

**Howey-in-the-Hills  
Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting  
Town Hall, Thursday, April 13, 2023  
6:00 p.m.**

**Call to Order:** 6:00 p.m.

**Attendance:** Mary Arnold, Josh Huseman, Stacy Broad Mauro, Morgan Cates, Jim Steele, Vicki Steele

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. The February Parks & Rec Board minutes were reviewed.  
Josh made a motion to pass. Mary seconded. Minutes were approved.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**2. Parks Assessment**

- Josh shared that overall Central Park looks good, but there is some curling on the fence and missing padding on the backboards.
- Staci reported the cemetery looks good except the island around the flagpole area has dead plants.
- Vicki provided Morgan with a report on Griffin Park identifying completed projects (playground ramps, new mulch, citrus sign reinstalled) new concerns (hole in the fence, gap at the end of the fishing pier), and ongoing projects.
- Jim gave Morgan a report on Blevins Park which stated: the Marine flag had been replaced, the lawn has been recently mowed, but the grass and landscaping areas look dry and need weeding and pruning. A request was made for mulch to be added to the beds around the flagpoles. Discussion followed about enlisting some youth (i.e. Boy Scouts or others) to volunteer for a park “clean-up”.
- Mary reported that the boardwalk at Sara Maude Mason Nature Preserve is still closed. All other areas look good.

**3. Staff Parks Update**

Morgan shared the many projects that had been completed/addressed since our last meeting.

- Ramps installed at Griffin and Central Parks. Sidewalks repaired. Citrus sign back at Griffin.
- Cemetery sign being straightened, strengthened, and painted.
- Cemetery – trimmed trees, moved water line, new power pole. Working to replace irrigation. Sidewalks are next. Discussed adding rocks (instead of mulch) to statue area.
- Central Park: New fountain being installed. Investigating best ways to run power out to covered area for outlets and fan. Evaluating the best way to resurface basketball court, asphalt vs. concrete.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**4. Discussion: FY2024 Budget Discussion**

The Parks and Rec Board has been asked to generate a “wish list” of items to improve/enhance the parks. These would be considered by the Town Council for the FY2024 Budget.

There was some discussion about which current projects still need to be completed and if some of the other proposed expansions (boat ramp, finger piers, FEMA and the boardwalk) need to be included on the list.

**Board Comments:** Jim Steele asked if the May meeting could be moved to May 18<sup>th</sup>. All agreed.

**Public Comments:** None

**Adjournment:**

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to adjourn the meeting. The meeting ended at 6:57 p.m.