



**Town of Southwest Ranches  
Parks, Recreation, Forestry and Natural Resources  
Advisory Board Meeting Agenda**

Tuesday  
March 8, 2022  
7:00 pm

Town Hall  
13400 Griffin Road  
Southwest Ranches, FL 33330

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**Board Members**

Chris Brownlow, Dena Butler,  
Debra Goff-Rose, Debbie Green, Wendi Halberg,  
Sheryl Melson, Laurie Morse, Catalina Stubbe

**Council Liaison**

Gary Jablonski

**Staff Liaison**

December Lauretano-Haines

**Emeritus**

MaryGay Chaples, Aster Knight

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**A. ROLL CALL**

**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**C. AGENDA AS FOLLOWS**

**D. NEW BUSINESS:**

- Adopt Town of Southwest Ranches Parks, Recreation, Forestry and Natural Resources Advisory Board Meeting Minutes for February 2022.
- The Broward Beekeepers Association, as a service organization to the Town, has many members in Southwest Ranches. They have reserved the Rolling Oaks Barn East Room for a meeting in April. They request the Board Consider their being allowed to meet monthly on the 2nd Thursday of each month from 6:30 to 9PM. Staff will facilitate the Board's discussion of the request.
- The Broward Beekeepers Association will address the Board with a general information presentation about bees.
- There will be a small Earth Day event at Calusa Corners Park with members from Cub Scout Pack 160 on Friday April 22 from 4:00 to 5:00 PM. The scouts will plant pollinator seeds, "hike" to the wetlands where they will learn about the plants and animals on site, and then will have a brief observation/drawing time. This will be a quick educational hour with a group of about 10-12 kids. Board members are welcome to attend.

**E. OLD BUSINESS:**

- The Southwest Ranches Farmer's Market is arranged for Saturdays in March and April. Details within in Maintenance Report.
- Follow up/Maintenance report attached for the Board's review and discussion.

**F. AGENDA PREP FOR NEXT MEETING**

**G. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

**H. QUOTE OF THE MONTH:**

*"We need to remember the sense of awe that nature has given humanity. It's something that should be preserved." - Al Gore*

**I. STAFF COMMENTS**

**J. HOA/PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**K. ADJOURNMENT**



## Town of Southwest Ranches Parks, Recreation, Forestry and Natural Resources Advisory Board Minutes

February 8, 2022  
7:00 pm

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### **Board Members**

Chris Brownlow, Dena Butler, Debra Goff-Rose, Debbie Green, Wendi Halberg,  
Sheryl Melson, Laurie Morse, Catalina Stubbe

### **Emeritus**

MaryGay Chaples, Aster Knight

### **Council Liaison**

Gary Jablonski

### **Staff Liaison**

December Lauretano-Haines

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### **Members present:**

Chris Brownlow  
Debra Goff-Rose  
Dena Butler  
Debbie Green  
Wendi Halberg  
Laurie Morse  
Catalina Stubbe  
MaryGay Chaples

### **RFNRAB Members absent:**

Sheryl Melson

### **Staff present:**

December Lauretano-Haines

Emily Aceti

### **Council present:**

Gary Jablonski  
Mayor Steve Breitkreuz  
Bob Hartmann  
David Kuczenski

### **Others present:**

Doug McKay  
Kathy Cox  
Fred Cox  
Jeff Katims  
Tanya Kantner  
Pablo Garcia

Call to order at 7:10 PM

The members present reviewed the minutes of the January 2022 meeting.

Debbie Green motioned to approve the January 2022 minutes as corrected, to reflect Debbie Green as Secretary. Dena Butler seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Jeff Katims, the Town Planning Staff, provided materials and information regarding the planned Akai Estates Trail. The planned trail runs from Bonaventure and Griffin and on to 49<sup>th</sup> street and then exits to the east to 184<sup>th</sup> Ave. Now that the developers received permission from the county to access direct from Griffin Rd, the developers have decided that there will no longer be a need for a bridge to connect over the canal to 184<sup>th</sup>, as they previously had planned, and now don't plan for access at this point. On the west side of canal there is a maintenance easement. That is one potential alignment as opposed to going over the canal. Another option is to just back out that segment of the trail. Question we should ask in looking at this request; is it more desirable to go north or only south to continue the trail. Members present voiced that it is very important to continue north for the connection of the trails through all the parks, including those on the North side of Griffin Road. Mary Gay shared some history of the importance of the trails and connecting them throughout. She met with the South Broward Drainage District, and they don't have any problem of keeping the trail as is. We have use of the easements. There is an easement or right of way from the Country Estates Park and we need the access through the AKAI development to connect the trail to 184<sup>th</sup>. The trails connect all the way around Town. It was voiced that part of the allure of the trails is not just getting from point A to point B, but to do it in an enjoyable safe way, not on the street or swale. An example of how we've made connections in the past when Sunshine Ranches equestrian park needed to find a trailway into Sunshine Ranches. At the time, the only way to connect was on Volunteer Road or Stirling Road, which were not safe options. The Town was able to work with a property owner to allow connections on Thoroughbred Lane

using part of their property. Kathy Cox shared how with other developments in Davie, that if the trails are in prior to the development, all those that buy in already know that they exist and accept them. There are trails through parks in Davie that connect in a very well-hidden way with the right landscaping.

Chair requested that we put on future agendas to discuss the status of the trails throughout the Town so the board can be updated.

