

GRIFFITH PARKS and RECREATION BOARD

Minutes for the August 12, 2019 meeting:

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. at the Town Hall, 111 N. Broad Street in Griffith, Indiana by – John Dudlicek. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

The meeting was attended by the following members:

-John Dudlicek -Tim Diamond (Absent) -Al Markut (Absent) -Christine Wroblewski (Absent)
-Dan Perez -Jim Marker, Town Council Liaison -Kathy Ruesken, School Board Liaison

Dan Perez made a motion to accept the July 8, 2019 minutes. Kathy Ruesken seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

Claims in the amount of \$37,442.43 Numbered 24380-224426 were presented. Kathy Ruesken made a motion to accept the claims as presented. Dan Perez seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

John Dudlicek announced that the next Park Board meeting will be held on September 9, 2019 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:

Tri Kappa Donation/Sponsorship – Tri Kappa will be making a donation of \$5,000 proceeds will go to sponsor the Girls Softball Score Board and the purchase of new swings (adult/toddler combo swing) for Woodland Park. The swings are in the process of being installed.

Woodland Sign Landscaping – A citizen named Christine Woerner requested to clean up the landscaping around the Woodland Park sign. She took the initiative and completed the project on her own and did a great job. She is interested in being part of other projects moving forward.

National Fitness Campaign - Tim Diamond is in discussions with National Fitness Campaign to potentially place one of their Fitness Courts in Panther Park. The Fitness Court is an outdoor bodyweight circuit training center that provides a full-body workout to adults of all ability levels. With 7 functional fitness zones, the Fitness Court can be used in thousands of ways.

REPORTS:

Park Superintendent: Jim Marker read Al Markut's report as follows:

- New truck was ordered on 7/26/2019 the cost was 30K and will trade in #258 when it comes in. Should take 4-6 weeks.
- Ordered 3 new benches and 4-seat table for Central Park. Should take 4-5 weeks to come in. Will put together and mount on pads.
- This is the last week for summer help. Will be down 6 people.
- Thought the Fire Department was going to water trees that were planted this spring. Parks has been watering plants Downtown at least once a week while we had bodies
- 3 – 4 trees that NIPSCO planted have died. They said they would replace them this fall.
- Table moving (40) taking a toll on my guys! Moving tables and cans all month long. We lose ½ day work each time. Time and man power are an issue. Hard to take care of our stuff, much less all the extra stuff we're asked to do. Been a rough month with Park Full of Art, movies, Symphony and Central Market. Rich Powell from the Parks Department was in attendance to elaborate on this issue. He stated that moving tables and trash cans for events has been taking up over 50% of their time. The board agreed to research the issue in more detail.
- Would be nice if we could have someone do the landscaping at Franklin Building and Islands on Broad Street. Maybe once a season would help. Not volunteers – someone in the business? My budget or Imagine Griffith?
- Cheever field was to be raked this year at the start up- never happened and the weeds are taking over. We don't have equipment to drag the field. I thought softball was going to get it done?

School Board Liaison's Report: Kathy Ruesken reported

- Tomorrow, Tuesday August 13, 2019 will be the 1st day back for the 2019 – 2020 school year. Everyone is very excited and confident it will be a great year.

Imagine Griffith Report: Dan Perez reported the following:

- The Art Banners are hung on Broad Street and throughout Central Park.
- The launch of Arts Initiative is still in discussion and a separate sub team will be formed to lead this initiative.
- The 3rd Annual Town-Wide Garage Sale will be Saturday, September 21st and Sunday, September 22nd. Tim Diamond asked how residents can participate. Residents can participate either both days or just one day. There is no permit required. Anyone interested in participating can sign up by going to the Clerk Treasurer Office at Town Hall or calling 219.924.7500. A digital map will be created of all participating residents.
- A goal is to have art on the bike trail. Looking into matching grants to help with the funding.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

John Dudlicek went over the items of unfinished business:

1. DNR Grant – Tim Diamond answered a few outstanding questions regarding the DNR grant, which will be used for completing Firefighters Park. The \$100,000 matching grant will be used to for the pavilion, washrooms, sidewalks and parking area. Quotes are being requested from potential vendors/contractors.
2. Woodland Playground – Due to a lot of rain this past June, it was realized that Woodland Park continues to have a drainage issue. John Dudlicek met with Rick Konopasek at the park and was able to determine what was causing the issue. Request for quotes have been sent out for fixing the drainage issue.
3. Pickle Ball Courts – The fence for courts started going up on Monday, August 8, 2019 and the new surfacing of the courts will be next. Once completed the court will be used for pickle ball and roller hockey.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD:

No New Business from the Board.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

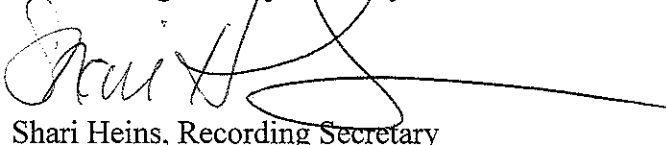
Joe Murovic of Region Rat Skate Shop attended a previous Imagine Griffith and Town Council meeting and it was suggested for him to collect signatures from local businesses in support of a skate park. He submitted a list of signatures to the Park Board that he collected thus far. John Dudlicek emphasized that it will be a long process to obtain permission, as well as, funding for a skate park. Joe M. suggested another possibility of starting small and having functional “skateable” art on the bike path. Luke R. a resident and local artist elaborated on how art can be used by skaters. The idea was well received and it was suggested that both Joe and Luke should team up with Imagine Griffith regarding the art on the bike path.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Jessie Smith a fall travel baseball coach would like to rent out the Babe Ruth field twice a week starting in August. He has had trouble reaching Dusty. Mike Feliciano another baseball coach from Griffith said it is very difficult to get access to the Babe Ruth field. John Dudlicek said he would follow up with the Town Youth program to see if has availability.

Laura Gabey, David Harder and Linda Harder are going to purchase two park benches to dedicate to their class members that were Vietnam Veterans. They suggested placing the benches in a special spot by Veterans' Memorial in Central Park. A few board members agreed to meet them at the park after the meeting to discuss.

The meeting was adjourned by John Dudlicek at 7:42 p.m.



Shari Heins, Recording Secretary