

## GRIFFITH PARKS and RECREATION BOARD

### Minutes for the November 12, 2018 meeting:

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 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 -Dan Perez -Jim Marker, Town Council Liaison  
-Al Markut, Park Superintendent -Kathy Ruesken, School Board Liaison

Christine Wroblewski was absent.

Dan Perez made a motion to accept the October 8, 2018 minutes. John Dudlicek seconded the motion; minutes were approved.

Dan Perez presented claims number 20531-20566 in the amount of \$18,083.62. He 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 Dec. 10 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:

None

### REPORTS:

Park Superintendent: Diane Kujawa reported for Al Markut. Al wanted to extend his thanks to his men for working Saturday and Sunday to get ready for the memorial service on Nov. 11. He has turned off the water in the parks and has put a porta-potty in Central Park for the winter.

School Board Liaison's Report –Kathy Ruesken stated that last Saturday a fundraiser was held at the "Y" for the Best Buddy Program at the high school. The physically or mentally challenged are "buddied" with a general education student. Over \$5000.00 was raised.

Imagine Griffith Report – Dan Perez reported that this group will be on hiatus for 2 months from a meeting standpoint. However, their next project is the Christmas trees which will be placed at Franklin school and the corner of Main and Broad. Jedi's restaurant is also allowing us to put trees on their property at Cline and Ridge.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

Tim Diamond went over the unfinished business:

1. Firefighter's Park – Work has been going on into the night to get the landscaping finished so the playground will be ready. This week the fence will come down and it will be open for play, weather permitting. Next year we hope to secure a grant to have restrooms and a pavilion put in at this park.
2. 39<sup>th</sup> Lane Park Enhancements – A piece of equipment has been moved to this park from Cheever, landscaping has been done, a bench and new swing has been installed and the merry-go-round has been painted.
3. Tree Inventory – Graf has been hired to do a tree inventory which will tell us how old the trees are, which are decayed and which could be hazards. We can then bring down the rotting trees and plant new ones.

### NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

John Dudlicek explained that we are going to be doing a bond. Our capital improvement funding comes from bond issues; a rolling bond every three years.

He then made a motion to approve Resolution no. 2018-44, a resolution making a preliminary determination to issue bonds of the park district of the Town of Griffith Indiana (see attached). Kathy Ruesken seconded the motion; Dan Perez recused himself due to a potential conflict of interest with his employment in the financial industry. All in favor; motion passed.

Kathy Ruesken made a motion to pass & adopt Resolution no. 2018-45, a declaratory resolution of the Board of Parks and Recreation of the Town of Griffith, Lake County, Indiana, approving projects of the Town's Department of Parks and Recreation and all matters related thereto. (See attached). John Dudlicek seconded the motion; Dan Perez again recused himself. All in favor; motion passed. Jim Marker added that this bond will begin after the current bond is paid off; it is used for capital improvements.

John Dudlicek then made a motion to have the Clerk Treasurer publicize a notice of hearing on the declaration, an appropriation hearing and a notice of determination to issue a bond. Kathy Ruesken seconded the motion. All in favor; motion passed.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:**

Tim Diamond had found some samples of signage which might be applicable to the problem of smoking on the playground at Central Park. The Board will take another review of the sign options as some emails were also received regarding this issue. Dan Perez asked if there was enforceability with these signs. Tim replied that per ordinance if there is signage in a park, the police can enforce them and give \$50.00 fines.

#### **NEW BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:**

Sarah Dillard and Melissa Warnock from Griffith troop 15494 appeared before the Board to discuss putting a Free Little library at the 39<sup>th</sup> Street Park and at Firefighter Park once it is complete. The Scouts will decorate them and put the posts in. They do still need to get a permit and to contact 811. Ms. Dillard asked if they needed approval as to where to put the library. Kathy Ruesken commented that it needed to be put somewhere visible and where it wouldn't get in the way of Al's mowers. She suggested putting it near the sign. Jim Marker suggested reaching out to Rick Konopasek, Public Works Director for help. John Dudlicek added that the troop should contact him for concrete work if they need help. Kathy also volunteered to be there when it is getting put in. Ms. Warnock asked if there was any design they need to stay away from when they are painting it; she was told anything would be permissible as long as it was not offensive. The Troop would like to take over the project to put the libraries in the other parks as well. Kathy Ruesken replied that it would be wonderful for them to do this. Kathy Ruesken then made a motion that Troop 15494 be given permission to put the Free Library at 39<sup>th</sup> Lane Park as well situate other libraries in other locations upon communication with the Park Board. John Dudlicek seconded the motion. All in favor; motion passed.

