

**Howey-in-the-Hills  
Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting  
Town Hall, Thursday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
6:00 p.m.**

**Call to Order:** 6:03 p.m.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. The July minutes were reviewed. Josh made a motion to approve the 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 weeding was needed by the back wall and between some of the bricks. She also reported that Sara Maude Mason Nature Preserve had been recently mowed, but there was an invasive weed through the park and walking trail. Josh asked Morgan at what time the park was to be unlocked/open.
- Josh shared the following updates/concerns regarding Central Park: The fans have been installed in the covered area. There are weeds in the playground area.
- Vicki provided Morgan with a list of concerns for Griffin Park, many are ongoing. However, the most glaring concern at Griffin is the infiltration of weeds. The ground between the covered area and the playground is overgrown with weeds, no grass. The grassy area around the covered area and the metal bird display is also being overtaken by weeds.
- Jim shared some notes with Morgan regarding Blevins. Looks good, but dry with the heat and no rain. The landscaping beds in the front and around the flagpole need mulch. The area along the property fence line is overgrown. The trees lifted, the bushes trimmed, and the underbrush cleaned out.

**3. Discussion: Staff Parks Update**

- Central Park – The fans have been installed. There is a switch on the pole to turn off/on. The fans are mister compatible if we ever want to add that in the future. Jim asked when the promised water fountain would be installed.
- Morgan reported that they have a new staff and are now able to complete most upkeep tasks by mid-week which should allow for some backed up projects to be addressed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**4. Discussion: FY2024 Budget Discussion**

- The final budget meeting was held and none of our park suggestions were cut. Monies have been allocated for the Storybook Trail in SMM and swings along Lakeshore Drive.
- Monies from FEMA as well as impact fees will be used to complete the boardwalk in Sara Maude Mason Nature Preserve.
- Morgan shared that a proposal had been made by a Council Member to sell/utilize the area set aside for Pine Park as a Fire Station. (Instead of the acreage on Number 2 road.) A thorough discussion followed, and the Parks and Recreation Board decided to write a Board Report to be given to Town Council listing our concerns regarding the future development of Pine Park. Josh made the motion to have a report written. Mary seconded and the motion passed. Jim stated that he would meet with John Brock.

**Board Comments:** None

**Public Comments:** None

**Adjournment:** Josh made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Maryfans Motion passed. The meeting ended at 7:05 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Stahl". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent initial "J".