**GRIFFITH PARKS and RECREATION BOARD**

**Minutes for the March 8, 2021 meeting:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 am. at the Town Hall, 111 N. Broad Street in Griffith, Indiana by ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­– Tim Diamond. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

The meeting was attended by the following members:

–Tim Diamond -Dan Perez- Sue Hoese-John Dudlicek, School Board Liaison--Rich Powell- Park Supervisor

Dan Perez made a motion to accept the February 8, 2021 minutes. Sue Hoese seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

Sue Hoese presents the claim. John Dudlicek motions to approve the claims 32433-32452 in the amount of $2,984.99. Dan Perez seconds the motion, claims approved.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Tim Diamond announced that the next Park Board meeting will be held on April 12, 2021 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

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Tim Diamond received inquiry about a dog park. He replied to the requester indicating he has been in contact with Lake County, regarding a Dog Park location at Oak Ridge Prairie

**Park Superintendent: Rich Powell reported as follows:**

* Two full weeks of snow removal.
* Replaced blades on mowers.
* Put up futsal nets.
* Cleaned up the shop.

**School Board Liaison’s Report: John Dudlicek reported the following:**

* The school is talking about allowing outside sports to use the Schools fields for practices since not allowing it because of covid. It is the intent of the school to begin to allow that again.

**Imagine Griffith Report:**

**None.**

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

Tim Diamond went over the items of unfinished business:

* Memorial walk will be repaved with CDBG funds and will get done sometime this summer. Will have a big campaign for memorial bricks and put out flyers in the water bills.
* Parks received new mower and in the process of getting their new truck from Ford.

**NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:**

* After the meeting Baseball and Softball will sign their leases for use of the fields and concessions for the season.
* The Park board stated that they will credit Baseball and Softball for the months they did not use the fields for utilities and rent from the 2020 season due to Covid.

Dan Perez moves to allow Tim Diamond to present and allow the signage of the lease agreements for the spring/summer seasons for Baseball and Softball for 2021. Sue Hoese approves. Motion approved.

**NEW BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:**

* A resident by the name of Mike Hamilton states he lives near the Pickle Ball courts and walks near there daily, and the parking is a real issue for the safety of people living on the block. Board plans to take care of that issue as soon as they have the funds to do so. The resident also asked about using the school parking lot, but most people use the courts while school is in session.
* Marco the president of Griffith Girls Softball wants to sign for them to use their fields immediately. Park Board says that is fine. Tim Diamond also states that they received some grants from Lever Brothers and Legacy Foundation that will be used to fix up the softball fields at Cheever, fencing and mesh so they are usable this season. Marco also states that one of the fields needs some extra fencing behind it, in case of someone getting hit, the board says they will look at it.
* Brook Lowe from GYB asks if the lights on the Babe Ruth Field are working because the previous year the league had issues with the lights not working properly. Rich Powell- Park Superintendent says he will look at the switches.
* Rick Konopasek- (retired Public Works Director) attended and states that he has heard rumors of the town repurposing Central Park with the remodeling of the baseball fields. He said they plan to add a centered concession stand with the fields surrounding. He suggests that prior to making this decision the town should make sure the numbers are there for baseball before spending such a large sum of money. Rick suggests that as taxpayers the town should be able to utilize the school’s fields for their games and practices. He also brings up that he has heard the town plans to surround the Central Park with a fence and permanent stage, while he says the fence is something he could get past he is tired of seeing the tents and outhouses used for the Friday Market sit on the corner of Pine and Broad the remainder of the week after the Market is over, that it makes the park look sloppy and as someone who lives across from it, it is not a nice to look at. Rick says he very much enjoys attending the market and listening to the music and having a good time, but he thinks that there is a better way to set it up so that there aren’t tents and other things sitting on the corner all summer. He has also had issues with people leaving the market and throwing garbage in his yard or walking through his yard and even in his bushes urinating. He presented some photos of his concern and will bring it to the Town Council meeting if need be. He also says, The Parks Department is doing a wonderful job keeping the park clean and that this is not something that is their issue. The Park Board says this is indeed something that needs to be brought to The Town Council, and that there has been issues with renting out the pavilions for birthdays and graduations and they do not have space because the stage is still there.

The meeting was adjourned by Tim Diamond at 8:08 p.m.

**Attested:**

