

GRIFFITH PARKS and RECREATION BOARD

Minutes for the May 14, 2018 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, Tim Diamond. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

The meeting was attended by the following members:

Christine Wroblewski	-Dan Perez	-Tim Diamond	-Al Markut, Park Superintendent
Jim Marker, Town Council Liaison		-Kathy Ruesken, School Board Liaison	

— John Dudlicek was absent.

Dan Perez made a motion to approve the April 9, 2018 minutes. Christine Wroblewski seconded the motion; minutes were approved.

Dan Perez made a motion to approve the claims numbered 17583 - 17598 in the amount of \$10,153.67. Christine Wroblewski seconded the motion; motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Tim Diamond announced that the next Park Board meeting will be held on June 11, 2018 at 7 pm. A study session will occur at 6 P.M. and a follow-up meeting will take place after the regularly scheduled meeting if needed.

He reminded residents to please call the police non-emergency number at 911 if any graffiti, damage or questionable behavior is seen in any of the Town Parks.

General comments and questions regarding the parks or bike path can be directed to griffithparks@griffith.in.gov

CORRESPONDENCE:

— Tim Diamond introduced the new school board liaison, Kathy Ruesken.

Tim also announced that Anytime Fitness will be doing workouts on Saturdays at 9:00 am at Central Park next to the volleyball courts and the public is invited to this free event.

Tim Diamond had noticed Pop Warner members painting the field at South Park and talked with them regarding a concession stand and storage for their location. There will probably be a joint meeting with soccer to discuss further details.

Tim also reported that the Clean-Up day was a big success and complemented Al and his crew on a great job.

Chris Wroblewski stated that the movies in the park are on June 20 (Wonder), July 18 (Cocoa) and August 8 (Black Panther). We are still looking for sponsors: Twincade is sponsoring all 3 movies and Spitz and Miller and Shipwreck are contributing to the screen cost (which amounts \$600/screen). Kathy Ruesken asked how much the screens cost and if any are available second hand to purchase. Tim said we could inquire but to keep in mind that the screens are huge and the company from whom we rent sets up the screen and tears it down. Tim Diamond reported that the Town Council had recognized former Park Superintendent Len Bezat Friday at 4:00 with a nice plaque at Central Park pavillion which his wife attended.

REPORTS:

— Financial Report: None

— Park Superintendent: Al Markut went over a list of items as follows:

1. Al reported that his guys are busy with the weather breaking and the weeds growing.
2. He thanked everyone for the help on Clean-Up Day; much was accomplished. Woodland Park is up to par and Tot Park is rejuvenated with help from the Town Council and the "Y". Rich Leber did a tremendous job.
3. Al said that he had an incident on the trail and recommended that next year the shirts should be orange or safety green instead of red which didn't stand out too well.
4. He then remarked that between Public Works and that those helping to spread, Tot and Woodland Parks were finished.
5. TLC has done work on the fountain in Central Park. They ran a line and put in another cistern; we shouldn't have any more flooding there.

