

**Howey-in-the-Hills
Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
Town Hall, Thursday, May 18, 2023
6:00 p.m.**

Call to Order: 6:06 p.m.

Attendance: Mary Arnold, Josh Huseman, Morgan Cates, Jim Steele, Vicki Steele
Guest: Thomas Harowski (by Zoom)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

A motion was made by Vicki Steele to address New Business first. Josh seconded the motion and the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

2. Consideration and Recommendation: DEO Technical Assistance Grant

A document that outlined the DEO grant to prepare a master park plan was provided to each board member. Tom Harowski shared the details of the technical assistance grant program and, although Howey was not awarded a grant last year, another round of grant funding was expected shortly. Tom responded to the questions regarding the proposal which includes: Inventory of facilities and recreation/park assets, review of current comprehension plan requirements, needs survey (i.e. Survey monkey), alternative choices for parks and programs. A landscape architect would be assisting with the concept plan. Tom asked for the Parks and Recreation Board's support in moving forward with the application.

Josh made a motion to approve the submission of the DEO Assistance Grant. Mary seconded the motion and the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

3. Discussion : Parks Assessment

- Mary reported the cemetery looks good, cleaned up around the mausoleum. She also reported that Sara Maude Mason needs some weed whacking and mowing, but is otherwise fine. The boardwalk is still closed.
- Josh shared that overall Central Park looks good, just the same concerns needing to be addressed (i.e. basketball backboards)
- Vicki provided Morgan with a report on Griffin Park identifying *completed projects* (covered area and new dock look clean) *new concerns* (the ground between the covered area and playground has little grass and many weeds, there is a bench to the left of the parking area, fairly close to the shoreline. Should it be moved?) and *ongoing projects*.
- Jim gave Morgan a report on Blevins Park which stated: the lawn has been recently mowed, and the landscaping areas looked improved. Discussion followed about the boundary lines of the property and that the perimeter areas looked quite overgrown and needed clearing out, and lower tree limbs removed.

4. Discussion: Staff Parks Update

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

- Blevins – care of park is under Public Works, since May 1.
- Central Park – still investigating options for resurfacing the basketball court
Week of May 22, power to pavilion, then fans installed.
A water fountain will be installed on the back of library.
- Cemetery – sidewalk, flagpole, mausoleum area cleaned, exchanged large plants for smaller, adding colored rocks. Memorial Day cemetery on Monday, May 29th.
- Lakefront – Permit to address invasive weeds. Getting quotes from contractors. Harvesting (monthly or quarterly) to maintain

5. Discussion: FY2024 Budget Discussion

The Parks and Rec Board has been asked to generate a “wish list” of items to improve/enhance the parks. The following ideas were suggested:

- Focus on Pine Park (2 acres)
 1. Pickleball area (multiple courts, parking, etc)
 2. Bike Trail (and pumping station for bikers)
 3. Is Venezia HOA planning something?
- Storybook Trail in Sara Maude Mason – example pictures were shared of a Storybook Trail in a Ohio park.
- Bench Swings installed between Griffin Park and “the hill” to relax and look out over the lake. Swings could be shaded with a pergola.

Board Comments: None

Public Comments: None

Adjournment:

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to adjourn the meeting. The meeting ended at 7:03 p.m.