

Howey-in-the-Hills
Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
Town Hall, Thursday, October 12th, 2023
6:00 p.m.

Call to Order: 6:03 p.m.

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

1. The review of the minutes was postponed until copies were made. See below.

OLD BUSINESS:

2. Discussion : Parks Assessment

- Mary reported that Sara Maude Mason Nature Preserve looks good. She also visited the cemetery and stated that it looked in good shape, but weeding was needed around the mausoleum and that the magnolia trees needed fed, watered, and trimmed.
- Stacy also reported on the cemetery stating that the cement bench (on the left side behind the island) appears broken. Morgan said he would check on the benches.
- Josh shared the following concerns regarding Central Park: There are weeds in the playground area. The swings and chains of the current swing set are rusty and may need to be replaced when it is relocated.
- Vicki provided Morgan with a list of concerns for Griffin Park. The weeds continue to spread. There are two areas where the black landscaping mesh is sticking out and could be a tripping hazard. The trees in and around the park are weighed down with lots of moss. Does that need to be addressed and if so, by whom? Several items in the park are overdue for a paint touch up. Jim and Vicki will paint if Morgan will provide the paint and brushes.
- Jim shared some notes with Morgan regarding Blevins. Looks good, but the landscaping beds in the front and around the flagpole need mulch. The area along the property fence line is overgrown.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

After receiving and reviewing the August minutes, Staci posed a question regarding the progress on providing an ADA approved swing in Howey. Stacy made a motion to approve the minutes. Josh seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

3. Discussion: Staff Parks Update

- Central Park – The water fountain is still to be installed behind the library. Morgan purchased the needed supplies for the installation.
- There will be a new position, Administrative Assistant, hired to assist Morgan at Public Works.
- Stacy asked if the Parks and Rec Board would have a table at the October 28th Halloween festivities. Is the town providing candy? She and Vicki volunteered to sit at the table.

NEW BUSINESS:

4. Discussion: Pine Park Design RFP

- Town Council has requested that the Parks and Recreation Board create a list of the amenities we would like to see included at Pine Park. A list was generated and given to Morgan to pass on to Town Council.
- The list of amenities included but is not limited to:
 - driveway and parking lot (preliminary plans have been made)
 - restroom facilities
 - water fountain with bottle refill
 - pickleball courts (6-8) with fencing
 - bike station and trail
 - playground/climbing structures for various age groups
 - covered picnic tables

5. Discussion: Sarah Maude Mason Boardwalk RFP

- The RFP is almost complete.
- Improvements to the boardwalk will include but not be limited to:
 - Removal/disposal/replacement of boardwalk, including kick plates and handrails.
 - ADA requirements met.
 - Use of marine grade pressure treated lumber and composite decking.
- Other upgraded considerations: Using 100% composite material, Aluminum post framing, seating areas with galvanized metal roofing

6. Discussion: Lakeshore Finger Piers

- Morgan has been evaluating the finger piers for repairs and gathering quotes that are around \$23,000 (higher than the \$10,000 that had previously been earmarked for this project).

Board Comments: The mayor brought up the idea of utilizing a “tree fund” to replace trees that have been cut down or removed. She asked the Parks and Rec Board to consider places where these young trees could be planted, how they would be maintained for the first year, and what steps were needed to initiate the program. A discussion followed. Josh volunteered a space adjacent to his home in Talichet. The idea of planting a “town Christmas tree” was also proposed.

Public Comments: None

Adjournment: Mary made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Josh. Motion passed. The meeting ended at 7:12 p.m.