Linda & George Grahovac appeared before the Board to voice their opinions regarding Firefighters Park. They asked if a fence could be put around the park because of its location near the fire station and it being so close to the road. Mrs. Grahovac also wondered about the surface under the equipment. Tim Diamond replied that the surface is soft and graded. When the Park Dept. gets the grant next year, sidewalks and handicap parking will be added. Once this is done, consideration will be given to fencing and signage. Mrs. Grahovac also suggested planting some flowers there. Tim replied that the grant is a land and conservation grant so trees and plants will be put in as well.

Sarah Dillard then brought up the subject of the Buddy Bench. The troop had raised enough money to purchase a bench and it will be delivered after Thanksgiving. They are to coordinate with Al and the "Y" as to where it should go. Kathy Ruesken wondered if it should go inside, but Ms. Dillard replied that inside, the children are separated by classrooms. This Buddy Bench would replace a bench that is already there. John Dudlicek asked if there was a pad there or if one had to be poured. If it needs a pad, the bench will have to be installed in the spring. Kathy Ruesken then thanked the Daisies and Brownies for their effort and time they put in for fundraising.

George Grahovac asked if there was any risk assessment for traffic going over the bridge, or a car going over the rail by Firefighter Park. John Dudlicek replied that guardrails are able to handle impacts of over 80 miles per hour. Mr. Grahovac suggested a big, thick wooden rail like the one on Ridge Road in Highland.

The meeting was adjourned by President, Tim Diamond, at 7:39 pm.

*Diane Kujawa*  
Diane Kujawa  
Recording Secretary

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-44

A RESOLUTION MAKING A PRELIMINARY  
DETERMINATION TO ISSUE BONDS OF THE PARK  
DISTRICT OF THE TOWN OF GRIFFITH, INDIANA

WHEREAS, pursuant to IC 36-10-3, the Park and Recreation Board (the "Board") of the Department of Parks and Recreation, governing body of the Park District of the Town of Griffith, Indiana (the "District"), has considered issuing special taxing district bonds of the District, in one or more series, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed Six Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$650,000) (the "Bonds") to finance the construction, acquisition, renovation, installation and equipping of improvements at various parks in the District, including any or all or any portion of the following: (1) replacement of playgrounds; tennis court renovations; improvements to shelters and buildings; renovations to softball and soccer facilities; new bicycle and walking trails; skate and dog parks (provided that the cost of any skate park improvements shall not exceed \$50,000 without prior Town Council approval); landscaping; and related engineering and planning costs; (2) any other related improvements thereto; and (3) expenses incurred in connection with or on account of the issuance of the Bonds (collectively, the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, the Board preliminarily finds that it is in the best interests of the District and its citizens to issue special taxing district bonds of the District for the purpose of financing all or a portion of the costs of the Project;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Park and Recreation Board of the Town of Griffith, Lake County, Indiana, as follows:

Section 1. The Board hereby makes a preliminary determination to issue the Bonds, pursuant to IC 36-10-3, in an original aggregate principal amount not to exceed Six Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$650,000), for the purpose of financing all or a portion of the costs of the Project. The Bonds (a) may be issued in one or more series, (b) will have a final maturity date no later than February 1, 2022, and (c) with an estimated maximum interest rate not exceeding 5.0% per annum. The Bonds shall be payable from special *ad valorem* property taxes levied and collected on all taxable property within the District.

Section 2. The officers and representatives of the District are hereby directed as required by law to cause to be posted and published notice of the foregoing preliminary determination of the Board to issue the Bonds and to cause to be published a notice of public hearing on the appropriation of the proceeds of the Bonds.

Section 3. The Board hereby declares its intent, pursuant to Treas. Reg. §1.150-2 and IC 5-1-14-6(c), that costs incurred by or on behalf of the District in financing costs of the Project be reimbursed from the proceeds of the Bonds.

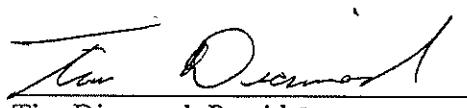
Section 4. Any officer or member of the Board, or any official, employee or representative of the Town of Griffith, Indiana, is hereby authorized, empowered and directed, on behalf of the District, to take any other action as required or appropriate to effectuate the

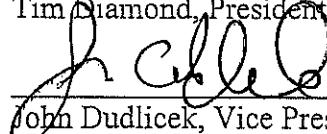
foregoing Resolutions, and any actions heretofore made or taken be, and hereby are, ratified and approved.

Section 5. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Park and Recreation Board of the Town of Griffith, Lake County, Indiana, on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2018.

