

GRIFFITH PARKS and RECREATION BOARD

Minutes for the May 13, 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. Lewis made a motion to accept the April 8, 2013 minutes. Scott Sutton seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

Claims in the amount of \$4224.42 (four thousand two hundred twenty-four dollars and forty-two cents) were presented. Gina Smith made a motion to accept the claims as presented. Scott Sutton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Rob Bubala announced that due to the amount of work, from now through September, the Park Board pre-meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. rather than 6:30 p.m. He also announced that Griffith Schools have donated lawn equipment to the Griffith Park Board, and that this donation is very much appreciated.

A.J. Lewis reported that the Cheever Park cell tower flag has been replaced and the lights have been fixed at no charge to the Town.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Al Markut shared that Griffith Little League has requested use of some of our equipment from another park to host a tournament and have available seating. The leases will be looked over to see that nothing overlaps and if not, permission will be granted to borrow these items.

REPORTS:

Treasurer: Rob Bubala reported that GSEC and the Central Market Committee will receive a copy of the Fund report from now on. He also reported that appropriations are on track; some brick sales and pavilion leases have been made.

Park Superintendent: Al Markut announced that cutting season has begun and his crew is making sure all 60 acres of grass and 2 ½ miles of trail are being cut; the garbage cans and tables are being put out. To help, three new hires have been added to his crew. His men have also helped with some repairs at Franklin, volleyball nets have been repaired and new ones ordered. Rob Bubala recommended that the new nets be put up before the YMCA season starts on May 28, 2013.

School Board – Rich Muha stated that a tractor, lawn mower and weed wacker have been donated to the town. Also, the School Board is looking to possibly sell some land back to the Town.

GSEC – Julie Anderson, GSEC representative was not present. However, Rob Bubala informed all that GSEC has asked for representation on their committee, so Gina Smith has volunteered to be the liaison for the Park Board.

Senior Center – Pat Schaadt reported that the New Orleans trip had a couple of snafus, but in all those who went had a great time. She also stated that the seniors will be having a potluck dinner on May 24, 2013 at no charge. In June, the Swinging Seniors will have their summer picnic which will also be a potluck with chicken. At the next meeting the Police Chief will be addressing the seniors and informing them of some of the changes which have been taking place.

Farmer's Market – Kathy Ruesken stated that last Friday's Market was as successful as it could have been in spite of the weather. They had a slight problem with electricity which was quickly resolved. Kathy complimented Rob Bubala on his help with the advertising and Al Markut and Pat Schaadt for all their assistance. Beer sales amounted to \$75.00, and the vendors had commented on the good amount of product they moved and the market itself. Twenty-four vendors are on our list and more vendors will be added in the coming month.

Rob Bubala asked how many people attended and was told that there was always someone there and that the vendors stayed until 7:00 pm. Discussion then followed about parking for the vendors and it was decided that Kathy Ruesken will talk to Pastor Sean Cornett about the possibility of parking in his church lot.

Pat Schaadt then inquired as to the condition of the park after the market. Al Markut reported that it was in good shape; Mr. Kitzmiller helped keep the area clean.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

A.J. Lewis reported that the deadline for the decision on the fencing at the 39th St. Park had to be extended because the Board was required to get one more bid.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

A.J. Lewis said that Enbridge is putting in a new gas line south of Town through South Park and will be using the part of South Park as a staging area. A portion of the park will be unable to be used from June through November. An Enbridge representative has said that the company is willing to help move playground equipment, will remove some trees and will help refinish the soccer parking lot.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Rob Bubala stated that the leases to be signed with Jimmy Gonzalez from the "Y" will be taken care of after the meeting.

Aaron Pollock of Griffith Girls Softball reported that the Jr. & Sr. fields have been resurfaced, and new anchors have been installed on 1st, 2nd, and 3rd bases. A permanent pitcher's mound has been installed and a new tractor purchased for \$225, after selling the old one for \$125. The fields still need to be dragged with a screen. He has received positive feedback regarding the new material of the fields. He also has only received one phone call regarding the locked gates which was made to Mr. Crowley (who agrees with locking the gates).

He asked that the bathrooms be unlocked at Cheever between 5 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. for practice and games. Al Markut did mention that the gates have been unlocked on a couple of occasions and Mr. Pollock responded that he does have to remind his coaches to lock the gates. He has tried to drive by the fields to make sure everything is locked up. He also stated that he went to the Central Market and got a lot of good feedback from the vendors.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Cheryl Satkus, 330 N. Indiana, appeared before the Board to thank the Park Dept. for removing the basketball nets at Tot Park. She explained that while they were up, the older kids who played there used foul language incessantly, and drug deals had taken place. Arrests had been made last year at that park. Not long ago her block had been hit by vandalism and gang signs. Since the nets have been down, the older kids have stopped hanging out and families have returned to the park. Ms. Satkus asked if the Park Dept. would consider leaving the nets off. Aaron Pollock, former policeman with the town, suggested that Ms. Satkus go to the Crime Watch meetings. She mentioned that she would get a petition if necessary, and Al Markut stated that would be a good idea. Rob Bubala said that the council and Chief Mance and Lieutenant Gang will be notified of this issue and asked that Ms. Satkus encourage her neighbors to come to a park board meeting as well.

A.J. Lewis inquired if these older kids hung out in the pavilion and was told no, but that they did hang out at the Senior Center. Pat Schaadt agreed that they do sometimes gather at the Senior Center. Joelle McCoy had put signs on the doors that there were no public restrooms there.

The meeting was adjourned by President Rob Bubala at 7:48 p.m.

Recording Secretary

Diane Kujawa