

Howey-in-the-Hills Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
October 12, 2017 Minutes

Attendees: Peggy Ernest, Martha MacFarlane, Pat Miller, John Ernest, Jenny Deschenes

**Reports & Announcements:**

**Financial Report** – Martha will request and distribute the latest P&R financial report.

**Events Committee** – Jenny reviewed the upcoming events and discussed the Mayor/Town Council desire to activate social media for the Town. Martha pointed out that an implementation and maintenance plan is needed for success.

**Public Services Report and Parks Survey -**

- Mr. Ernest reviewed the post-Irma clean-up and status for each of the parks. He has contacted FEMA about the money needed to re-open Sara Maude Mason Nature Preserve. The board discussed the option of a fundraiser for the Nature Preserve, perhaps running a loop of the photos on the Library TV?
- Clean-up is complete in other parks and they are open.
- Martha requested a spring trimming of the bushes along Lakeshore Blvd, also add mulch.
- Public services will hang the Christmas banners later in November
- Charlotte reported that the landscaping on the city's block is looking good. The Library "Florida Native Garden" has some successes and failures. She will ask Jayne and Audrey for their recommendations so the Library Landscaping plan can be drawn up and implemented.
- Peggy and John made two signs to replace the fading flowers in the entry planters in Blevin's Patriot Park: "Land of the Free" "Because of the Brave". Retired Chief Robins will donate a staghorn in memory of his mother, Elva Robins, a longtime resident of Howey.

**P&R Board** – the group discussed the pros/cons of expanding the board to 7 members which might facilitate the transition from existing to new member; the board has the options to add subcommittees.

**Old Business:**

**2017-2018 Budget** – Dairian thinks that funding will be available in late November.

**Welcome Packets/Mass Mailing** – Martha will draft a welcome letter for the Mayor's review/comment and add Emergency Preparedness information provided by Chief R. Thomas, the town's safety officer. The target is to have it ready before January, changing it from a fiscal to calendar year publication.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Martha MacFarlane

