

April Minutes

Members:

- Present: Josh Welch, Erica Parvin, Laura Redding, Reba Casler, Beth Davis, Rick Homkes
- Absent: Sabrina Parnham, Ashley Wyrick, Jill Newby, Matt Johnson, Kyle Parvin
- Guests: Jason Hampshire, Todd Hampshire, Donnie Parvin (all for part of meeting)
- Meeting started at 5:30 PM on 4/6/2016

Topics:

- Russiaville Town Park Update. Jason Hampshire offered to complete his Boy Scout Eagle Project at the Russiaville Town Park. He reported on some preliminary research regarding ground cover; that Western Schools had just completed a remulching of the playground area using a “featherwood” mulch purchased through Recreation Unlimited. In addition, he had looked at the recommendations from the federal Consumer Product Safety Commission and found that pea gravel has a relatively poor fall height rating. Discussion followed on what needs to be done at the park. Items mentioned included the border on the child swing being too close for someone to push (not the big kids swings or the swings in Brady Park), the swing and chain on the white unit being gummy and meant for home use, the missing shade cover on the white unit, and the mulching, especially around the merry-go-round and the big kids swings. Todd Hampshire offered to repair some of the swing brackets that have been frozen. Jason will write up a proposal and bring it to the Park & Tree Board Meeting on 5/2/16. It could then be discussed and brought to the board 5/16, and still have time for some work to be done by the WHS seniors on 5/17. Rick reported that he had contacted three companies (Recreation Unlimited, Playground Inspections, and AAA State of Play) but none of them had committed to an inspection. He also reported talking to Randy Morris of Kokomo Parks. Randy told him that they use several different ground covers, but that one they have used is a wood mulch that had been “fluffed up” by Hollingsworth Lumber. Rick recommended that we consider this for our ground cover. In order to help Jason with his proposal, Laura gave him a copy of the CPSC Guidelines on playgrounds. Laura also gave Erica a copy so that a board member would also be familiar.
- Community Center Walking Trail. There was discussion on the walking trail and possible grant opportunities. Donnie brought in an estimate, and a discussion followed on whether the formal town bid process should be completed. Since the grant being investigated by Laura and Rick does not seem to need formal bids and is due 5/1, it was decided not to seek bids at this time. At a later time, and with a different grant organization, bids may need to be gotten by Donnie. Rick requested that he be allowed to contact the town grant writer (Tina) regarding items like the historical / archeological survey, and also ask how much she would charge to help. Donnie said that would be OK. Regarding the naming of the walking trail - Josh reported that he is working on contacting the family of the slain deputy, and hopes to have a response soon. The idea of naming the Community Center Park along with the walking trail was also brought up, but it was decided that it was too early in the process to work on this.

- Community Center. Josh said that he would work on getting the kitchen certified so Laura gave him the application. There was some discussion about what all was needed for certification. Reba reported that she had contacted the people who have been given keys to the CC and they all said that they have returned them. Rick stated that replacement keys and replacement letters have been purchased for the Community Center bulletin board. Beth had already noticed them. Letters are with Megan and can be used to change the welcome notice any time.
- Volleyball Court. Josh also reported that the Volleyball Court fundraiser has been cancelled for April, but will be rescheduled.
- Arbor Day / Tree City Application. In order to make the Arbor Day Tree City application go more smoothly this year, it was decided to better document the activities of the town. This includes having a notice on the town sign and a display in the library. Rick will check on these.
- Tree Care. Laura brought up the need to check for tree trimming this spring and volunteered to check the trees at the Community Center Park. Rick will check the trees at the Interurban, library, and Western Heights retention pond. The tree at the Interurban that was badly cut back by Townsend was then discussed. It was decided that it should be removed ASAP, and was reported that Craig from the Town knew someone that wanted the wood and would cut it down for free.
- Community Center Plantings. Beth volunteered to check and prune the plantings around the CC, including the planters. Reba said that she would contact Sabrina regarding replacing the sedum plants that had died over the winter. Reba also offered to buy fertilizer for the CC plantings, which she and Beth would apply.
- Community Center Park Grass. Rick reported that Rick Johnson has volunteered to use his equipment to plant the grass seed at the park, and that a dry period is needed to get onto the ground.
- Adjourned at 7:05.