



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

Tuesday,  
April 8, 2025

Town Hall  
13400 Griffin Road  
Southwest Ranches, FL 33330

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**Board Members**

Chris Brownlow, Dena Butler, Debbie Green,  
Ron Martinez, Laurie Morse

**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 March 2025.
- Discussion on request for Sunday sports leagues at Country Estates Fishing Hole Park and potential ramifications of recommending approval to Council
- Discussion regarding tree preservation during construction

**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**

**H. Quote of the month:**

*"The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago, the second-best time is now."*-Chinese proverb

**I. STAFF COMMENTS**

**J. HOA/PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**K. ADJOURNMENT**



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

March 11, 2025  
7:00 pm

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**Board Members**

Chris Brownlow, Dena Butler, Debbie Green, Ron Martinez, Laurie Morse

**Council Liaison**

Gary Jablonski

**Staff Liaison**

December Lauretano-Haines

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Members present:

Debbie Green  
Ron Martinez  
Laurie Morse  
Dena Butler

Staff present:

December Lauretano-Haines

Council present:

Bob Hartmann

RFNRAB Members absent:

Chris Brownlow

Others present:

Call to order at 7:05 PM

Observed moment of silence for both Aster Knight and Debra Goffe-Rose

The members present reviewed the minutes of the February 2025 meeting.

Laurie motioned to approve the February 2025 minutes. Ron seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

The first year of the I9 sports youth program has been completed and they found it to be a success. They have asked how we can help to promote the events. It was requested that board members share with all their friends. Discount for Southwest Ranches residents.

Southwest Ranches received an Emerald Award at Water Matters Day for Rolling Oaks Park.

Staff gave maintenance report. A therapeutic message board has been installed at the Equestrian Park. There is another planned for Country Estates Fishing Hole Park. An upgrade at the Equestrian Park is being requested at the upcoming Council Meeting. This is to replace some elements in the playground equipment. Focusing on those items first, that could be a safety risk. Replanted by the little fountain. It is possible for a real camera to be added to the Equestrian Park. Lightning Oak project has become a little challenging. Refreshment to the interior paint at the barn. Southwest Meadows Sanctuary continues to have struggles with the different city, county, state and federal agencies in regard to the septic/sewer and water system.

Discussed what kinds of programs can the Town engage in to preserve the rural lifestyle.

Events – Farmers Market going on Saturday and Sunday. Pilot Compost Program has begun at the Farmers Market. Monthly Open Play Chess March 15<sup>th</sup>. Barn Dance on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Bingo at the Barn March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Sikh Youth 5k Run/Walk on April 5<sup>th</sup>. March 26<sup>th</sup> Tree Planting in Memorial to Debra Goffe-Rose. Town Birthday Party June 7<sup>th</sup>.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.



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

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

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**Board Members**

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**BUDGET**

- **Planning For Fiscal Year 2025-2026:** Staff is preparing final documentation for Departmental planning meetings, scheduled for the week of April 7 - 10. Items of fiscal impact staff is planning for include requests for tools/equipment that will improve current levels of service as well as affects proposed new tariffs may have on regular services.

**COUNTRY ESTATES PARK**

- **Therapeutic Recreation Elements / Communication Board:** Staff has reached out to West Broward High School for guidance on a communication board with American Sign Language (ASL) symbols; there is currently no ASL club at WBHS. Staff is continuing the search through contract to Broward School Board.
- **Youth Sports Program:** i9 Spring programs begin April 12<sup>th</sup>. Summer program begins July 12<sup>th</sup>. The vendor has requested to expand to Sunday leagues. This will necessitate a suspension on reservations at this location.

**EQUESTRIAN PARK**

- **Playground upgrade:** Council approved the item to upgrade decks, stairs and bridges at their March 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Purchase Order and Notice to Proceed are complete. Work will necessitate temporary closure of the playground, but it will commence and be completed within the fiscal year.
- **Drinking Fountain:** Repairs for the hi-low valve will be completed when parts are in hand.