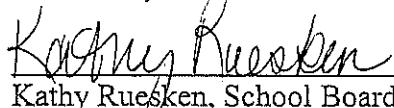
**BOARD MEMBERS OF THE PARK AND  
RECREATION BOARD OF THE TOWN OF  
GRIFFITH, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA**

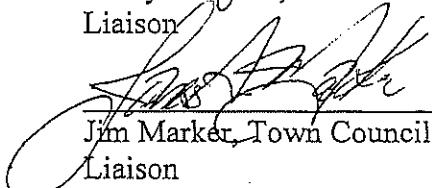
  
Tim Diamond, President

  
John Dudlicek, Vice President

Absent  
Christine Wroblewski, Member

Abstained  
Dan Perez, Member

  
Kathy Ruesken, School Board  
Liaison

  
Jim Marker, Town Council  
Liaison

Attested:

  
Diane Kujawa, Recording Secretary

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-45

**A DECLARATORY RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND  
RECREATION OF THE TOWN OF GRIFFITH, LAKE COUNTY,  
INDIANA, APPROVING PROJECTS OF THE TOWN'S DEPARTMENT  
OF PARKS AND RECREATION, AND ALL MATTERS RELATED  
THERETO**

WHEREAS, pursuant to IC 36-10-3 (the "Act"), the Park and Recreation Board (the "Board") of the Department of Parks and Recreation, governing body of the Park District of the Town of Griffith, Indiana (the "District"), has determined to issue special taxing district bonds of the District, in one (1) or more series, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed Six Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$650,000) (the "Bonds") to finance the construction, acquisition, renovation, installation and equipping of improvements at various parks in the District, including any or all or any portion of the following: (1) replacement of playgrounds; tennis court renovations; improvements to shelters and buildings; renovations to softball and soccer facilities; new bicycle and walking trails; skate and dog parks (provided that the cost of any skate park improvements shall not exceed \$50,000 without prior Town Council approval); landscaping; and related engineering and planning costs; (2) any other related improvements thereto; and (3) expenses incurred in connection with or on account of the issuance of the Bonds (collectively, the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, the Board has caused to be prepared general plans for the Project and has caused to be determined the estimated costs of the Project; and

WHEREAS, the Board now determines that providing for the acquisition and construction of the Project and the financing thereof through the issuance of the Bonds will be of public utility and benefit and will further the public purposes set forth in the Act;

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** by the Park and Recreation Board of the Town of Griffith, Lake County, Indiana, as follows:

Section 1: The Board hereby finds that it is necessary for the public health and welfare and will be of public utility and benefit to proceed with the acquisition and construction of the Project.

Section 2: The Board hereby adopts the general plans for the Project and the estimated cost of financing the Project, including costs of issuing the Bonds to finance the Project, in the estimated amount not to exceed Six Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$650,000), all of which shall be open to public inspection by all persons interested in or affected by the acquisition and construction of the Project.

Section 3: The Board hereby authorizes publication of a Notice of the Adoption of this Resolution and the fact that general plans and estimates have been prepared and may be inspected. The notice shall state that the Board will conduct a public hearing at which the Board will receive or hear remonstrances from persons interested in or affected by the proceedings, and

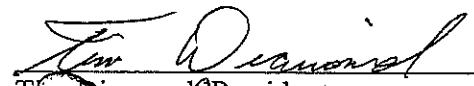
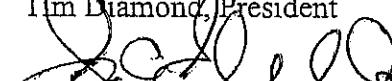
after which the Board will take final action determining the public utility and benefit of the Project and confirming, modifying and confirming, or rescinding this Resolution.

Section 4: Any officer or member of the Board, or any official, employee or representative of the Town of Griffith, Indiana, is hereby authorized, empowered and directed, on behalf of the District, to take any other action as required or appropriate to effectuate the foregoing Resolutions, and any actions heretofore made or taken be, and hereby are, ratified and approved.

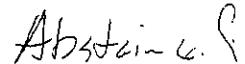
Section 5: This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption.

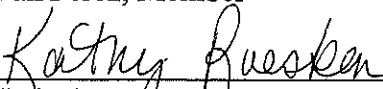
**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Park and Recreation Board of the Town of Griffith, Lake County, Indiana, on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2018.

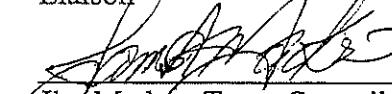
**BOARD MEMBERS OF THE PARK AND  
RECREATION BOARD OF THE TOWN OF  
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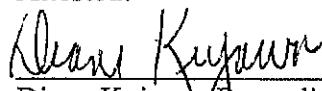
ABSENT  
Christine Wroblewski, Member

  
Dan Perez, Member

  
Kathy Ruesken, School Board  
Liaison

  
Jim Marker, Town Council  
Liaison

Attested:

  
Diane Kujawa, Recording Secretary

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