

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

Call to Order: 6:03 p.m.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. The May and June minutes were reviewed. Josh made a motion to approve both sets of minutes. Mary seconded the motion and the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

2. Discussion: Parks Assessment

- Mary visited the cemetery and stated that it looked in good shape, but the area around the flagpole could use some weeding. She also reported that Sara Maude Mason Nature Preserve is open (except for the boardwalk) and visitors are enjoying the area.
- Stacy also reported that the cemetery looked good and was well maintained.
- Josh shared the following updates/concerns regarding Central Park: Installation of power in the covered area is complete. Trees close to the police building need trimming. There are weeds in the swing and playground area. The canopy by the palm trees needs pressure washing.
- Vicki did not have a report to share regarding Griffin Park, but will email her report to Morgan.
- Jim reported that Blevins Park looks the same. Morgan will ask Code Enforcement (J.J.) to look into the fence.

3. Discussion: Staff Parks Update

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

- Cemetery –The sign has been reinstalled.
- Blevins – Additional landscaping rocks will be purchased with funds from this year’s budget.
- Central Park – Morgan is still researching fans from a company in Leesburg. Josh recommended checking into Dan’s Fans as well. Jim asked when the promised water fountain would be installed.
- Requisition/P.O. for the new covered swing set has been completed using this year’s impact fees. The current swing set will be relocated to the back of Sara Maude Mason Nature Preserve. Boardwalk work to begin after October.

NEW BUSINESS:

4. Discussion: FY2024 Budget Discussion

- The first budget meeting was held today (July 13th) and our park suggestions were well received. Monies have been allocated for the Storybook Trail in SMM and swings along Lakeshore Drive.
- Monies are being reallocated to complete the boardwalk in Sara Maude Mason Nature Preserve. The goal is to have a bigger, better, ADA friendly boardwalk using marine grade pressure treated wood. Composite wood (like that used on the Griffin Park pier) will be used for the walkway and handrails. The funds had originally been allocated to improve the front entrance including the addition of parking.
- Pine Park is still being considered as a possible pickleball/bike station area. Looking at possible grants to help with funding and some monies from this year's budget and the 2024 budget.
- Stacy asked the board to revisit the idea she proposed last fall regarding the purchase of a wheelchair accessible swing. The board was in favor of this addition, possibly at Griffin Park.

Board Comments: None

Public Comments: None

Adjournment: Josh made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Stacy. Motion passed. The meeting ended at 6:30 p.m.

Chair Jim Steele