

**Howey-in-the-Hills
Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
Town Hall, Thursday, August 11, 2022
6:00 p.m.**

Call to Order: 6:00 p.m.

Attendance: Pat Miller, Staci Broad Mauro, Mary Arnold, Morgan Cates, Jim Steele, Vicki Steele

Guests: Kristine Trevitt

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. **The July 14, 2022 Park & Rec Board minutes were reviewed.**
Mary Arnold made a motion to pass. Pat Miller seconded. Minutes were approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

2. **Playground Musical Instruments for Central Park**

Kristine Trevitt returned with additional information regarding the outdoor musical instruments. The library would like to have 3 or more instruments (i.e. a xylophone, drums, and bell). Companies (Percussion Play out of London, Free Harmony in Tennessee) can provide information regarding the decibel level of the instruments.

They are hoping that the entire purchase and installation can be covered by various grants. Multiple grants have been researched ranging from \$1000 - \$75,000 from companies such as PNC, CSX, Lowe's, and Home Depot. The grants do not require a "match", but some require a non-profit status. The grants are stackable. They do not have firm deadlines. Some grants cover installation costs. Morgan shared that Mayor MacFarland had some concerns about the instruments' placement in Central Park and suggested behind the library.

Pat Miller stated that she is still leaning to vote "No" until she has additional details including: Exactly which instruments, their specifications and if they are covered by a warranty. Who will be responsible for their installation?

Kristine will find the additional information and provide to John Brock.

NEW BUSINESS:

3. **Parks Assessments**

Mary Arnold reported on Sarah Maude Mason's boardwalk noticing some boards with holes, mushy wood and a broken handrail. The benches and the tower look good. Nature path is clear.

Staci Broad Mauro reported on Central Park. The basketball court looks dirty and needs a cleaning. Otherwise the park looks good.

Pat Miller shared that the median shrubs and crepe myrtle in the cemetery could be trimmed. The sidewalk needs to be repaired (part of 2023 budget). Well 3 – There is a vine growing up a magnolia tree. Additional weed-eating is needed in some areas.

Vicki Steele – Griffin Park Morgan was provided a list of repairs/needs to be done at the park including: Mildew on white fence surrounding port-a-potty, paint needs on a trash can and water fountain, plants growing in the drainpipe. The rubber pads on the exercise equipment.

Jim Steele

still need to be replaced. (Morgan has researched the prices. There should be a binder listing the parts needed.)

Jim Steele – Blevins Park looked good, newly mowed. There was a discussion regarding the POW/MIA flagpole. There was concern that it would interrupt the symmetry of the current group of flagpoles. Pat Miller suggested that the POW/MIA pole could be placed separately between the two benches. A final decision was not made at this time.

4. Update on Fiscal Year 2023 Budget:

Morgan reported that so far the requests made by the Parks & Rec board (see below) are still being considered for the 2023 budget. None have been removed as of the last budget meeting.

- Central Park – a canopy for the swing set (Jim and Morgan are researching options.), electric power to the pavilion, fans with misters, expansion of the basketball court, removal of the four-square court to be made into a toddler court.
- Griffin Park – Nothing new, but work to repair/replace some finger piers
- Sarah Maude – expansion to the front entrance including a bench and parking spaces.
- Development of Pine Park in Venezia

Morgan also shared some of the monies that have been set aside for future park expansions and maintenance. Staci asked if rocks/pavers were to be added around the new Howey signs.

5. Update on Park Grant Submissions

Morgan reported that he has applied for three grants through Game Time. The grants are focused on workout equipment, and obstacle course, and a new basketball court. A future grant is being considered for a cycling trail.

Morgan also shared that Grove Square has utility, power, and pavers.

6. Staff Update on Parks Projects

Morgan has an open position at this time and is also asking for an additional staff position for 2023.

Board Comments:

Pat Miller asked if the Parks and Recreation Board would like to discuss some possible goals for the 2023 year. These topics were among those discussed: pickleball courts, a paved area around the boat ramp, expanded parking by Griffin Park, outdoor movies, Trivia Nights. There will be further discussion about these and other ideas in future meetings.

Public Comments: None

Adjournment:

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to adjourn the meeting. The meeting ended at 7:28 p.m.