

GRIFFITH PARKS and RECREATION BOARD

Minutes for the March 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 President, Tim Diamond. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

The meeting was attended by the following members:

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

Kathy Ruesken and Jim Marker were absent.

Christine Wroblewski made a motion to approve the March 11, 2019 minutes. John Dudlicek seconded the motion; minutes were approved.

Christine Wroblewski presented claims 22111-22118 in the amount of \$27,036.78. She 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 April 8, 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

CORRESPONDENCE:

- A. NIRPC Directional Signs – Signage will be put on the bike trail throughout the county. 80% of the cost is covered by the county; we will cover the rest of the cost for our Town.
- B. NIRPC Tree Grant - We have applied for 25 trees through this grant and will find out in a month if we get them.
- C. Handball Tournament – There is a plan to have a handball tournament June 15 in conjunction with Rockapella at Central Park.
- D. The date for Together Clean-Up Day is Saturday, May 11.

REPORTS:

Park Superintendent: Al Markut reported as follows:

- 1. His crew is getting ready for springtime and has already moved some tables.
- 2. He would like one more person for summer, making a total of 4.
- 3. Regarding the tree inventory, he wants to know which trees need work in Central Park. Once he starts seeding he doesn't want any trampling around on the new grass.
- 4. Al wondered if there would be any trees planted on Clean-up day. Tim responded that this would probably not be done at that time. Al does have ideas as to where to plant trees; some need to be removed on the bike trail.
- 5. Nipsco is working on their trail right-of-way on the south trail. They are working on the tree line and removing a lot of trees.
- 6. The washrooms will be opened weather permitting. Central Park is the issue as water comes from the ground and goes up over the roof and is very cold.
- 7. The Johnny on the Spot Company has been used during winters for washrooms at Central Park; their company has been purchased.

School Board Liaison's Report – Tim Diamond reported that the Pantherettes placed second in state. John Dudlicek mentioned that Griffith is competing this Saturday in the robotics tournament at State. They hope to move on to the World tournament.

Imagine Griffith Report –Dan Perez reported that the main focus of this group right now is the Arts Initiative to bring more public art to Griffith. The initial project is the banners which will be hung starting May 15 through a date to be determined. As of right now there is a call for art; residents are asked to submit their art in photo form which will be selected for banners.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

Tim went over the items of unfinished business:

1. DNR Grant – CDBG money was used for the park by Fire Station 3. The matching grant of \$100,000 should be coming soon; it had been held up by the government shutdown. We will use these funds for restrooms, a pavilion, sidewalks and some parking.
2. Franklin Field Renovation – With our bond funds we have fixed poles at the softball field as well as purchasing a new scoreboard; wiring has also been fixed.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

- A. Tim Diamond stated that all playgrounds should be inspected annually. He made some calls to other towns to borrow someone or possibly hire someone to do the inspections. Since the Schools have someone to do this, the Town is now going to partner with the schools. Their prior inspector has left but they are currently training someone. Dan Perez made a motion that we recommend the Town Council enter an interlocal agreement with the Griffith Public Schools for playground inspection. Christine Wroblewski seconded the motion; motion passed. John Dudlicek explained that the inspector will go through the parks periodically and provide a report which will be given to Al. Tim Diamond did say that most of our equipment is under warranty.
- B. Sport Leases – These will be signed at the end of the meeting. John Dudlicek asked which teams were present: Griffith Youth Baseball, Illinois Fire, Pop Warner, and Soccer were all there. Girls' Softball was the only league not represented. John Dudlicek then asked if anyone had any issues. Mike Andre of Griffith Pop Warner questioned the amount of the electric portion of his league lease, saying he only used the field for 4 months but was being charged for the entire year. John clarified the amount to be \$622.90. Mike then asked if weed killer will be applied to the field and was told that a weed and feed is usually applied in the spring. Tim will look into this matter. Mike Andre then said that 2 sets of bleachers at this field are in bad shape and have been for a long time but that they are fixable. Al replied that if they will be used he will take a look at them. John Dudlicek remarked that through the bond, a building of some sort will be put at South Park. He asked if Mike Andre would be willing to be on the planning committee for this project. Mike responded that he had a utility manager through Pop Warner who he would appoint to be on this committee. Mike then added that the breaker boxes are adequate so that electric can be run to the building from there; there is no need for running water. John then stated that the Central Park building is also going to be redone and he would like someone from baseball on that committee. Veronica Halley of Griffith Youth Baseball had previously emailed Tim and Rick about plumbing issues at the concession stand. Last year during closing ceremonies water had been coming up from the floor of the concession stand, and it had smelled liked sewage. Dusty Vrska, of Griffith Youth Baseball, then commented that the Boy Scouts had used the concession stand and had left food there which he had to clean out. There also had been a problem regarding tarps on the field. Dusty then added that his group was told not to use their board room because it was winterized. However, all their equipment is there and needs to be gone through. Discussion also followed regarding having the fields locked. Dusty then commented that there was electric that didn't work at their fields and that the field was not level. He feels that the league puts in a lot of money and time but doesn't get enough in return. John Dudlicek agreed to meet with Mr. Vrska to go over needs of the league. Tim Diamond responded that Al will check out the concession stand once they get the water on. He told Mr. Vrska to get him a list of the league's electrical needs and he will see what the cost would be for the repairs. Corey Konopasek asked if there were any plans for a dog park. John Dudlicek responded that this is on the list of possibilities. Tim Diamond added that Lake County Parks is thinking of putting one in at Lake Ridge Prairie. The County has one at Lemon Lake and so has experience with all it entails. We will find out in the fall if it is included in their 5 year plan. Otherwise, we have a couple spots for "Maybes" but do have a lot on our plates right now.
- C. New Vehicle – John Dudlicek stated that he did visit with Al regarding his trucks. One of them is 19 years old and is rusty. He has no 4x4's and needs to have at least one. John Dudlicek made a motion to recommend to the Town Council that a replacement truck be purchased for truck #258 and then when possible truck to purchase a replacement for #254. Christine Wroblewski seconded the motion. Motion passed.

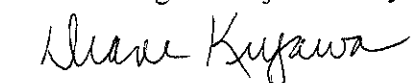
UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

None

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

None

The meeting was adjourned by President, Tim Diamond, at 7:42 pm.



Diane Kujawa, Recording Secretary