

GRIFFITH PARKS and RECREATION BOARD

Minutes for the September 10, 2018 meeting:

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 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:

- John Dudlicek -Tim Diamond -Christine Wroblewski -Dan Perez
-Al Markut, Park Superintendent

Jim Marker, Town Council Liaison and Kathy Ruesken, School Board Liaison were absent.

Christine Wroblewski made a motion to accept the August 13, 2018 minutes. John Dudlicek seconded the motion; minutes were approved.

Christine Wroblewski presented claims number 19497-19535 in the amount of \$22,331.79. Dan Perez then made a motion to accept the claims as presented. John Dudlicek seconded the motion; motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Tim Diamond announced that the next Park Board meeting will be held on Oct. 8 at 7 PM. A study session will be held at 6 PM, 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 regarding the parks or bike paths can be directed to griffithparks@griffith.in.gov

CORRESPONDENCE:

Tim Diamond reported that a group of art folks will be working on doing more murals around our Town. Imagine Griffith and Neighborhood Spotlight will be giving us more details.

REPORTS:

Financial Report: No report.

Park Superintendent: Al Markut reported as follows:

1. His men are trying to catch up on mowing; he has lost days to rain. His new mower is working great.
2. He had to repair truck #254 as it was deemed unsafe.
3. The trees have been trimmed in Central Park; one just east of the playground had to come down. After this incident it was found that a couple more trees have to be taken down.
4. Russell Tree Service has come and trimmed in the canopy and cut down about dead branches, which cost about \$2000.00. They will trim more later in the year as Al's bucket truck doesn't reach high enough.
5. Al received a call about graffiti on the merry-go-round at Tot Park. He does have paint if it can't be cleaned.
6. Because of all the rain, mowing and painting haven't been done, but his men have been trimming the low-hanging branches on the bike trail filling three dump truck loads.

Tim Diamond then added that Graf will be coming in to do a tree inventory. The Town Council has agreed to this at a cost of about \$5000.00. It will give us a better idea of what we have and what needs to be done. Al then stated that there are also a lot of trees on the trail which need to be trimmed and cut.

School Board Liaison's Report –No report

Imagine Griffith Report – Dan Perez reported that there will be a town-wide garage sale on Saturday, Sept. 22 from 8 am – 4 pm. Participants can register at the Town Hall; permits are waived. For any leftovers, call Lisa Bubala at 718-2181, to be picked up by GHS Pantherettes for another sale. Al Markut then brought up the fact that since there is no more GSEC, there is no one to put up replacement flags. He and his crew have done this in the past but his time is limited. Dan Perez said that there are some things that are still being worked out between Imagine Griffith and Michelle Velez.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

Tim Diamond went over the unfinished business:

1. Fireman Park – The equipment and surface have been purchased, and we have been working with an installer and an engineer for the design as the CDBG money has to be spent this year. The pavilion and restrooms will be done next year with the DNR grant. We will need a sign for the park but will need verify the name and possibly get the Town Council's input.
2. Handball Court – There will be a handball tournament on October 6, during our Oktoberfest weekend. Teams will be coming in from Chicago, Ohio and Michigan to play in it.
3. 39th Lane Park Enhancements – We have received a grant to move equipment to this park. It has been put on hold as the contractor had not been licensed; he is working on getting this done.
4. South Park Electrical - Tim Diamond asked Al about adding a streetlight to a light pole at South Park as was done by the volleyball area. Al remarked that NIPSCO may be able to add another light to the pole. He said that the street lights are LED and the volleyball lights are not. He will get with Konopasek to get a better idea of this proposal.
5. Central Park New Benches and Table – Al needs pads put in for benches as he has an order for another one. He needs spots to put the benches. He suggested that one can be put on the north side and the 4 seat table can be put on the northeast corner of the playground (where the tree fell). There is a spot for 2 more benches on the walkway. Tim Diamond suggested putting 2 or 3 on the west side. Al said that 2 benches can possible be put towards George's house. It was finally decided to put in the table and 3 benches on the west side. Al needs to know when he can get concrete; he will meet with John Dudlicek.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

None.

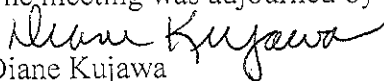
UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

John Dudlicek thanked Sarah, Audrey and Ava Dillard (representing Girl Scout Troop #1544) for the explanation of Buddy Benches. When the Board first heard about the program, they thought that the benches would be better at the schools, but found out that Officer Starcevich had already instituted the program there. The Board doesn't want to put the bench in Central Park and have people graffiti it. The board members thought that a better spot would be at the "Y" where the bench would be used properly. He suggested approaching the "Y" with Officer Starcevich. Our School Board liaison has already talked with this officer who would be willing to meet with workers at the "Y" and train them. Tim Diamond added that the director, Jackie Gomez, is willing to help implement this program.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

None

The meeting was adjourned by President, Tim Diamond, at 7:29 pm.


Diane Kujawa
Recording Secretary