**GRIFFITH PARKS and RECREATION BOARD**

**Minutes for the May 10, 2021 meeting:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm. 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 -Tony Terzarial-John Dudlicek, School Board Liaison -Rich Powell- Park Director.

John Dudlicek made a motion to accept the April 12, 2021 minutes. Tony Terzarial seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

Sue Hoese presents the claims and motions to approve the claims in the amount of $12,234.24. However, she questions whether the Park Board should be paying for light replacements around Central Park, making the point that she believes that is general town maintenance. With that being said and considered John Dudlicek seconds the motion, claims approved.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Tim Diamond announced that the next Park Board meeting will be held on June 14th 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)

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Tim Diamond said there was a question by a resident Gary Horvath, asking about the trees and the fence going up at Central Park, he referred them to the Town Council seeing as though that is their project.

A resident Maggie Burns also works for the DNR offered help with grant programs.

Request for Army RTC to use a place for a BBQ looking for an area with a grill.

Dan Perez states he received correspondence from Kelly Jones from Griffith Pop Warner. She was concerned about the high prices she pays at Griffith High School and was looking to upgrade the area they rent at South Park now to accommodate them and is willing to help in anyway.

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

* Mowing
* Electrical work
* Plumbing repairs
* Vacations, down to three men
* Lots of graffiti, spent two and a half days cleaning it up with pressure washers. One of the kids doing it have been caught, for the second time now. The police department is taking care of it.
* Rest room cleaning has been going better than expected. Had a couple issues with the bathrooms not being locked. Just going to be a process getting everyone on board with how things are supposed to be done.

**School Board Liaison’s Report:** John Dudlicek reported the following: Construction will be happening at Wadsworth and Middle/Highschool. Administrative office will be at the Beiriger for the summer. Will talk to school about costs for Pop-warner and Blackcats.

**Imagine Griffith Report:** Spring Town Wide Garage Sale 3 days May 21,22,23. 70 households so far participating.

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

Tim Diamond went over the items of finished business:

* Memorial walk paving from the CDBG grant, bids were awarded to H3 Concrete, deciding whether to start before or after Blues Fest.
* Cheever Project with the softball field have been finished. Fence, concrete and bleachers where done. 10,000 donated from Lever and 50,000 Legacy Grant helped pay for this work. Volunteers from Lever helped with part of the project.
* 39th Ln park still under construction due to the work going on at Restaurant Depot.
* Waiting for counter sign back from Nipsco, for the equipment and path at Firefighter’s Park. Tim says the town would like to avoid placing things on the bike path before getting approval for Nipsco.

**NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:**

* DNR Grant we are applying for due on June 1st. Town is going after a rather large loan; with the DNR grants you get matching funds. You can go up to 500,000. The director from DNR says the State Parks are not going after these funds, so we have a large chance of receiving these funds. Tim asks the Board whether they have any issue with receiving Federal Funds. If you use Federal Funds on a Park that property must remain a Park. If it ever changes you must get government permission. Tim does not see this adding a commitment or ‘string’ that doesn’t already exist. The plan is to use these funds for Tot Park which includes enhancement on basketball courts, move playground back and improve it, add handicapped accessible spots, new rentable pavilion, walk track, and a small Skate Park. Tim Diamond says that we are the only town in NWI that does not have a Skate Park for our children, and there are a lot of skateboarders in town.

John Dudlicek makes a motion that the board allows Tim Diamond to continue applying for and trying to secure the DNR Grant that will allow us to add improvements to Tot Park, Tony Terzarial seconds the motion to secure these funds. Board approves.

The Park Board has taken notices that the Park Departments wages are very outdated, they recommend that The Town Council revises those.

John Dudlicek recommends that The Town Council change the Park Supervisor Salary Ordinance from 12.00-20.00 an hour and the experienced supervisor from 8.00-14.00 an hour. Board agrees with recommendation. 0

Central Park renovation place is being worked on, working on Phase one at the moment Have taken down and planted trees, starting fence. Central Park is more of a Town Council project, Tim will try and keep up with what they are working on.

Woodland Park Story Walk is being worked on with Park Board help and Tri-Kappa. Cleaned up path and brush. Little Library has been put up, however needs to be moved at the moment. The concept of a story walk is to have panels with pages to a book, so that you can take a walk down the path and read passages from a book together and discuss it on your walk. Still a bit of work that needs to be done, possible woodchips down as the path, still up for discussion on how the layout will be. Tim says a letter needs to be drafted so that the residence know what is happening.

**NEW BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:**

* Kelly Larney from St. John, originally from Griffith and President of Pop Warner is present and would like to discuss the possibility of getting their own field built somewhere in town for the kids. Her reason behind this is that the School is charging a lot per game and they require that you use their concessions which allows Pop-Warner no profit because they use the entry fees to pay the referee. The Town explains that the only area to do this is South Park, and the pipeline runs underneath there so it is not usable. John says he would like to talk with the schools to get the costs down, because there really is not a spot in the town to add another field. Dan Perez also says the biggest thing here is that we need to explore the options with the school, or share with the soccer field. Kelly is addiment that she would like these kids to have their own field, because she wants to build the program. John explains that at the school you can play on the turf and not get rained out. Tim says part of the attraction for the kids playing is getting to play on the Highschool field. Kelly argues that the numbers are not down and she wants to build the program to keep up with “Tri-Town” and other Football programs in the area. The board says it is not that they don’t want to do this for her, but the town has no land at the time to build this. They agree that it is worth a look.
* Rich Powell asks how people prove the pavilion is theirs because there was an issue with a family that rented the pavilion and kicked people out. The Clerks office does provide receipts for proof that the pavilion belongs to you for the day.

Meeting Adjourned 8:22 PM

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**Attested:**

