

## GRIFFITH PARKS and RECREATION BOARD

### Minutes for the February 11, 2019 meeting:

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. at the Town Hall, 111 N. Broad Street in Griffith, Indiana by Vice- President, John Dudlicek. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

The meeting was attended by the following members:

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

Tim Diamond and Jim Marker, Town Council Liaison was absent.

Kathy Ruesken made a motion to approve the January 14, 2019 minutes. Christine Wroblewski seconded the motion; minutes were approved.

Christine Wroblewski presented claims 21757 through 21772 in the amount of \$10,729.46. She then made a motion to accept the claims as presented. Daniel Perez seconded the motion; motion carried. Al mentioned that the \$7000.00 scoreboard invoice should be paid out of the bond money.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

John Dudlicek announced that the next Park Board meeting will be held on March 11, 2019 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: Al Markut reported as follows:

1. He and his crew have been fighting with the ice rink all winter. It has been 50 degrees at least once a week and sandbags had been thrown in again. He also remarked that after the big snowfall, four guys had to shovel 2 hours to clean up the rink. The ice rink will not support the John Deere.
2. Al has turned in the Nipsco utility bills to Dan Perez for figuring the leases.
3. He has met with the gentlemen from Midwestern Electric who will be repairing the softball lights; they will be using both entrances to the area but there should be no truck activity on the field. John Dudlicek added that he had also talked to Midwestern; they had noticed lights on the back of the existing scoreboard and were going to replace them. They are used for lighting up the flags and should only cost a couple hundred of dollars.
4. Al questioned what he should do with the old scoreboards and John Dudlicek said that they could be scrapped.
5. In regard to the Dog Park, Al suggested that we opt for split fields; one for the bigger dogs and one for the smaller ones. He thought that the fencing cost might be about \$20,000.00.
6. Al also mentioned that he had turned in an estimate for a new 4 x 4 truck; he asked that the truck be moved up on the wish list.
7. A proposal from A&E Electric for changing the lights at the Memorial from sodium to LED was received. A cost savings of 80% on electric bills could be realized. The price for changing 10 Ballard lights to 11 watt warm lights would be \$990.00. 2700K LED to retrofit those in the pavilion would be \$900.00; 24 poles for the walkway would cost \$2880. Al would like to get the memorial done first.
8. In addition, Al thought we should redo the signs at the other parks to match the one at the 39<sup>th</sup> St. Park.
9. He then said that he should be getting his 2 summer helpers back and would like to get three additional employees. Kathy Ruesken said that these employees could help water and weed the flower beds; they should be watered at least once a week. The cost for this extra help would be approximately \$3500 each.
10. Al added that NIPSCO was supposed to be removing trees along the trail and grinding out the stumps but he hasn't seen any activity yet. He hopes that he doesn't have to remove the Colby marker; Kathy Ruesken asked if it could be moved to the other side. Al replied that the NIPSCO easement is 12 feet off of each side of the trail.

11. Also needed are the pads for the benches and table which are in the yard. He would like (6) 4 x 8 pads and (1) 10 x 10 pad.
12. Reseeding will need to be done in the spring in the market and memorial areas, by the south pavilion and the area around the playground.

School Board Liaison's Report – Kathy Ruesken reported that the Griffith Robotics team hosted the FTC Tournament this past Saturday. Griffith had entered two teams with different levels of experience. The higher level team made it to the semi-finals and took 3<sup>rd</sup> place, qualifying for state. The B-team won 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the “innovative award”.

Imagine Griffith Report –Dan Perez reported that more focus is being put on the arts this year. A committee has been assembled to identify the scope. Planning and coordinating banner art, continuing the public art like the chairs and bikes, possibly adding sculptures and adding a mural on the Royal brush factory are some of the projects. Kathy Ruesken commented that it would be nice to have slats put in the fences to hide the yard at the brush company. Dan then added that the group has a new member, Louis, Ortiz. He has worked for NIPSCO and brought art to them. In regards to banner art, Al reminded Dan that he does hang Park Full of Art banners in July; Dan responded that Ken Karlstedt will coordinate with him on this. Kathy Ruesken suggested we talk about sponsorship for some of the projects. She also said that she expects our Griffith newspaper to roll out in May and would like to invite someone to provide information about the art. Dan Perez will need to coordinate something by March 1. He also did say that the group does have funding for the first mural, and added that the next Imagine Griffith meeting is in two weeks, on February 28. The art committee had previously met on February 7.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:**

1. DNR Grant – An email was received last week regarding this grant. The grant was on pause due to the shutdown. We should have money by June, pending another shutdown.
2. Franklin Field Renovation – This will begin tomorrow.
3. Memorial Brochure – The brochure has been sent to the printer and we are waiting for the final approval.

#### **NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:**

None

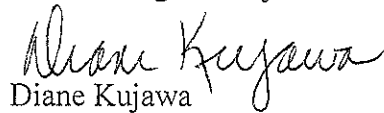
#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:**

None

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

None

The meeting was adjourned by Vice President, John Dudliceck, at 7:42 pm.

  
Diane Kujawa  
Recording Secretary