



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

Tuesday  
September 12, 2023  
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, Laurie Morse

**Emeritus**

MaryGay Chaples, Aster Knight

**Council Liaison**

Gary Jablonski

**Staff Liaison**

December Lauretano-Haines

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**A. ROLL CALL**

**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**C. AGENDA AS FOLLOWS**

**D. NEW BUSINESS:**

- Adopt Town of Southwest Ranches Recreation, Forestry and Natural Resources Advisory Board Meeting Minutes for August 2023.

**E. OLD BUSINESS:**

- Follow up/Maintenance report attached for the Board's review and discussion.

**F. AGENDA PREP FOR NEXT MEETING**

**G. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Chairperson's quote of the month:

*"The environment, after all, is where we all meet, where we all have a mutual interest. It is one thing that all of us share. It is not only a mirror of ourselves, but a focusing lens on what we can become."*—Lady Bird Johnson, First Lady of the United States (1963–69)

**H. STAFF COMMENTS**

**I. HOA/PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**J. ADJOURNMENT**



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

August 8, 2023  
7:00 pm

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### **Board Members**

Chris Brownlow, Dena Butler, Debra Goff-Rose, Debbie Green, Wendi Halberg,  
Laurie Morse

### **Council Liaison**

Gary Jablonski

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### Members present:

Debbie Green  
Laurie Morse  
Dena Butler  
Debra Goff-Rose  
Wendi Halberg

### Council present:

Steve Breitzkreuz  
Gary Jablonski  
Bob Hartmann

### RFNRAB Members absent:

Chris Brownlow

### Others present:

Xavier Jackson  
Radcliffe Jackson

### Staff present:

December Lauretano-Haines

Call to order at 7:07 PM

The members present reviewed the minutes of the May 2023 meeting.

Wendy Halberg motioned to approve the May 2023 minutes. Dena Butler seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Staff briefed the members present regarding the Eagle Project proposed by Xavier Jackson and introduced Xavier. The members present discussed preferences between the original flagpole for the Country Estates Park and wooden benches proposed by Xavier for the Rolling Oaks park.

Debbie Green motioned to recommend approval of Xavier Jackson's eagle project for a flagpole at Country Estates Park. Laurie Morse seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Staff briefed the members present regarding a FRDAP grant application the Town is seeking to assist with development at the Southwest Meadows Sanctuary. If awarded, the grant will support development of 7 of the 10 remaining grant commitments at this property, which is our only park location with no development other than native landscaping improvements to date.

Laurie Morse motioned to recommend the Town apply for a \$200,000 FRDAP grant with a \$200,000 match to support development projects at the Southwest Meadows Sanctuary park. Wendi Halberg seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Staff Briefed the members present about the Town's recent recertification as a Community Wildlife Habitat. This is an annual requirement for certification and the steps the Town makes to comply with requirements include regular articles in the *Southwest Rancher*, outreach and education through events like Water Matters Day, and mentoring/partnering with community groups and other cities to create and maintain wildlife habitat,

and by participating in other programs such as Mayor's Monarch Pledge and Tree City USA. Board members support the efforts of this awareness program by remembering to talk about the importance of habitat with their neighbors, friends, and others.

The Mayor briefed the members regarding Town issues at the previous request of the Chair:

- Mayor Breitkreuz briefed the members present regarding a project proposed in early years of the Town for a Stirling Road Loop to provide safer multi-purpose trail passage for riders, walkers, and other trail users over I-75 than Griffin Road. This came up recently when a resident asked whatever happened to the project. Board members discussed and agreed it is certainly something the community would be in favor of. The Mayor and Council also feel this way but the proposed project is very complex due to multiple jurisdictions with different priorities to satisfy if ever it can be accomplished.
- The Mayor also briefed the members present regarding the County's push for a solid waste plant and incinerator. Staff discussed the issue and the community task force is welcoming everyone to get involved, reach out to as many people as possible. The Town's opposition is documented and our neighbors in many other cities are apparently also opposed. There was a suggestion to use the message boards to help create awareness around the issue. "No Incinerator" yard signs would also be beneficial in creating awareness.

Staff gave a brief maintenance report.

- Updates to the Country Estates Park Playground will take place by the end of the fiscal year. Permitting for the shade structure is in progress and the vendors for the engineered wood fiber surfacing have been identified.
- All restroom facilities are functional.
- The Southwest Meadow Sanctuary development will include a restroom, picnic facilities, trailhead facilities, parking, stabilized grass fields, development of some of the drive aisles to move from different areas of the park, wetlands to be created/enhanced for drainage. Staff is trying very hard to preserve trees for this project but may not be able to do so due to certain costs and perceptions of user needs on the site.
- The Farmers Market on Saturdays is year-round. Market vendors and contractors have various complaints lately, some citing the need for a large shelter to be built so they don't have to erect tents every week and some dealing with puddling rain water on the site. Staff feels that the town subsidizes the event because we like it and we want to encourage it, but we also need to allow the vendor to work through some of the issues that arose from their choice to host the market year round. Councilmember Hartmann said there are fewer than 20 vendors present lately. Board members remarked on changing the frequency of the market for the summer hours, but this will discourage vendors whom we desire to be regulars. The Mayor thinks it would be beneficial to have a debrief meeting sometime in September or October to discuss what is and is not working.
- Upcoming events include Bingo on August 26<sup>th</sup>. There are tickets available.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.



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

Tuesday  
September 12, 2023

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**CALUSA CORNERS**

- **Tree Planting:** All trees are establishing nicely, except one sabal that will be replaced.
- **Playground surface material:** A 2024 budget item has been prepared to address ongoing replenishment.

**COUNTRY ESTATES PARK**

- **Playground surface material:** Existing donated mulch removal is in progress. New geotextile and engineered wood fiber surface material will be installed by month's end. A 2024 budget item has been prepared to address ongoing replenishment.
- **Shade for Playground:** Shade structure installation over the main/slide components is scheduled to commence on September 18<sup>th</sup>.

**EQUESTRIAN PARK**

- **Playground surface material:** A volunteer has offered to grind some of the roots and some of the surface material will be replenished in September. A 2024 budget item has been prepared to address ongoing replenishment.
- **RC Cars group:** A radio/remote control car group meets at this location with no issues or concerns.

**ROLLING OAKS PARK**

- **Electricity issues:** An electrician has mapped out electrical lines and will propose a beefed up solution to run the multiple coffee makers / hot pots needed for Santa and other events.
- **Oak Tree:** One of the Oaks north of the building has been struck by lightning. This tree may recover time will need to pass prior to knowing if it will. Staff will likely erect a fence around the drip line to ensure safety of park users. This step will not be as scenic, but if will be necessary to maintain public safety.
- **A/C System Fence** Repairs are scheduled this week.
- **New gate at dumpster:** Existing opening was fitted with a pair of gates that can be closed when the field is needed for emergency hurricane turnout.

### **SOUTHWEST MEADOWS SANCTUARY PARK AND PRESERVE**

- **Site Improvements anticipated within the next year:** A restroom building with picnic shelter overhang and small storage area, pervious grass parking, and driveway, wetlands and drainage canal will be built, most or all of which will be completed by December 2024.

### **FOUNDERS' TRAILSIDE PARK**

- **Mural:** This public art project is complete and has generated positive feedback.

### **EVENTS**

- Southwest Ranches **Farmers Market** ongoing on Saturdays at Southwest Meadows Preserve, Summer Hours are now in session through Sept 16: 9:00 am - 1 pm
- **Chili Cookoff and Ride for the Ranches** Saturday, December 9, 10 am - 4 pm, Rolling Oaks Park Barn