



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

April 8, 2025
7:00 pm

Board Members

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

Council Liaison

Gary Jablonski

Staff Liaison

December Lauretano-Haines

Members present:

Debbie Green
Ron Martinez
Laurie Morse
Dena Butler

RFNRAB Members absent:

Chris Brownlow

Staff present:

December Lauretano-Haines

Council present:

Others present:

Nathan Stoner
Craig Conatser

Call to order at 7:07 PM

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

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

The first year of the I9 sports youth program has completed and they found it to be a success. They run 7- and 8-week sessions. They are continuing to ask for our support to promote the program. They have also requested to possibly also have sessions on Sundays.

Dena motioned to recommend to the Town Council to try an I9 Sports Program on Sundays on a trial basis for the Fall season. Laurie seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Nathan Stoner is a resident on 163rd St. Nathan and Craig are certified arborists and have concerns about tree preservation that came to light during the drainage construction project. There are lasting effects of not following proper practice when Town drainage projects or other construction has an impact on mature trees. An improper cut of the roots may not be seen today, but in 5-10 years that tree may fall and negatively affect utilities, drainage, or property owner's property. Nathan shared the importance of the education and awareness of tree preservation in the Town of Southwest Ranches.

Debbie motioned to recommend to the Town Council to request a presentation on the importance of tree preservation during construction and bringing the education and awareness to all Town projects. Laurie seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Staff gave maintenance report. In process of budgeting for 2025-2026 now. Requested increase in level of service in removing invasive plants. A therapeutic message board has been installed at the Equestrian Park. There is another planned for Country Estates Fishing Hole Park. Staff reached out to ASL high school clubs for ideas for that board. An upgrade at the Equestrian Park was approved by Council. This is to replace some elements in the playground equipment. Still working on the lightning struck Oak project to happen.

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.

The Aster Knight Parks Foundation is planning to hold Food Truck events on Tuesdays at the Southwest Meadows Preserve.

Events – Farmers Market going on Saturday and Sunday. Pilot Compost Program has begun at the Farmers Market. Monthly Open Play Chess is taking a break. During the Sikh Youth 5k Run/Walk on April 5th two trees were planted in the Rolling Oaks Park in honor of Arbor Day. On March 26th a Tree Planting in Memorial to Debra Goff-Rose occurred. Town Birthday Party June 7th.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:18pm.