

## GRIFFITH PARKS and RECREATION BOARD

### Minutes for the July 8, 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            -Tim Diamond            -Al Markut (Absent)            -Christine Wroblewski            -Dan Perez  
-Jim Marker, Town Council Liaison            -Kathy Ruesken, School Board Liaison

Kathy Ruesken made a motion to accept the June 10, 2019 minutes. Dan Perez seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

Claims in the amount of \$9,242.12 numbered 23877-23897 were presented. Christine Wroblewski made a motion to accept the claims as presented. John Dudlicek seconded the motion. Motion carried.

An additional 19 claims in the amount of \$1,000 for park rental deposit refunds will be paid in the July 16, 2019 Town Council meeting. Christine Wroblewski made a motion to allow payment for these claims and John Dudlicek seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Tim Diamond announced that the next Park Board meeting will be held on August 12, 2019 at 7 pm. A study session will occur at 6 P.M., and a follow-up meeting will take place after the regularly scheduled meeting if needed.

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 and questions regarding the parks or bike path can be directed to [griffithparks@griffith.in.gov](mailto:griffithparks@griffith.in.gov)

Tim Diamond recognized the current Park Board Recording Secretary Diane Kujawa. He congratulated her on her retirement and thanked her for her service. On behalf of the entire board Christine Wroblewski presented her with a certificate and gift. The new Recording Secretary Shari Heins was present at the meeting.

### CORRESPONDENCE:

Mountain bike training - A youth development organization called NICA (National Interscholastic Cycling Association) is putting together a team for the fall 2019 season. The Region Composite is our local team, and their mission is to teach kids strong mind, body and character through mountain biking. The team is comprised of NICA certified coaches and student athletes from Lake County that are going in to 6th-12th grade. NICA is interested in finding a safe space to host weekly team practices that will start the middle of July once per week until the end of October. They need open space to teach basic bike handling skills. NICA may be using South Park or Woodland Park for some practices.

Tri Kappa Donation/Sponsorship – Tri Kappa will be making a donation of \$5,000 proceeds will go to sponsor the Girls Softball Score Board and the purchase of new swings (adult/toddler combo swing) for Woodland Park.

Legacy Foundation Grant awarded the Town with a \$25,000 grant. Funds to be used for a Pickle Ball Court and Roller Hockey surface at Cheever Park.

### REPORTS:

Park Superintendent: Jim Marker read Al Markut's report as follows:

- Broad Street BBQ and Blues Festival went great with little damage to Central Park.
- All mowing areas are under control – rain hampered full mowing for the past 6 weeks.
- Park Full of Art is coming up July 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> and the Symphony is August 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Al made mention that there is 4 or 5 more weeks for 4 summer help employees. Mid August all should be gone. They are a great bunch of girls and two were new employees this year.

- Parks will try and catch up on some painting now that the dry weather is here. Cheever Park washroom fascia, little league and bathroom fascia, bleachers at Pop Warner field, Tot Park pavilion, Wishing Well at Central Park and Tank touch up.
- Parks will catch up on weed pulling once there is two days of dry weather or it is a waste of time.
- Another limb fell at Central Park behind the Memorial. The crew cleaned up, but need to address this area of the park. Craft Show vendors and symphony attendees are in this area.
- Thank you to Diane and will miss her great recap of meetings.
- Al called Guardian about moles at South Park.
- Waiting for concrete pads at Central Park (6-4'x5', 1-10'x10' and maybe add another 10'x10')

School Board Liaison's Report: Kathy Ruesken reported that is a slow period, since schools are out for the summer. However, there are roofing projects in process that are going well and the next project will be chillers for the schools.

Imagine Griffith Report: Dan Perez reported the following:

- The Art Banners are printed and look great. They will be hung up intermittently down Broad Street and throughout Central Park.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Town-Wide Garage Sale will be Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup> and Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Tim Diamond asked how residents can participate. Residents can participate either both days or just one day. There is no permit required. Anyone interested in participating can sign up by going to the Clerk Treasurer Office at Town Hall or calling 219.924.7500. A digital map will be created of all participating residents. Additional, ideas were discussed regarding how to promote the event.
- The launch of Arts Initiative is still in discussion. There a few other art projects that are being discussed and artists with experience are interested and the initiative is really taking off. They are looking to have more public art in different ways and in different places. Imagine Griffith took the approach of asking the artists what they would like to do and some great ideas are forming. In addition, they will continue to do Inside-Out Community Art projects because it resonates better and the community really takes pride in these types of projects.

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

Tim Diamond went over the items of unfinished business:

1. DNR Grant – Still working on the fine details for the DNR Grant that will be used for completing Firefighters Park. The \$100,000 matching grant will be used to for the pavilion, washrooms, sidewalks and parking area.
2. Woodland Playground – Due to a lot of rain this past June, it was realized that Woodland Park continues to have a drainage issue. Tim Diamond is researching what can be done to fix the drainage issue. Also, Tim reached out to a few companies asking what it would take to do update Woodland Park to something similar in regards to equipment and soft service that is at Firefighters Park.
3. Pickle Ball Courts – waiting to start construction on this project until funding from Legacy Grant is received and approved for usage.

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

1. Vacation of Public Way - John Dudlicek made a motion to allow Tim Diamond to sign a petition to the Town Council requesting Vacation of Public Way for property near the new Fireman's Park, seconded by Christine Wroblewski. Motion Carried.

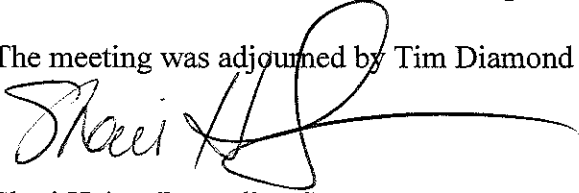
#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:**

- 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 and Al Markut met with Zach Baines regarding his Eagle Scout project. Zach will be making a sign for Panther Park. John to follow up to finalize details.
- c. Frontier Girls – Al Markut approved the Frontier Girls to place Buddy Benches in the parks throughout Griffith.

## NEW BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Jeff Zielinski founder of Drift Wood Collective, Joshua Nesius of Jet Black Skate Boards and Joe Murovic of Region Rat Skate Shop discussed the possibility of putting a skate park in the Town of Griffith. They discussed their background in the industry, the benefits of having a skate park and possible fundraising for a skate park. John Dudlicek informed them that there currently was no available funds for a skate park and other projects are a higher priority. The board suggested they discuss their ideas at the next Town Council and Imagine Griffith meetings.

The meeting was adjourned by Tim Diamond at 8:05 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shari Heins", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Shari Heins, Recording Secretary