

GRIFFITH PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

Minutes for the April 11, 2022, meeting:

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm 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 following members attended the meeting:

John Volkmann, School Board Liaison - Dan Perez - Sue Hoes, absent — Tim Diamond — Tony Terzarial
Member Tony Terzarial made a motion to approve the March 8th meeting, seconded by Member John Volkmann, Motion Carried.

Claims in the amount of \$7,410.66, Claim numbers 38123-38515, Member Dan Perez made a motion to approve the claims as read, seconded by Member Tony Terzarial, Motion Carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The next Park Board meeting will be held on May 9, 2022, at 7:00 pm. There will be a study session at 6:00 pm, before the meeting and one will follow if necessary.
2. Reminder for all residents if any graffiti, damage, or questionable behavior is seen in Town Parks please call 911.
3. General comments or questions regarding the Parks please reach out to griffithparks@griffith.in.gov.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Resident concerned about all the dog waste on the bike trail, common scene at some of the parks. Looking at a sign stating that there is a \$50.00 fine, higher.
2. 39th Lane Park: Talked about at the last Town Council Meeting. The Restaurant Depot ran utilities through the park. Removed some season equipment we had in there which is not going back. Now that there are utilities going through, we cannot build playground equipment on top of that section. We are leaving that right side of the park as green space. The equipment has been ordered and is supposed to be installed March 31st. The supply change has been challenging. Targeted for the first week of May. The swings and the castle will stay, the new apparatus.

REPORTS:

Park Superintendent: Rich Powell

1. Cleaned the storage loft in the park garage, hauled two dump truck loads of stuff that has been stored for as long as the park was formed. Restacking all the bricks that were scattered. Cleaning the bathrooms, working on the Story Book walk, cut down trees on the trail and South Park. Cleaned up the South end of the Trail, cleaned up the leaves at the ball fields and have moved tables to places that were needed, except for Central due to the work being done at the park. The new cleaning crew for the bathrooms will start this week. Which they are holding the same price as last year. New employees starting April 18th. There are two other applications that Officer Christ referred that are high school age waiting to receive. There is another individual who is interested in the position but has not picked up the packet.
2. There have been some things going on that need to be addressed. Two weeks in a row brake lines have rotted off two of our trucks. The whole underneath is all rotted out according to the mechanic. One of the tires on the inside are down to the core so new tires new brake lines, brake pads. Friday, we ended up with a bent push rod on one of the lawnmower motors, which is being worked on. Park Superintendent Rich Powell had a question about all the memorials i.e.: benches, trees. A family buys a memorial tree and we put the marker out (plaque mounted on a 6x6) while I have four of them right now that the posts are rotting, have been there for so many years. Does the Town now take the cost to replace these memorials, or do we need to try and track the families down that originally had them placed, how do I go about handling that very delicately, some of the families may not be in the area. The plaque and the post and labor close to \$100.00. President Tim Diamond said we can research and advise next meeting.

3. The Futsal: We have the bleachers, picnic tables set up this morning. Looking at that field when they paint the handball do they use a truck for that? We need three double gates because the fence is so close to the wall its now only about four feet off the end of each wall, you need to access each side of the wall separately with a truck or equipment, and you need one for futsal if you must repave, paint. Tim stated we will have to check on that. Rich stated you must take the bar off the bottom and disassemble. We just unhooked and slid a section back and stepped over the pipe. We are just carrying the set of bleachers out. Tim stated the people that do the surface use different machines not trucks.
4. There are no rentals at all on Rich's calendar and was told the Parks are all rented out. Nothing showing on the computer. Tim stated that Michelle was using a google calendar. Rich stated he would like to suggest changes to the rental form. Setting a time rather than 10 am to dusk. Dusk to different people is different time, some of the party's could be loud. The board will review the form.
5. Rich asked what should we do with the vehicles? Patch up? The cost for repairs Rich is waiting for the bill. Public Works did all the work. Rich stated we are keeping them running but need to be replaced. Tim stated to get some quotes, look around to replace.

School Board Liaison's Report: John Volkmann

1. Biggest item with the school is the push for the referendum. There are yard signs, banners, mailers people walking door to door to get the word out.
2. The school is taking on a bond. We will be renting some portable schools to put up near Wadsworth. It has been brought up why do not we reopen Ready, we would need at least a bare minimum of 450 students to make it feasible to reopen and we just do not have that yet. If we do in the future, it could be a possibility.
3. Registration for summer school and for next year is on the school website. Tim asked what the amount of the bond is? John stated he believed five million, the work at Wadsworth, the rental of portables and reconfigure the driveway around it, making it better traffic for pick up and drop off and connect to the back of the street.

IMAGINE GRIFFITH REPORT:

1. Imagine Griffith was awarded a \$450.00 Grant from Lake County Master Garden Association to go toward the perennials and other plants for various places in Town, the planting will start in May. The Flowerpot planting will take place the week after Mother's Day.
2. A letter is being created for anyone that has one of the adopt a spot, along bike trail and bump outs along town and are managed by volunteers. There are still a few areas that need to be adopted.
3. Teaming up with Panther Adult Program, to build and pay for the little libraries. Replacing three that have done their time. ½ inch plywood is needed please reach out to Val Wotkun.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

1. Woodlawn Story Walk: Trimming up and the Arborist coming through looking at risk limbs, touching up and looking good. Working on the path. Markers being put up. Additional signage.
2. Cheever Park enhancement, fencing is up. New surface. Rich asked about the funds, Tim stated from the bond.
3. TOT Park: Waiting on official letter for the DNR Grant, new playground equipment, soft ground.
4. DNR matching plan, requirements, approved 5-year Master Plan. Working on a Resolution 2022-22. Master Plan is on the Town website under Parks and Recreation.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

1. Resolution 2022-22 Master Plan Park Board Five Year Master Plan Resolution: Member Dan Perez made a motion to adopt Park Board Five Year Master Plan Resolution, seconded by Member Tony Tezarial, Motion Carried.
2. Member Dan Perez asked any opposition for use of porta potty at Cheever Park.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jennifer Jones: The dog waste, could we put cameras or fake cameras? Tim stated it could cause a liability. Throughout the Park there could be dispenser, Rich stated we have one and we fill it and the next day it is empty.

President Tim Diamond adjourned the meeting, at 8:01



Tim Diamond, Park Board President



Recording Secretary