 and under. A. J. Lewis made a motion that the Park Board approve the \$1400.00 expenditure to have the equipment fixed. Scott Sutton seconded; motion passed.

School Board: No report

GSEC – Julie Anderson presented an invoice for payment to the NW Indiana Symphony for down payment on their performance on July 26, 2013. She also reported that GSEC had received a donation from Tri Kappa and that the parade preparations are moving along. Applications and information are out.

Senior Center – Pat Schaadt reported that all the activities (bridge, pinochle, scrabble, sewing and lunches) are going well at the Senior Center.

Farmer's Market – Kathy Ruesken stated that the Central Market is going well and is growing. She is looking to add more ready-to-eat food vendors and has spoken to a Vegan Food Truck and Natural Pork vendor. She has also contacted Tricia in public works regarding barricades to try and contain the market to certain areas. Until baseball is over, the vendors must exit a different way. The First Christian Church will be utilizing their lot for a ceremony so they will need to exit the field off of Griffith Boulevard. Al Markut reminded Ms. Ruesken that the vendors need to park near the street.

A.J. Lewis asked if more handicap parking could be added as she had received calls at the Town Hall regarding this matter. The police and public works will have to be contacted. Kathy Ruesken stated that several vendors are handicapped and she has an area near the bathrooms that she is using for some of them. Julie Anderson added that handicap parking is available during the symphony and the parade. She will try to get information on this matter.

Ms. Ruesken then asked if power washing can be done to keep the area clean for the market. A.J. Lewis responded that the pavillion gets washed every year before Park Full of Art and, at the least, a couple times of year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

Rob Bubala announced that Little League had paid their lease this month so all sports teams are now paid up. The matter of Enbridge using South Park is being handled by Town Council President, Glen Gaby, and Clerk-Treasurer, George Jerome. Updates will be provided at future meetings.

A.J. Lewis reported that she never got a quote from Reeves Fence, which was the third company she approached. The other two quotes were from Acorn Fence for \$4150.00 and Hammond Fence for \$5300.00. A.J. recommended we hire Acorn Fence for the job. Rob Bubala made a motion to recommend to the Town Council that we replace the fence at a cost of \$4150.00 and Gina Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Bubala then stated that the mulch that the Park Dept. needs will cost \$7000.00, so he made a motion to recommend that the Town Council allow the park department to replace the mulch in the parks for this amount. Scott Sutton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

In regards to the Oakbridge Trail Connection, Councilman Stan Dobosz will be attending a meeting with NIRPC's Transportation Policy Committee on Tuesday, June 11, 2013. If the request for funds for this project is approved, it will go before the full NIRPC Commission in the 3rd week of June.

Rob Bubala stated that the Park Board will be reviewing the situation regarding the need for a porta-potty at the bike trail and will reconsider this issue at a later time.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

Rob Bubala commented on the condition of the trees along the south edge of South Park. Some have been removed because they couldn't grow in the sandy conditions and will be replaced by something compatible.

Al Markut recently purchased new volleyball nets for the sand volleyball courts. Since the "Y" has leagues there, the park department will make sure it stays in good condition. We do have back up nets in case of vandalism or damage.

Rob Bubala also stated the Gina Smith replaces Liz Goral as liaison to the GSEC committee.

Two painting quotes had been received for painting at Central Park. Rob Bubala motioned that the Park Board recommend to the Council to have the painting done at Central Park according to the \$3500.00 quote from Midwest Painting; A.J. Lewis seconded the motion. Motion passed.

President Bubala announced that the School board will be building a new softball field west of the high school baseball field. Since the Schools own Franklin field they have proposed that the Town consider purchasing it from the School Board. The Park Board doesn't have the funds for this purchase so Rob Bubala made a motion recommending that the town council consider purchasing the Franklin field. Scott Sutton seconded the motion.

A.J. Lewis then asked why the Town was able to buy the Franklin school for only \$1.00 and Rich Muha, School Board liaison, replied that it is a different area and that the School also received property at Colfax and Main in that transaction.

Motion to approve the recommendation of the purchase of Franklin then passed.

Aaron Pollock, President of Girl's softball, asked if the softball league could have the opportunity to buy the Franklin field. Rob Bubala recommended that he put a proposal together for the Town Council and the Park Board.

When A.J. Lewis asked if the properties could be sold separately, Rich Muha thought they could. He stressed that the School wants to keep the property with the town, but he did not know what each piece of property is valued at.

Dan Perez of the Griffith Soccer Club asked to be kept informed as his club might be interested in purchasing property at South Park. His club is looking to expand the field space there.

Rob Bubala then stated that the Columbia parcel and South Park property will be discussed at the next meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Rob Bubala opened discussion on the replacement of basketball hoops at Tot Park.

Cheryl Satkus, 330 N. Indiana, remarked that since the hoops have been down Tot Park has been more peaceful. There has been no vandalism or graffiti. Kids are skating, biking and rollerblading there. She again asked the Park Board to leave the basketball hoops down. Ms. Satkus did present Rob Bubala with a petition of 67 signatures from homeowners around the park who also want the hoops down this year. A comparison of number of calls from last year to this year could be made. She also asked that weed wacking be done on the basketball court area to get it looking neater.

Nick Cominos, 402 N. Indiana, praised the park department for their work and added that since the hoops have been down there have been no more confrontations at the basketball court with the 18-20 year olds. He didn't like to hear the foul language and the ball playing at night. Since the hoops have been down there have been no difficulties and more families are using the park. Last year there had been two break-ins on Indiana which may have been related to those hanging around the basketball area.

Becky Thomas, 324 N. Indiana, commented that she didn't want her son hearing the foul language which had been used by those playing basketball. She also noted that the adults in the neighborhood can sit outside now and open their windows. Becky suggested that perhaps lower hoops could be installed for the younger children in the neighborhood. Her son also mentioned that foul language had been written on the slides in the park.

Pat Schaadt, Town Council liaison, added that she had noticed that more families and children were using the park.

Scott Bort, 440 N. Dwiggins, stated that he bought the house he is living in because it was close to the park and is happy that more families are able to use the park now. He urged the Park Board to invest in more playground equipment for the park.

Kathy Ruesken, 1103 E. Lake, suggested that the Park Board take into consideration the fact that the Senior Center is so close to the basketball court when it makes its decision.

Rob Bubala said that he has been in contact with the Police Chief, the Town Council and the Crime Watch Committee and will share all the comments and information of tonight's meeting with them.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Aaron Pollock of Griffith Girl's Softball requested two picnic tables for each field for the tournaments being held.

Scott Davenport, 442 Manchester, of Griffith Youth Baseball asked if he could put up a snow fence on July 5, 6 and 7 and July 10, 11 and 12 for a district tournament and also wondered how soon he would be able to put it up. He was told to work with Al Markut who told him he could put the fence up a week before the tournament.

Dan Perez, N. Elgin, president of Griffith Soccer Club explained that he is interested in expanding the fields at South Park. They currently use the field at St. Mary's but are having some problems with goal size. The club thinks it may eventually be able to use the area where the old softball field is located.

A.J. Lewis suggested that Mr. Perez talk with Glen Gaby and George Jerome who are have been meeting with the Enbridge representatives. Mr. Perez has been in contact with them. He also added that his club is sponsoring a clinic in July for his soccer players.

Lastly, Aaron Pollock asked permission to have movies in the Park with the assistance of the "Y". Rob Bubala suggested that he coordinate this with Al Markut. The "Y"'s equipment and movie rights would be utilized.

The meeting was adjourned by President Rob Bubala at 8:00 p.m.

Recording Secretary

Diane Kujawa