

GRIFFITH PARKS and RECREATION BOARD

Minutes for the February 11, 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	-Leonard Bezat
-Pat Schaadt, Town Council Liaison		-Rich Muha, School Board Liaison		

A.J. Lewis made a motion to accept the January 14, 2013 minutes. Scott Sutton seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

Claims in the amount of \$2114.60 (two thousand one hundred fourteen dollars and sixty cents) were presented. Scott Sutton made a motion to accept the claims as presented. Gina Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None

CORRESPONDENCE:

A.J. Lewis received an email regarding the skating rink. The resident wondered if hockey was permissible at the skating rink. Was it possible for figure skating and hockey to share one ice rink? We will have to look into how many of each use the rink. Other e-mails were also received concerning the snow removal on the ice rink.

REPORTS:

Treasurer: The park department has no more bond payments. Because this was a light claim month, there is no issue with our fund at this time.

Park Superintendent: Leonard Bezat reported that the men are cleaning equipment to get it ready for spring. They also had to build stairways on the Franklin Center roof so that solar panels could be installed.

School Board – No report.

GSEC – On hiatus, no report.

Senior Center – Pat Schaadt passed out a Senior Center calendar of events. A.J. Lewis volunteered to post one at the Town Hall and Rob Bubala would put the information on the town website. Pat also reported that reservations for the bus trip are coming along fine. Rob Bubala asked if there were any rentals of the Senior Center scheduled and was told that there were none at this time.

Farmer's Market – Kathy Ruesken reported that she is still waiting for a contract to be approved and that she is pursuing vendors for the market. Pat Schaadt passed out the latest draft of the contract to the board members. A.J. Lewis asked when the Farmer's Market is to begin and was told that hopefully it will start in May. Once the contract form is finalized, the vendors can sign up. A.J. Lewis asked if payment was to

be made at the time the contract was signed. Pat Schaadt is to help with collection of the applications and the payments. Ms. Ruesken also reported that she went to a Farmer's Market Boot Camp (which is a four week seminar run by Purdue in Wanatah) and learned about using social media as an advertising tool. Rob Bubala said he would help Ms. Ruesken as he had worked on the Rock n Rails site. She is going to try to use Facebook to publicize and wants to develop a different market from what the other towns have. She hopes to reach people in the lower part of Michigan and parts of Illinois. Rob Bubala suggested that the dates of the market be put on the park calendar and suggested that Kathy Ruesken come to the monthly Park Board meeting to report on her progress.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

Rob Bubala announced that Len Bezat has retired but is staying on until his replacement is named. The application deadline is Feb. 22, 2013, and the Park Board will have a special meeting on Feb. 25, 2013 to review all applications.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Aaron Pollock, 127 N. Rensselaer, updated the Board in regard to the softball fields. He has received quotes on repairs for the Junior and Senior league fields. Currently we are slated #4 on the list with an approximate date of April 1 for the work to be done, which will take approximately 1 ½ days to finish. He has been in contact with the high school varsity coach, and Rich Muha asked if he had spoken with Mr. Crowley at the high school. Aaron said he intends to talk to him, and then he inquired as to the rate per field for the lease signing next month. Rob Bubala stated that all leases will be signed after the next meeting; all teams should have their insurance information with them at that time. A. J. stated that every league will get a packet which includes the information they are required to have. Mr. Pollock also commented that he still needs to get the Park Board a set of the new keys.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Erik Sprenne of 3118 Wirth Road in Highland, board member of the organization, South Shore Trails, appeared before the Park Board to discuss the possibility of connecting the Erie Lakawanna Trail (connecting downtown Highland to almost downtown Crown Point) and the Oak Savannah Trail (which goes through downtown Hobart and connects with the Prairie Duneland Trail). There was an article in the paper stating that the Lake County Parks had acquired some property to expand the Oak Ridge Prairie Park. Mr. Sprenne has contacted the Lake County Parks planner, Craig Zandstra, in regard to this matter. Two connecting routes have been proposed: one along Colfax and the other along the old CSX corridor between the old Griffith dumpsite and the American Chemical site. He asked what Griffith planned in regard to this matter. Rob Bubala informed Mr. Sprenne that this idea was presented to the Park Board about two years ago. The Park Board at that time had discussions with the Lake County Parks and the Town Council but because of a lack of a clear direction and monetary issues at that time, it was not feasible for this project to be undertaken. The Park Board will take this information and make contact again with the Lake County Parks and the Town Council to see if any additional discussions have been made since. Mr. Sprenne suggested that the Town of Griffith apply to NIRPC for possible funding.

Jimmy Gonzalez, program director of the "Y" informed the Board that he wants to expand the sports programs there to include a flag football league, a t-ball league and an adult softball league. He presented a list of possible sites and dates. He will need a new lease for both t-ball and softball. A.J. Lewis asked what age groups would be participating in the flag football league and was told it would include kindergarten to 6th grade. Discussion followed regarding the different green spaces available for the flag football league. Mr. Gonzalez would like to have some feedback regarding flag football sites by the

March meeting. He would also like some response regarding the t-ball and softball leagues by the June meeting. Rob Bubala asked how late the games might run in the adult leagues and was told by Jimmy Gonzalez that he hoped they wouldn't end later than 9:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned by President Rob Bubala at 7:35 p.m.

Recording Secretary

Diane Kujawa