**ROLLING OAKS PARK**

- **Storage container:** Items for events are being stored in the container at present.
- **Lightning Struck Oak:** Staff continues to work to identify an artist to execute our design with figures of burrowing owls. The project has a May deadline to be completed. Pieces of the branches have been salvaged for commemorative items to give away to residents at the 25<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration.
- **Interior Painting Project:** The interiors will be repainted by September.

**SOUTHWEST MEADOWS SANCTUARY PARK AND PRESERVE**

- **New Construction:** Staff is still working through permitting issues, specifically with septic/sewer and water system. A preconstruction meeting with the contractor has taken place and site work will commence as soon as permits are in hand.

**EVENTS**

- **Southwest Ranches Farmers Market:** Saturdays and Sundays at Southwest Meadows Preserve, 10:00 am - 3 pm. THERE WILL BE NO MARKET ON APRIL 20<sup>th</sup> (EASTER SUNDAY)

- **Monthly Open Play Chess Event:** Monthly event has been suspended due to low attendance. We will renew promotion of this program in advance of the Mayor's Chess Challenge event in October/the fall.
- **Arbor Day / Sikh Youth Association Unity in Diversity 5k Run/Walk,** Saturday April 5, Rolling Oaks Park. The planting of two new oak trees on the south side of the building will commemorate National Arbor Day.
- **ROCA Spring Egg Hunt,** Saturday April 12, Rolling Oaks Park.
- **Southwest Ranches 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration,** Saturday June 7, Rolling Oaks Park.
- **Bingo at the Barn:** Saturday, June 28, 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Tickets not yet on sale

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# Town of Southwest Ranches

WE CELEBRATE ARBOR DAY IN SOUTHWEST RANCHES AND NATIONALLY ON DAYS IN JANUARY AND APRIL, AND WE ENCOURAGE OUR NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS TO CONTINUE THIS CELEBRATION EVERY DAY.

THE BEST TIME TO PLANT A TREE IS TWENTY YEARS AGO



THE SECOND BEST TIME IS NOW.

-CHINESE PROVERB



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Mayor *Steve Breitkreuz*

Vice-Mayor *Bob Hartmann*

Council Member *Jim Allbritton*

Council Member *Gary Jablonski*

Council Member *David Kuczenski*

Town Administrator *Russell C. Muñiz*



# Town of Southwest Ranches



*Celebrating Unity in Diversity  
for  
Arbor Day*

*Rolling Oaks Park, April 5, 2025*

## Celebrating Unity in Diversity for Arbor Day

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◆  
The Town of Southwest Ranches is thrilled to partner with the Sikh Youth Association of South Florida in this 7th Annual Unity in Diversity 5K run/walk event.

◆  
With event goals of empowering youth to become active in their communities and fostering understanding between diverse groups of people, all while promoting healthy and active lifestyles, we believe there is no greater way to observe United States' National Arbor Day than by joining together to put down roots with our residents and friends.

◆  
In December 2007, the Town of Southwest Ranches achieved the designation of "Tree City, USA." Each January and April, the Town commemorates State, National, and Town Arbor Day, renewing our commitment to the goals of the Tree City USA program with events and community outreach on the importance of trees.

◆  
Trees reduce erosion, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce oxygen and provide wildlife habitat.

## Observance of the Plantings In Honor of Old Friends and New

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◆  
A Southern Live Oak, which stood on the north side of the site for decades, was struck by lightning in 2023.

Many Town celebrations took place beneath its branches. Like a sentinel, the tree had become part of the history of the Town and Rolling Oaks Park, providing beauty and shade for residents who gathered under it, and offering shelter food, and space for wildlife to bear and raise their young within its canopy.

Today we commemorate the legacy of old friends, and welcome new ones. Gather with us to observe and celebrate two new oak trees planted on the south side of the building.

◆  
The Town and the Aster Knight Southwest Ranches Parks Foundation have plans for the trunk of the original tree to be formed into a public art sculpture for all to enjoy. Pieces of the branches have been salvaged and will be made into commemorative keepsakes for residents.

### *Quercus virginiana*

- ◆ Round, spreading shade tree
- ◆ Attractive, dense dark green foliage
- ◆ Flowers and fruit provide nourishment for many wildlife species.
- ◆ Thrives in almost any location
- ◆ This tough, enduring tree requires ample space for roots and canopy.