

GRIFFITH PARKS and RECREATION BOARD

Minutes for the August 13, 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:

-Dan Perez -Tim Diamond -John Dudlicek -Christine Wroblewski
-Al Markut, Park Superintendent -Kathy Ruesken, School Board Liaison

Jim Marker, Town Council Liaison, was absent.

John Dudlicek made a motion to approve the July 9, 2018 minutes. Chris Wroblewski seconded the motion; minutes were approved.

Christine Wroblewski presented claims numbered 18977-19202 in the amount of \$18,240.81. She made a motion to accept the claims as presented. Kathy Ruesken seconded the motion; motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Tim Diamond announced that the next Park Board meeting will be held on Sept. 10, 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 reported that the last movie in the park, Black Panther, was attended by about 200 people. There had been three movies in all which had great sponsorship.

REPORTS:

Financial Report: None

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

1. There had been an incident with a tree down at Central Park; his crew has been getting dead branches picked up.
2. Al again brought up the idea of purchasing a new mower. Because of the aging of the equipment, if he waits too long the trade-in might not be worth anything. A starter alone costs \$500.00. The soccer field will be a problem as he can't just do one cutting there. He is planning on cutting this Tuesday and then again on Friday. He can't let it go for a full week. Tim Diamond asked if Mr. Volkmann has put a stop on the purchase of the mower. Al said he had, but Al doesn't think the mower should be taken out of park money. He stated that the only other mowers he has are smaller and it could take 2 hours to cut using both of the smaller mowers. In addition, he has just spent \$300.00 on a repair and would need 4 new tires at \$100.00 apiece at the end of this year. Tim Diamond replied that the Board is on track for the purchase of the new mower.
3. Al's crew is trying to clean up as much as they can in the limited amount of time they have to work; Public Works was in the bucket cutting the tree branches. They are trying to keep up with all the weeding as well.
4. Al took a park vehicle to Govert's and told him to fix one half of the items. When it was finished the bill stated that the vehicle was unsafe to drive so Al took the vehicle back in. Tim Diamond wondered what the process was to get a new truck. He noted that there had been a motion for the purchase of 2 trucks for public works at the Town Council meeting. Al remarked that the last time a park truck was bought, the purchase was put out for 3 bids. As of now there is no line item for a truck in the Park budget; it will have to be added in the budget for next year.
5. Al is losing one part-time worker who is returning to college and has one off recovering from surgery. He is planning on keeping two college kids as long as he has work for them to do.
6. Al had a gentleman ask if he could take the old equipment from Cheever which included an old fire engine which is not fixable and three bouncy items. John Dudlicek said it was okay just to get rid of them and Tim Diamond agreed. Al suggested keeping the climber for the Fireman Park; the frame for the tire swing is also still good.

7. The arborist had come out and told him which trees were at risk; one of the trees has been taken down today. The area where the market is and where the scouts will be is a high area and he wants to make sure all the dead branches are removed from there.

School Board Liaison's Report – Kathy Ruesken reported that the new school year starts tomorrow. This will be Michelle Riise's first full year as superintendent. Instead of late start Tuesdays, the classes will have early dismissals. These days allow for personal development for teachers. On September 6 there will be a community meeting at 5:30 at the LGI Room at the high school at which the superintendent will be talking about safety. A roundtable had been attended with administrators and police at which they took a good look at the safety audit which was done for the schools.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD

Tim Diamond went over the items of unfinished business:

- a. Handball Court – The grand opening of the handball court went well. People from New York and Illinois had attended; there had been a 10 am ceremony, and handball was played on all four courts for 5 hours. There will possibly be a tournament the weekend of October 6, which is our Oktoberfest weekend.
- b. Tot Communication Station – The tables are in; Ken Karlstedt is working out the logistics for a kick-off.
- c. 39th Lane Park Enhancements – We had received a grant from the Legacy Foundation to locate equipment from Cheever. On Sept. 8, a third party will relocate the castle equipment to this park. We may also get a memorial bench put in there. Al asked if mulch would be put in here and Tim responded that it will be.
- d. South Park Electrical – Tim Diamond said we had received a quote from A&E Electric. Al interjected that the work has already been done. There are now four plugs, each on its own breaker. Tim asked if we had also received a quote for lighting. Al replied that Rick Konopasek suggested that another street light be put on a pole which is already there as we have a surplus of lights.
- e. Central Park New Benches and Table – A discussion took place as to where the new benches should be placed. Al didn't order the three new benches yet; he has three in the yard which are sold but need to be put in. Al suggested putting pads in for these and the 8 x 8 for the table. Tim said there were no benches on the west side. It was suggested to put 2 benches between the trees that Metro bought. Al thought the other should go on the clockwalk.
- f. Memorial Plaques – The Town will be redoing concrete on the walkway so there is a question of where to put the existing bricks. It was also mentioned that a brick sale should be held.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

- a. Tree inventory report – The falling of the giant limbs at Central Park retriggered a proposal from Graf Forestry to do a full tree inventory for a cost of just under \$5000.00. The company will look at all the parks and do a full inventory regarding age and risk from high to low priority. Dan Perez made a motion that Tim Diamond be allowed to enter into a contract not to exceed \$6000.00 with Graf. Christine Wroblewski seconded the motion; motion approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

- a. Panther Park Eagle Scout Project – John Dudlicek reported that this project of concrete pads for the exercise equipment at Panther Park went okay except that it rained before and during; it got sunny when it was done. A tent had to be put up to protect the concrete. Al Markut added that he will slit seed there and put down fertilizer.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Sarah Dillard and her daughters, Audrey and Ava, appeared before the Board representing Girl Scout Troop 1544 to explain the purpose of their troop (which is trying to make a difference). They want to bring a Buddy Bench to Central Park. They stated that all the schools have a Buddy Bench and that they would raise the money themselves. The purchase would be from Belson and they would receive a discount. They are looking to raise close to \$500.00 and would raise the money for the concrete as well. John Dudlicek asked Kathy Ruesken to go to the schools and report back as to how the Buddy Benches work. He said rather than putting a bench at Central Park, that there is a possibility of putting the bench instead at Franklin; Tot Park would be the next option. Dan Perez complimented the girls and their mother on the presentation. Tim Diamond said that the subject will be tabled until the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned by President, Tim Diamond, at 7:33 pm.


Diane Kujawa
Recording Secretary