

GRIFFITH PARKS and RECREATION BOARD

Minutes for the January 14, 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 -Dan Perez -Christine Wroblewski
-Al Markut, Park Superintendent -Kathy Ruesken, School Board Liaison

Jim Marker, Town Council Liaison was absent.

Elections: Nominations for president: John Dudlicek nominated Tim Diamond; seconded by Dan Perez. Tim accepted the nomination; all in favor.

Nominations for vice-president: Dan Perez nominated John Dudlicek; seconded by Kathy Ruesken. John accepted the nomination. All in favor.

John Dudlicek made a motion to approve the December 10, 2018 minutes. Kathy Ruesken seconded the motion; minutes were approved.

Christine Wroblewski presented claims 21418 through 21423 in the amount of \$1530.63. She then made a motion to accept the claims as presented. Kathy Ruesken seconded the motion; motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Tim Diamond announced that the next Park Board meeting will be held on February 11, 2019 at 7 PM. A study session will be held at 6 PM, and a follow-up meeting will take place after the regularly scheduled meeting if necessary.

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 regarding the parks or bike paths can be directed to griffithparks@griffith.in.gov

CORRESPONDENCE:

Tim Diamond announced that the Park Board has received a \$1000.00 donation from the Griffith Rotary to be used for improvements at Panther Park.

An inquiry was received regarding a story walk where folks would take a book and puts pieces of the book throughout a walkway or park and classes would go walk and read the book.

REPORTS:

Park Superintendent: Al Markut reported as follows:

1. The ice rink has been laid down. Sandbags had been thrown into the rink and had to be chipped out and the holes filled. The signs have been taken down and put away for the time being. Al said he had seen something on the computer he could put together to act similar to a Zamboni and was anxious to try it out. It works off a fire hydrant with a cold water hose. He did also have a special hose which never freezes. He added that he turned on the lights at the rink but didn't flip all the switches, so they will be activated tomorrow. Al also stated that the rink was still not level. He had thought of redoing the border and having a ½ splash pad and ½ volleyball court; only half of this area would be frozen. Tim Diamond remarked that Wicker Park's splash pad/ice rink only lasted about one year. John Dudlicek suggested holding down the liner with parking bumpers instead of the sand bags. He added that the deepness of the rink will be adjusted when we build a shed there.
2. Al then asked what he should do at Cheever Park. He was told by Tim Diamond to take out the poles and the sandbox and then level the ground off. Tim thought that the school may want some of the area for parking. He added that the cement part is still a walking trail; the area may be made a green space.
3. Al stated that Midwest had been looking at the lights at Franklin Field and they may have fixed the problem with the wiring there.
4. He then questioned his snow removal priorities. His first area of concern is the Town Hall and then the Senior Center. He then cleans the 100 block of Broad. He wondered if the ice rink should be last. Tim thought that the ice rink and the bike trail would be used before the parks.
5. Al then remarked that when he gets to buy another vehicle, he will be requesting a 4 wheeler in order to put a plow on it.
6. Al said that 10 truckloads of branches were taken off trees on the south trail. From Avenue C to the pavilion north, there are stakes in the ground. Nipsco will come in and clean this area out; they will cut

- in 3 to 4 feet making the trail straight. Rick Konpasek and Al will meet with Nipsco about the trees on the trail; 18 may be involved which are on their easement.
7. He then added that the first planted tree from 45th Street with a marker is dead. He wanted to know if he can replace it. Tim Diamond responded that it shouldn't be difficult to get a replacement tree. Tim then asked Al if the stumps are taken out on all the trees which have been cut down. Al replied that sometimes the stumps are left if they are in the center of other trees because it weakens the area. Tim stated that the tree inventory found a lot of stumps which need to be removed.
 8. Al then reminded Tim that he would like all the contact numbers for the ball fields. He will be bringing Nipsco figures next month.

School Board Liaison's Report –Kathy Ruesken reported that there will be a Robotics Tournament at the High School Fieldhouse on this Sunday, January 20, from 10 am – 4:30 pm. She announced that the graduation rate of 97.45% has been published. Kathy also stated that the annual spaghetti dinner hosted by the Administration staff will be held on Thursday, January 31, beginning at 4:00 at the middle school/high school cafeteria. The dinner showcases the accomplishments of the students and thanks them for their hard work.

Imagine Griffith Report – Dan Perez announced that this group will be holding its first meeting of this year to discuss the 2019 projects. It will be held on Thursday, January 24 at 6:30 in the Community Room at Franklin Center.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

Tim Diamond went over the unfinished business:

1. Tree Inventory – Tim plans on taking a deeper dive into this data which is online and will report next month. It does identify every tree in the park and on the bike trail and the conditions of them. We will be able to determine which trees need to be replaced.
2. Park District Bond Issue - The bond in the amount of \$625,000 has been finalized. We will receive \$605,000 – 608,000 over the next 3 years. The Board will be working to prioritize projects and enhancements. The Town Council did say that if there were any plans for a skate park, they need to be brought to them. Also, anything over \$150,000 needs to go through the bid process.
3. DNR Grant – We did get a verbal agreement from the state's DNR on the \$100,000.00 bond for Firefighter Park. We are looking at a pavilion, parking, sidewalks and a bathroom for that park. The DNR grant has been approved by the state but it needs to be submitted to the federal level for confirmation. We had been told that we would receive approval to spend these funds by March, but the government shutdown could hold up the process.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

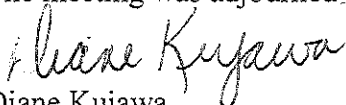
- a. Little Library 39th Park – Kathy Ruesken stated that she had seen on social media that the girls are working to get the boxes designed and decorated. When the weather allows, Ms. Dillard will meet Rick Konopasek, Al and Kathy to find a place to put the library. Al suggested putting it in the west corner up against the fence.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Sarah Kubaszak from Griffith Girls' Softball was in attendance. Tim Diamond mentioned that there had been some discussion regarding the proposal for the electrical work for a new scoreboard. Sarah said that their group wanted to know what needed to be on the scoreboard. Tim Diamond said that there were some examples to look at to determine how things should be displayed. Al Markut then remarked that there were quite a few lights out at the field and that the center pole sometimes doesn't come on.

John Dudlicek mentioned that the field leases would be signed in March. Al Markut wondered if the trees at the softball field were included on the tree inventory report. One of the trees hangs over the fence and the kids climb on it. There is another tree by the bleachers which the kids climb on; moving the bleachers could prevent this.

The meeting was adjourned by President, Tim Diamond, at 7:42 pm.


Diane Kujawa
Recording Secretary