



**Town of Southwest Ranches
Recreation, Forestry and Natural Resources Advisory Board
Official Minutes**

August 11, 2015
7:00 pm

Town Hall
13400Griffin Road
Southwest Ranches, FL 33330

Board Members

Council Liaison

Staff Liaison

Rose Allbritton, Chris Brownlow, Mary Gay Chaples, Lana Eichel, Debra Goff-Rose, Debbie Green, Nancy Hartmann, John Herring, Aster Knight, Debbie Mantel, Marie Nix, Karen Parkerson, Kathy Sullivan

Gary Jablonski

December Lauretano-Haines

RFNRAB Members present:

Rose Allbritton
Chris Brownlow
Mary Gay Chaples
Aster Knight
Debra Goff-Rose
John Herring
Marie Nix
Karen Parkerson
Lana Eichel

Nancy Hartmann

Debbie Green

RFNRAB Members absent:

Debbie Mantel
Kathy Sullivan

Council present:

Gary Jablonski
Doug McKay

Staff present:

Emily McCord-Aceti

Others present:

Newell Hollingsworth

Call to order at 7:05 PM. A Quorum was established.

Karen Parkerson motioned to excuse the absence of the members listed above. Aster Knight seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Aster Knight motioned to approve the minutes of the June meeting. Karen Parkerson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Emily McCord-Aceti briefed the members present regarding an application the Town would like to submit to the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) for funding of Phase I ballfield improvements at Country Estates Park. The request is for \$50,000 of non-matching funds and will include site preparation and sports equipment, if funded.

Debra Goff-Rose motioned to recommend approval of the Town's FRDPA Application for Country Estates Park ballfield improvements. Marie Nix seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The members present discussed improvement of the acoustics at Rolling oaks Barn. PROS has researched costs for various materials and has learned that draperies are likely to be more cost effective than acoustic panels, if inexpensive draperies can be obtained.

Debra Goff-Rose motioned to recommend to Council installation of sound-absorbing materials. Nancy Hartmann seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The members present discussed Country Estates Park proposed pedestrian and equestrian trail access. Members stated they would like to see a walk through gate installed, others pointed out that the Town's established park has restricted access (sunrise to sunset) and that the Country Estates Park is less populated and has many out of the area people visiting, as well as several incidents of vandalism already at this location. The members present discussed poor wear of the playground at this park.

The members present discussed trail access at Sunshine Ranches Equestrian Park. Volunteers in charge of opening/closing the trail are not being rigorous about the closure on time or sometimes at all. The board would like to see this entrance be handled by town facilities staff.

Debra Goff-Rose motioned to recommend that Town Facilities contractor take over the opening and closing of the Thoroughbred Lane access gate into the Equestrian Park. Aster Knight seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The members present discussed the request for recommendation on a memorial trail to be named for the young woman whose life was lost in a riding accident along the C-11 Trail. Although the Board's sympathy is with the family, discussion involved points such as the fact that many community members have been lost and we are not able to memorialize each one. While the Board feels that other types of memorialization are not necessarily within the purview of this Advisory Board, recommendations that it could make for this particular request include that the family could potentially place a commemorative brick at Town Hall for the rider, or could opt to install a bench or tree in one of the parks.

Karen Parkerson motioned to recommend to council that anyone interested in memorializing a loved one would be welcome to arrange a town-approved bench or tree be installed in one of the parks, through the PROS department and in accordance with the standards set forth by the Town's Rural Identification Program. Marie Nix seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.