6. Also, sewer repair was done by the Little League field. Items had been found to be flushed down the toilet and someone had run over the clean-up cup during the winter.
7. Al had met with the fertilizer guy; Central and South Park will get weed and feed.
8. Al has been in contact with the person who is to restring the rope on the flag at Cheever.
9. He then asked if there was any work on a new mower. Tim will check to see if there are any funds available in recycling but if Al was in dire need he needs to get one.
10. Al ordered two benches like the ones put in at Tot.
11. The Franklin playground will need about 60-80 yards of mulch. He will need to get Public Works to bucket over the top. Tim Diamond mentioned that there is a section of the playground that gets weedy. Al commented that his men were there today weeding; he refuses to use weed killer since the kids play there. Tim said that since there is no mowing done there and it is all mulch he wondered how much it would cost to put rubberized surface in there. At least it would last and not deteriorate like the mulch. Al said that his guys would be moving mulch tomorrow since the north side had already been weeded.
12. The door closers at the softball field bathroom have already been broken since the doors have been replaced. He was told by Steve McDermott to just take down the doors.
13. Al also mentioned that he had already received a call about the tear-down of the equipment at Cheever. They will remove the dirt and topsoil there.
14. He is anxious to turn on the sprinklers but forewarned the Park Board that there will be an issue near the panel box by the pavilion. He knows one head is broken off and the only way to find it is to energize the system. However, he wants to wait to put on the sprinkler system until the electric lines are done.
15. There was talk about replacing the Heritage walk and the sidewalk south but there are 36 bricks in each square and 35 squares. We need to determine where to store all the bricks.
16. He is planning on replacing the broken down basketball backboards at Tot.
17. The safety signs in the road in front of the memorial have been hit already. He is scared that people on the trail won't adhere to the signs. Kathy Ruesken commented that the signs are not uncommon; we have had similar ones on Wiggs and on Raymond.
18. Al suggested that the border around the volleyball court should be redone as it gets a lot of use.
19. Al then asked if there was any possibility of getting a new truck as some of his are starting to show signs of use. Jim Marker stated that it is important to submit a request for funds for these trucks in next year's budget and state the reasons why replacements are needed. Dan Perez added that if two vehicles are replaced every 4 years, Al's department will be caught up. Al added that he is not against the Imagine Griffith Decal on the trucks, but where it is, rust is forming. Dan agreed that it should be painted on.

Tim Diamond then mentioned that the school system is wondering if there is some maintenance to be done on the soft surface on the playground so the warranty wouldn't be voided. Al is going to check on this.

School Board Liaison's Report – Kathy Ruesken reported that prom was last Friday and was very successful and uneventful. She added that graduation will be June 10 at 2 PM. Kathy also stated that the Murphy twins have been accepted to Drake to play basketball. She went on to say that the Assistant Principal, Delencia Smith, received Assistant Principal of the Year for District 1 and that Megan Damron received Treasurer of the Year for District 1 for this region.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD

Tim Diamond went over the items of unfinished business:

- a. Handball Court – A crew is printing lines on the court. They have one side done; we are shooting for early to mid June for opening day. Regional and National tournaments can be played on this court.
- b. Panther Park – The equipment is in; all that needs to be done are touch-ups and clean-up. A new surface will also be put in. The signs for the sponsors will be ordered.
- c. NIRPC Directional Sign – We are not sure when the signs will be put in along the bike trail, but it will be soon and they are 80% paid for with federal money.
- d. Central Park Brick walk repaving- This project is in design and will be tabled until John Dudlicek can get us an update on this.
- e. Skate Park - We are looking for possible locations at this time and funds from the Town. More details will be forthcoming.
- f. South Park Concession/restrooms – Discussions with Pop Warner and soccer will held at a later time regarding this subject

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

- a. Better Block Grant – We will be receiving a \$5000.00 grant through the Legacy Foundation which we plan to use to relocate some equipment from Cheever to the 39th St. Park. We will be working on with Imagine Griffith and Neighborhood Spotlight to work on a plan for this park.
- b. North End Park – The Town Council has earmarked CDBG funds in the amount of \$73,000.00 for the Firemen's Park. We will be reapplying for the DNR 50/50 grant. Thirteen applications were submitted last year; we did not receive a grant. The application is due June 1, 2018; the panel reviews it and does a site visit. By fall we will find out if we get the funds next year.

- c. Tot Communication Station – The Neighborhood Spotlight group has received a grant for an outdoor meeting space at the Tot Park Pavilion. It includes new tables which will be wheelchair accessible and allows the tables to be put together to make a bigger area. Hopefully this will be completed in 6 weeks. Checkerboards and chess boards will be in the tables, and the YMCA may hold other events there as well.

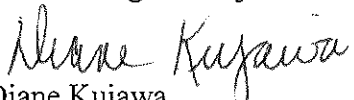
UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

None

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

None

The meeting was adjourned by President, Tim Diamond, at 7:40 pm.


Diane Kujawa
Recording Secretary

