

# GRIFFITH PARKS and RECREATION BOARD

## Minutes for the October 8, 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:

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

Jim Marker, Town Council Liaison was absent.

John Dudlicek made a motion to accept the Sept. 10, 2018 minutes. Dan Perez seconded the motion; minutes were approved.

Christine Wroblewski presented claims number 19987-20004 in the amount of \$13,165.71. Christine then then 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 Nov. 12 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 necessary.

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](mailto:griffithparks@griffith.in.gov)

## CORRESPONDENCE:

Tim Diamond stated that he had received an email from a resident concerned about the safety of the merry-go-round. The Board is working to get a certified inspector to evaluate the playground equipment.

## REPORTS:

Park Superintendent: Al Markut reported as follows:

1. He thanked Tim Diamond and his group for the new sign and for the help with the flowerbox at the 39<sup>th</sup> St. Park. He doesn't know if he will get the area dug out this week.
2. He has ordered the 6x6x8 playground timbers for that playground which will cost about \$500.00 and take a couple of week to get in. He can put them in after the mulch is in if necessary.
3. His men have moved 30 tables and cleaned up Central Park after Oktoberfest.
4. He will have to wait after leaf season to attack the grass at Central Park; he also noted that there is a low spot in the blacktop.
5. Truck repair on #258 was done and the bill was in the claims today.
6. He plans on getting the 39<sup>th</sup> St Park excavation done this week but wants to have Public Work's help. Tim Diamond commented that the vendor said if he couldn't get it finished by Wednesday he needs to let the company know and they will come next week.
7. Al said he needs a 10 x 10 pad for the round table at Central Park; the 4 x 8's are ok.
8. His men are getting ready for winter; he was told to leave 6 tables in each pavilion; he will leave only 4 at Cheever.
9. Al brought up the subject of the playground equipment in the yard (the fire engine, tire swing, and climbing wall); he doesn't want to throw it away but doesn't see where it will fit at any park. Tim Diamond remarked that the equipment may not pass a safety inspection. The Town Council may decide to either throw it away or have a public auction. Al wants to be informed if they decide to get rid of it.
10. Al remarked that he was surprised by the turnout at the handball tourney; between 40-50 people were there.
11. He would like to know what to do about the ice rink. He stated that the 4 corners of the volleyball court are the right height, but that the east side sinks in and wind blows sand over the court. He would like to put a border in.
12. Al would like to try and save the Memorial area grass and possibly re-sod. Al would like to be able to turn water on in just that area; he also wants to check for busted pipes in the fall. He added that at the Girls' Softball field and at South Park, we had to break through walls to fix the pipes. John Dudlicek asked if Memorial Park has its own dedicated system; Al replied that it is tied into the whole system.
13. There had been an issue with lights at the softball field. During the last tournament some of the lights didn't come on. One parent who is knowledgeable jumpered the power. Also four or five lights on

the south field are out, and on the north field the middle pole is not lit at all. Al asked if there was any thought about moving the poles. Tim responded that a quote was received but there are no funds available at this time.

#### School Board Liaison's Report –No report

Imagine Griffith Report – Dan Perez reported that the Town Wide Garage Sale was a success; the weather had helped. There had been some talk about adding a second day for next year's sale. He also announced that there will be a Creepy Crawler Night on Thursday, Oct. 11 which starts at 7:30 pm. There was some discussion about where to move the activity if the grass was too wet, with the possibility of even using the ball fields. It was decided that the group would assess the situation that night. Lastly, Dan mentioned that the Christmas trees project are next, but that will be discussed once we get past Halloween.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

Tim Diamond went over the unfinished business:

1. Firefighter's Park – We are getting some information and documents from the engineering firm this week. Hopefully, we will break ground next week on the playground. The pavilion and restrooms will be done next year with the DNR grant. He added that there was no talk about benches, lights or sidewalks; no funds have been designated for these items. Tim Diamond did mention that he has been talking with the fire chief and lieutenant about potentially adding a firefighter memorial at this park, which could also pay tribute to George Thiel. Kathy Ruesken suggested that Imagine Griffith may want to be involved with the memorial or to possibly sponsor some trees there. She also said that Neighborhood Spotlight may want to be included.
2. 39<sup>th</sup> Lane Park Enhancements – A group of volunteers from the Portenga family have helped put in a memorial bench, landscaped around the sign, restrained the picnic table and planted flowers at this park. A spot needs to be dug out and mulch layed in order to have the equipment moved there. Al has refinished the merry-go-round. The work should all be completed in a week or two.
3. Tree Inventory – Graf has been hired to do a tree inventory and a risk assessment to find areas of concern. Al Markut added that he would like to check the canopy again as the time to cut down the branches is after the leaves fall.

#### NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

Signage- Tim Diamond questioned the baseball agreements regarding the signage. He wondered if there was a time limit on when the signs should come down. John Dudliceck responded that this was not addressed in the contract. Both John and Kathy Ruesken commented that they liked the signs and they should remain as they give a community feeling. They can remain up as long as they are not rusty or destroyed.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

None

#### NEW BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

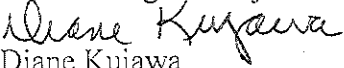
Claudia Powell, 1206 E Lake St., appeared before the Board to ask a few questions. She wondered if there could be a no-smoking sign on the playground. Tim Diamond replied that the subject of signs for different reasons, including skateboarding, had been look at in the past. If there is signage, the police can enforce the rules; signs can also give authority to someone to speak up. He did agree that cigarettes can ruin the surface and said that he has some samples of signs. The Board will address this subject next month. Tim did agree that the Park ordinances need to be updated and possibly changed.

Ms. Powell then asked if there could be safety lanes on Colfax to lead to the bike path as the street is busy and it is dangerous for bike riders. Kathy Ruesken suggested putting a bike lane going south. As Colfax is a county street she suggested talking with Jerry Tippy, Lake County Commissioner.

Another item brought up was the landscaping at Colfax & Main, which is poorly kept. Cline & Ridge also needs some landscaping improvements. Tim Diamond responded that the Board might consider putting some money in the budget to hire a firm to help with this task or hire another part-time person to do the weeding.

Lastly, Ms. Powell stated that the alley on the 700 block of Lake, by the apartment building, is a mess. She wondered who's responsibility it was to keep it up. Jack Reyome, code officer, should be asked to check into this area.

The meeting was adjourned by President, Tim Diamond, at 7:45 pm.

  
Diane Kujawa  
Recording Secretary