

GRIFFITH PARKS and RECREATION BOARD

Minutes for the June 10, 2019 meeting:

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 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:

-Dan Perez -Tim Diamond -Kathy Ruesken, School Board Liaison -Al Markut, Park Superintendent

Christine Wroblewski, John Dudlicek and Jim Marker, Town Council liaison were absent

Dan Perez made a motion to approve the May 13, 2019 minutes. Kathy Ruesken seconded the motion; minutes were approved.

Kathy Ruesken presented claims 23355-23378 in the amount of \$12534.63. She then made a motion to approve the claims as presented. Dan Perez seconded the motion; motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Tim Diamond announced that the next Park Board meeting will be held on July 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:

Handball Tournament – A handball tournament will be held this Saturday at 10 am at Cheever Park. People from around the country will be participating.

REPORTS:

Park Superintendent: Al Markut reported as follows:

1. He reported that they have finally caught up on mowing on the trails as they had been wet from all the rain.
2. A new bench has been ordered for the trail.
3. Trees should be cut down tomorrow.
4. He wants to try to pressure wash the pavilion this week some time; possibly tomorrow or Wednesday.
5. Al mentioned that the security for the public works building is handled by Par Mar security.
6. A tree is down at Cheever Woods which is school property. He doesn't think it is a hazard as it is lying on the ground. There are also a few other trees which need to be addressed. He would like Kathy to relay to Georgia Smith from the schools that this property is actually theirs to mow. He said it would help out by lessening the amount of work for his crew as there is a soccer field and baseball field there as well. Kathy Ruesken responded that if it frees up minutes for Al it would be a good idea for the school to mow it. Al asked Kathy to tell Georgia to give Al a call.

School Board Liaison's Report – Kathy Ruesken reported yesterday was the 95th graduation from Griffith. Everything went well, except for a problem with the sound at the beginning. Very nice speeches were made by the valedictorian and salutatorian. There had been many accomplishments throughout the year and a significant amount of scholarships had been awarded. It was a very good year for most.

Imagine Griffith Report – Dan Perez said that the banners would be produced shortly and be ready to go up after that. The softball banners will be coming down. The next phase is the murals; the committee is going to consult with some of the regions best mural artists to get their insight as to what they would to expand our art initiative.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

Tim Diamond went over the items of unfinished business:

1. DNR Grant – Tim announced that we are close to getting approval to spend the funds for the pavilion, sidewalks, restrooms and parking at the Firefighters' Park. The property still has some deed language to work out.

2. Woodland Playground Drainage – This playground is heavily wooded and doesn't drain well, becoming unusable for weeks. We have engineers looking to see where additional drains could be placed.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

1. Acceptance of Property – Tim reported that at the last Town Council meeting it was determined that one half of the property at Firefighters Park belonged to the fire station and one part was deemed rite of passage. The DNR says once we use the land as part of a project it has to stay that way and can't be changed without their approval. The Town Council has assigned the rite of passage property to the Park Board. Dan Perez made a motion to accept the property and to authorize Tim as president to sign the necessary documents related to the acquisition of the property at Ridge Road and Indiana Street now known as Firefighter's Park. Kathy Ruesken seconded the motion. Motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

- a. Youth baseball facility issues – A compressed pipe had been causing some plumbing issues with the flow which are now resolved. It appeared to be poor engineering design. Electrical problems are still being investigated.
- b. Panther Park Sign - John Dudlicek is working with a Boy Scout on a sign project at Panther Park.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

John Kaden, 725 Forest, spoke regarding the Woodland Park. He asked if there was any plan to put a rubberized surface there since it floods so regularly. Tim Diamond commented that when the new soft surface was put in at Central, the Park Board also put in new equipment. Since there is some rust on the equipment at Woodland, the new playground inspector will check out the equipment. There is discussion about whether we want to find funding to redo the whole park. There have been conversations with a couple companies which amount to \$145,000 for new equipment similar to Firefighter's Park and then additional costs for the surface. Engineering will also need to be done to address the drainage issue. Tim Diamond did remark that any new park will not have mulch as its surface when it is redone. John Kaden asked when the problem will be addressed and Tim thought this year as there are some problems with drainage near the Central Park pavilion as well. Councilman Marker is on top of this problem as Woodland Park is in his ward. Kathy Ruesken added that the park at Beiriger School is a good alternative until Woodland is updated. The Woodland Park needs to be more of a mixed use playground including 2-5 years old rather than use by just 5-12 year olds.

Meeting was adjourned by President Tim Diamond at 7:24 pm



Diane Kujawa, Recording Secretary