

**Howey-in-the-Hills
Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
Town Hall, Thursday, June 16, 2022
6:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

Call to Order: 6:00 p.m.

Attendance: Pat Miller, Morgan Cates, Staci Broad Mauro, Jim Steele, Vicki Steele
Guests: Mary Arnold, Kristine Trevitt

Amendments were made to the May minutes, then approved.

Old Business:

Parks Assessment:

- Pat Miller - Cemetery and Well #3 have been reviewed. Well #3 is fine. Weed-eating being done. Please spray pavers for mildew. Cemetery is looking wonderful!!
- Staci Broad Mauro - Town Hall Complex/Central Park was reviewed. Sidewalk still needing to be pressure washed. (Public works is in the process of pressure washing area at this time.) Water fountain is needed. Morgan is researching cost for a new water fountain.
- Vicki Steele – Griffin Park The white fence around the outdoor port-a-potty needs to be cleaned. Painter's tape covers the outlets. The tray on the outdoor grill needs to be replaced and the grill cleaned. The chains on the swings need to be covered to protect fingers from heat. Morgan reported that the borders surrounding the playground area are to be replaced.
- Jim Steele – Blevins Park looks fine. Grass is a bit dry and there were some dropped branches to be picked up. Morgan asked Jim to keep him informed if the park grounds are not being maintained as the town pays a company to maintain the property.
- No report for Sara Maude Park.

Town Staff Status Update on Projects:

- Griffin Park – playground borders have been ordered.
- Central Park – Morgan is pricing water fountains. Plans to make the basketball court standard sized. Hoping to partner with Mission Inn to create a Pickleball Club so Howey residents can have access to their pickleball courts.
- Sara Maude – Morgan and contractor from Hottinger walked the park for possible expansion ideas including the entrance for parking. Morgan would like to open an RFQ on website to create a library of pre-approved professional providers such as: contractors, landscapers, shoreline/marine experts, transportation, road paving. Morgan asked the contractor to add his name to the list.
- Grove Square – Will be located between the Market and Doctor's office. Public Works will install two sets of hook-ups for power, water, and sewer. Additional pavers and landscaping will be added to the area as well as underground power. All this is targeted for completion by mid-July.

Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Approved Items:

Discussion was held to clarify that Morgan or Town Staff will be purchasing the following approved items: Additional flagpole for Blevins Park (for our POW MIA flag), an additional trash can, playground equipment for the back of Sara Maude, and new banners. The selection for banners is limited. A suggestion was made to replace the banners in front of the library with red, white, blue flags.

Fiscal Year 2023 Budget:

Board members generated a list of repairs and a “wish list” of additions they would like to be considered at the upcoming budget meetings.

- Chain on all swings to be covered. Holes at the bottom of swings to drain water.
- Replace rope and add stones/rocks to the area where the metal birds are located in Griffin Park. (In the works.)
- Griffin Park – extend the cement pad by 2 feet .
- Educational signs for the birds at Griffin Park and in front of the library.
- Add a bench for seating in the entrance to Sara Maude.
- Add a sunshade over the swings in Central Park.
- Mount a “mister” fan under the canopy in Central Park. (A power source would be needed.)
- Sandy beach at the lakefront.
- A splash pad in Central Park.

New Business:**Consideration/Recommendation: Appointment of Mary Arnold to the Parks and Recreation Board**

The board members were asked to review the nomination of Mary Arnold to the Parks and Rec Board. After reviewing her application and questioning Ms. Arnold about her desire to join, a motion was made and passed to recommend her appointment to the Town Council.

Playground Musical Instrument for Central Park

Kristin Trevitt shared additional information regarding the addition of Outdoor Musical Instruments for Central Park sharing that exposure to music increases brain development especially in the areas of language and reading skills. The Friends of the Library would like to pursue the funding of the instruments through grants, but would need the approval of the Parks and Rec Board to have them added to Central Park. All of the board members were positive about the addition although there was some concern/discussion about the noise for nearby residents and staff in nearby buildings (Town Hall and Police). There was discussion about adding signs to the parks indicating they would be open from “Dawn to Dusk”, as well as gaining more information about how loud the sound from the instruments might travel and the best location within the park. Board members decided to gather more info by reviewing websites (such as groundsforplay.com). We will readdress this topic at our next meeting.

Consideration/Recommendation : Grove Square Rental Rates

Morgan shared that Martha (Mayor) has asked the Parks and Rec Board to research rates from other towns/venues. Discussion was held regarding rental rates for both food trucks and 10 x 10 canopies (like those used at a Farmer’s Market). The Board agrees that the fees should not be so high as to discourage businesses away from Howey. We discussed there might be a need for a flat monthly rate for a daily business (i.e. the coffee truck) and a per event fee (such as for a monthly food truck night or farmer’s market). Considerations for extra trash cans, picnic tables, etc. were shared. The board members will research rates from other areas and share their findings at our next meeting scheduled for July 14th.

Board Comments: None

Public Comments: None

Adjourn: 7:39 p.m.