Debbie Green motioned to recommend to Council that the Akai Estates be required to create, preserve, maintain, and include a deed restricted covenant to include for a recreational trail, 15ft wide, going along the east boundary canal maintenance easement from Griffin Road to the south boundary and also create the trail that connects through 49<sup>th</sup> street right of way to the western boundary. Laurie Morse seconded, and motion passed unanimously.

Wendi Halberg motioned to recommend to Council that they request of Akai Estates to build a pedestrian/equestrian bridge east across the 184<sup>th</sup> Ave canal. Debra Goff-Rose seconded, and motion passed unanimously.

Staff gave her maintenance report. Founders Trailside Park and the mural are in the process of being painted and have had some graffiti cleaned up. The user groups at the Sunshine Ranches Equestrian Park have submitted their paperwork and made the required payments. Staff is working diligently on the site where the carnival took place for a farmers' market. Staff will be meeting with the contractor at Rolling Oaks Park regarding the clean-up of the wetlands project. At Country Estates Park, Staff is looking at putting a fence around the ball field with a gate on each side. Also looking at improving the fence on 190<sup>th</sup> Ave. Staff is working on potential improvements for the 5-acre site at Southwest Meadows Sanctuary Park. She is looking at what it would take to get basic amenities there that would support other activities on that site. Catalina has been in conversations with Hawks Bluff Elementary School about partnering with Town to make part of the planting improvements on Frontier Trails Park an educational experience. The school is looking forward to this project and asked for us to give them a date the beginning of May. The board recommended Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>.

Debbie Green shared with everyone that the Education Advisory Board has planned to hold the Barn Dance on March 12<sup>th</sup> and the pink flamingos will begin to roost very soon. The Sikh Youth's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual "Race for Unity in Diversity" 5K run/walk to support the College Scholarship Fund will be on April 9<sup>th</sup> in Rolling Oaks.

During public comments, there was a concern made of motorized vehicles driving through the parks. Motorized vehicles are not allowed (other than parking areas) and this is posted at all Town Parks. If you see a motorized vehicle driving through, you should call Davie police.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 9:03 pm.



## Town of Southwest Ranches Recreation, Forestry and Natural Resources Advisory Board Follow up/Maintenance Report

Tuesday  
March 8, 2022

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### Board Members

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Wendi Halberg, Sheryl Melson, Laurie Morse, Catalina Stubbe

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### FOUNDERS' TRAILSIDE PARK

- **Mural Wall:** Multiple panels of the mural are complete/in progress.
- **Homeless issues:** greater police monitoring is in progress and the issue appears to have been resolved.
- **Graffiti:** Graffiti on the pavilion has been cleaned.

### EQUESTRIAN PARK

- **Bulletin Board:** The board is in place in clear view of park users who approach the buildings area.
- **Special user groups:** The groups are meeting. The department is having no issues.
- **Playground Upgrade:** Scheduled playground upgrade work has been completed. Signs and "cameras" will be installed to alleviate some issues with vandalism/theft.

### CALUSA CORNERS

- **Cub Scout Earth Day event:** A small event is planned for Friday April 22, at 4:00 PM with Cub Scout Pack 160. 10-12 members from the Pack 160 will sow pollinator seeds, "hike" to the wetlands where they will learn about the plants and animals on site, and then will have a brief observation/drawing time. This will be a quick educational hour with a group of about 10-12 kids. Board members are welcome to attend.
- **2022 Planting improvements:** Town contractor is preparing to implement Staff's plan to add native plantings on the site. This timing is potentially too early to make use of natural precipitation to assist with establishment water for the new plantings. If the project is yet to be planted, staff is nevertheless planning an educational event to be coordinated with students from Hawke's Bluff Elementary, and will utilize the Earth Day cub scout event as a test event for that.

### ROLLING OAKS PARK

- **Fitness Trail upgrade:** Final Fitness Trail upgrade work is scheduled.
- **Wetlands upgrade:** Improvement of wetlands and maintenance is planned this fiscal year.

### COUNTRY ESTATES PARK

- **Ballfield Improvement:** Awaiting all proposals for new fencing and upgraded fencing.
- **Playground upgrade:** Scheduled playground upgrade work has been completed. Signs and "cameras" will be installed to prevent issues with vandalism/theft. Signs were installed to prohibit horses in the playground area.
- **Entrance Feature Call for entries:** Staff has received no calls or requests for information.
- **Restroom Graffiti:** The men's room graffiti has been removed/painted over.

## **SOUTHWEST MEADOWS SANCTUARY and 5-ACRE TOWN-OWNED PARCEL**

- **Name the 5-acre "fairgrounds":** Councilmember Jablonski has suggested this property should have a name other than "the 5-acre parcel." Council has requested the parks board discuss potential names or possibly having a contest.
- **Southwest Meadows Development:** Staff is working on a plan for providing park amenities to support events at the 5 acre parcel location, including restroom with water, power, and storage, in addition to parking and interior driveway. Staff's plan is designed to follow existing Park concept plans to satisfy overdue grant commitments. If completed, this property is in line to become a vibrant center of our community.
- **Farmer's Market:** The very first Southwest Ranches Farmer's Market will open on Saturday March 19th at the southwest corner of Griffin at Dykes Road. Staff is working with the organizers, The Cioli Group, LLC, for a short trial run in March and April.  
Dates on Saturdays from 10 AM to 2 PM are:
  - March 19
  - March 26
  - April 2
  - April 9
  - April 16
  - April 23
  - April 30
- Following the initial "soft open," the market will be planned to pick up again in September following the end of summer season.
- Organizers are arranging the event, with support from Southwest Ranches. The Town will provide amenities including portolets, dumpster and gates to secure the property between weeks, as well as assistance in publicizing.