**GRIFFITH PARKS and RECREATION BOARD**

**Minutes for the September 13, 2021 meeting:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 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(Absent) -Tony Terzarial-John Dudlicek, School Board Liaison -Rich Powell- Park Director.

Dan Perez made a motion to accept the August 9, 2021 minutes. Tony Terzarial seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

John Dudlicek makes a motion to accept the claims 35306-35339 in the amount of $10,012.63. Terzarial seconded the motion and the claims where approved.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Tim Diamond announced that the next Park Board meeting will be held on October 11, 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](mailto:griffithparks@griffith.in.gov)

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Tim Diamond states he received a letter from Nipsco that they will be doing work on the Bike Path

Tim also received a request for a permanent bike rack at Central Park.

Memorial Walk is getting a bit overgrown looking into getting some more landscaping in that area.

The adopt a spot on the southwest corner of Central Park was taken over by Girl Scouts however it hasn’t really been taken care of well so they will be looking into making it easier to maintain with new landscaping.

Carl from the YMCA will be returning, he has always been easy to work with and very helpful so Tim is hopeful that this will be a good thing for the Park Board.

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

* Mowing
* Keeping up with weed eating
* Short on help again
* A lot of vandalism, hard to keep up with
* Gentleman stopped him on the trail asking for more dog waste stations
* People also looking for water fountains and bathroom facilities on the trail
* Set up and cleaned up after Rock n Rail.

Rich also mentioned the Parks garage needs some roof repair done. Rich was told the Parks Department should only be responsible for half of that because the town occupies the other portion of the garage. The quote he received seemed very high there for he will get other quotes and look into what portion they are responsible for seeing as they just took a hit having to pay for the sprinkler system at Central Park. At most 10 foot of gutter is damaged. Tim also says quote sounds crazy high and they would get another quotes. John Dudlicek says every contractor of every trade is busy right now and materials are sky high everywhere at the moment.

Rich says he has tried to contact the cleaning service with no response. Tony says this has been talked about several times and nothing has been done yet. The Park Board agrees that something needs to be done however there are only six weeks left of their contract. Rich did not see anything in the new budget for cleaning services however it isn’t final yet.

Kevin from Highland lock and key suggests for ease of work and cost is that the doorknob key will be for Little League and Babe Ruth to use. He will put plates on the frame and on the door so that you can’t open it easily and he will replace all the deadbolts and that will be Rich’s key so he can lock and unlock the concessions. Cost will be less than 200 dollar. That cost will be the leagues responsible for the cost since they have yet to turn their keys in to the Parks.

**School Board Liaison’s Report:** John Dudlicek states that Panther Pride night is September 24th. Education foundation will be running a 50/50 at that. Wadsworth playground is almost complete the kids are using it already there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for that at the end of the month, dates and time will be posted on the website. The district received a 25,000 grant from the Telephone Pioneers they used that to provide innovative and inclusive seating in the Theatre Lobby.

**Imagine Griffith Report:** Dan says they have installed some unique public art pieces with the theme being “Play In Our Time”. Lots of compliments on the flower beds and flower pots this year. Once again they will do the Griffith Walk to benefit the Griffith Emergency Fund they will have 30 trees available to sponsor, installed in mid-November. Next meeting will be October 28th 6:30 pm at the Franklin Center

**Finance Report: None**

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

* Memorial walk paving finished and looking very nice. Came under budget so they are doing a few little fix ups near the bathroom, which have also been done. Rich says they need to come up with a way to add and replace bricks. John says to wait until we have about 5 bricks they will call the contractor to come back out and add them on their leisure. John says they need to have the contractor come out and not have the Parks do it so that nothing gets destroyed.
* 39th Ln Park is finished and the Park was supposed to be restored by Restaurant Depot however there was no written agreement. The Park Board does plan to fix that back up and make sure it remains a Park in some way or another. Rich says it needs to be graded down it was filled in very high. Tony is not happy with the way the Park was left by Restaurant Depot and says something needs to be done about it.
* The Park Board must make sure none of the equipment is laid over the utilities, when they fix it.
* DNR Grant, no word on that just yet. Expect to hear back end of September beginning of October.
* Tri Kappa working on the story walk. They are working with Baxter Printing to get some signs made for that. The Legacy Grant should be a good grant to use for this project. That window opens up October 1st and Tim will put an application for that Grant it goes up to 25,000 dollars, should hear back about that by December. Will use it for more tree trimming and cleaning up.
* Rich says the mess at Pop-Warner has been taken care of the only issue they are having now is a messed up breaker. The storage unit and tires are gone and it has been mowed down and looks good.

Tim Diamond went over the items of finished business:

**NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:**

* Handball tournament is October 9th. They are looking for approval to have alcohol.
* John Dudlicek makes a motion to recommend The Town Council to approve the Handball Tournaments request to have alcohol at the event. Tony Terzarial seconds. Motion approved
* Park Survey going on went from 155 to 200 surveys filled out. Has gone out on the Town waterbill for people to be able to access.
* The courts at Cheever are strictly for Futsal if not being used they may be used for Pickleball. If they are used by Pickleball they need to be put back together to be a Futsal court. The Pickleball people have said they will get off the court for Futsal it hasn’t ever been an issue, however the Park Board will make sure to relay the message that it is a Futsal Court first and a Pickleball Court second. Tim would like to figure out how to put a larger Futsal Court somewhere, and have permanent Pickleball Court at Cheever. Near the Handball Court there seems to be a lot of space where the blacktop lays, will possibly look into getting that fenced in there.
* Russ Posen the director of engineering at DVG: out of Crown Point. Russ states they are about 33 people and they are Surveyors and Civil Engineers. From an engineering standpoint they are Site Civil. From commercial industrial developments to athletic fields. Designs they have done have been the Sportsplex in Crown Point a lot of artificial turf at Baseball, Softball and Baseball fields. Russ says prior to DVG he used to be a Consultant who worked for Chicago Public School District, he has managed, designed, and check construction for artificial turf fields, new playground systems. Worked with New Toys, Game Time. Worked with them to get the playground equipment products and design the playground including the drainage and piping, and extending the life of these playgrounds. From a company standpoint they know fields, parks and all the things the Town of Griffith needs to go into their plan for the Parks. They coordinate with the Board to make sure they are following they Ordinances and Resolutions to make sure everything is done correctly. Once they coordinate, they get it set for bids, by using whatever vendors the Town would like to go through. In a nutshell they are there to coordinate with the Town of Griffith make sure everything gets done correctly.

Tony asks if Russ has ever seen Diamonds coordinated for both Softball and Baseball. Russ says it is doable however it is not an easy thing to do with the difference in measurements used in both sports. Tony also asks if you can do partial Turf, partial real grass. Russ says that is not an issue it has been done.

Russ says the type of equipment and shape of it is the Towns choice. Russ works to make sure the drainage and everything works well with the choices. He says they work basically ground down to make sure everything is laid out and down correctly. The thickness of concrete, the type of mulch, the way the ground is laid stuff pertaining to the design of the layout. Russ says they do design lighting however they really don’t do camera systems. Russ’s intention is to not be on site 24/7 but to come by and make sure the contractor is doing the design correctly. Russ says they give a budget on how much he believes they will need him and they budget can go higher or lower. Russ wants to hear and know the legal descriptions of what the Grant requires from them prior to getting started. John says they are going to take all of this under advisement and decide what Parks to tackle first before deciding to get started, but they’d like to get someone on the hook here to get bid documents out so they can start building in the spring.

**NEW BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:**

Meeting Adjourned 8:03 PM

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**Attested:**

