



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

Tuesday,
May 13, 2025

Town Hall
13400 Griffin Road
Southwest Ranches, FL 33330

Board Members

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

Council Liaison

Gary Jablonski

Staff Liaison

December Lauretano-Haines

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 April 2025.
- Discussion: SEAB Food Truck Events at Equestrian Park

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:

"Migratory birds connect people, ecosystems, and nations. They are symbols of peace and of an interconnected planet."

-António Guterres, UN Secretary General

I. STAFF COMMENTS

J. HOA/PUBLIC COMMENTS

K. ADJOURNMENT



**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.

From: [Ricardo Fernandez](#)
To: [December Lauretano-Haines](#)
Cc: [Joshua Becker](#); [Gilbert Ceballos](#); [Mayuli Betancourt](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] TSWR Sunshine Equestrian Park Dumpster
Date: Monday, April 14, 2025 12:05:30 PM

This message has originated from an **External Source**. Please use proper judgment and caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding to this email.

Hi December,

I hope you're doing well and that you had a relaxing weekend!

I just wanted to kindly share a quick note- a resident let us know that food trucks were present at the park over the weekend. It seems that quite a bit of trash was left behind, some of which wasn't placed in the dumpster.

If possible, would you mind helping us gently remind the food vendors to please dispose of their waste directly into the dumpster? This small step would go a long way in keeping the park looking great and making cleanup much more manageable.

We truly appreciate all your support and partnership—thank you so much for everything you do!

Warmest regards,

[Ricardo Fernandez](#)

Project Assistant

Reliance Contractors Inc.

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

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Board Members

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

Council Liaison

Gary Jablonski

Staff Liaison

December Lauretano-Haines

COUNTRY ESTATES PARK

- **Therapeutic Recreation Elements / Communication Board:** There is currently no ASL club at West Broward High School. Staff reached out to the club at Coral Springs High School, with no response. Staff is now seeking guidance / resources through National Association of the Deaf and Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.
- **Youth Sports Program:** i9 Spring programs are in progress. Summer program begins July 12th. The vendor will soon begin to promote and publicize Sunday leagues. When the Sunday program starts, reservations will be suspended at this location.

EQUESTRIAN PARK

- **Hawke's Bluff Elementary School Food Truck Event:** The only organizers of this event appeared to be from Hawke's Bluff; no one was present representing the Town or the SEAB. The event doesn't appear to be functioning as an SEAB fundraiser anymore. Although it once was, it is now an outlier in terms of allowable use for the park. No other outside organizations groups are allowed to use Town Parks for fundraising. The Board should discuss this event and make a recommendation to Council.
- **Playground upgrade:** 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 have been completed.

ROLLING OAKS PARK

- **Lightning Struck Oak:** The Parks Foundation and Town are working with Josh Landry, to design a public art feature from this tree. Work will feature figures of burrowing owls and other wildlife. The project will begin May 18th and be completed by June 2nd. Pieces of the branches are being made into commemorative giveaways for the Town's 25th birthday celebration.
- **Interior Painting Project:** The interiors will be repainted by September.

SOUTHWEST MEADOWS SANCTUARY PARK AND PRESERVE

- **New Construction:** Staff will soon issue a Notice to Proceed. The Town will likely have to connect to an existing sanitary sewer system, rather than a closed septic system. Work will commence as soon as all approvals and permits are in hand.

EVENTS CALENDAR and UPCOMING

Staff has created a new annual events calendar and has asked all groups to populate this calendar with their dates to ensure cooperation among all park users and to eliminate user conflicts, which abound.

- **Southwest Ranches Farmers Market:** Saturdays and Sundays at Southwest Meadows Preserve, 10:00 am - 3 pm.

- **Public Art Project:** Josh Landry Chainsaw Sculpting of lightning struck oak tree, May 16 – June 2, at Rolling Oaks Park.
- **Southwest Ranches 25th Anniversary Celebration,** Saturday June 7, Rolling Oaks Park.
- **Bingo at the Barn:** Saturday, September 27th, 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Tickets not yet on sale
- **Mayor's Chess Challenge** event will be on Saturday October 18th at Town Hall.

Town of Southwest Ranches Annual Calendar of Events

| Month | Date | Event | Time | Location | Organizer |
|-----------------------|-------------|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| | | | | | |
| May 2025 | 3 | Household Hazardous Waste Event | 8 am to 2 pm | RO Park | PW |
| May 2025 | TBA | Monthly Food Truck Event | tba | Southwest Meadows Preserve | AKPF/DMLH |
| May 2025 | | | | | |
| June 2025 | 7 | Town's 25th Anniversary Parade and Celebration | 8:00 pm – 8:45 pm | RO Park | Susan Kutz |
| June 2025 | TBA | Monthly Food Truck Event | TBA | Southwest Meadows Preserve | AKPF/DMLH |
| June 2025 | 11 | SWR Women's Club | 6 pm tp 8 pm | RO Park | DMLH |
| June 2025 | | | | | |
| July 2025 | TBA | Monthly Food Truck Event | TBA | Southwest Meadows Preserve | AKPF/DMLH |
| July - September 2025 | TBA | SWR Calendar Photo Contest | | | SK / RPAADAB |
| July 2025 | 12 | Household Hazardous Waste Event /Shred a thon | 8 am to 2 pm 10 am to 2 | RO Park | PW |
| July 2025 | | | | | |
| August 2025 | TBA | Monthly Food Truck Event | TBA | Southwest Meadows Preserve | AKPF/DMLH |
| August 2025 | | | | | |
| September 2025 | | | | | |

Town of Southwest Ranches Annual Calendar of Events

| Month | Date | Event | Time | Location | Organizer |
|----------------|-------------|--|---------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| September 2025 | TBA | Monthly Food Truck Event | TBA | Southwest Meadows Preserve | AKPF/DMLH |
| September 2025 | 27 | Bingo at the Barn | 6pm to 11 pm | RO Park | AKPF/DMLH |
| October 2025 | TBA | Pumpkin Patch | TBA | Southwest Meadows Preserve | AKPF/DMLH |
| October 2025 | TBA | Monthly Food Truck Event | TBA | Southwest Meadows Preserve | AKPF/DMLH |
| October 2025 | 11 | Household Hazardous Waste Event & Shred-a-thon | 8 am to 2 pm | RO Park | PW |
| October 2025 | 18 | Mayor's Chess Challenge SWR | 10 am to 2 pm | Town Hall | DMLH |
| October 2025 | | | | | |
| October 2025 | TBA | Halloween ROCA | Unknown | RO Park | ROCA |
| November 2025 | | | | | |
| November 2025 | TBA | Monthly Food Truck Event | TBA | Southwest Meadows Preserve | AKPF/DMLH |
| November 2025 | Unknown/TBA | Holiday Food / Toy Drive(s) | TBA | Town Hall | RM |
| December 2025 | TBA | Annual Holiday Lights Contest | | | SK / RPAADAB |
| December 2025 | 12 | ROCA Holiday / SANTA | TBA | RO Park | ROCA |
| December 2025 | TBA | Monthly Food Truck Event | TBA | Southwest Meadows Preserve | AKPF/DMLH |
| December 2025 | TBA | SRHA Holiday Party | TBA | Equestrian Park | SRHA |

Town of Southwest Ranches Annual Calendar of Events

| Month | Date | Event | Time | Location | Organizer |
|-------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| December 2025 | | | | | |
| Year Round | Fall, Winter, Spring three 7 -week Seasons; Saturdays and Sundays | i9 Sports: Soccer and Flag Football | 8 am to 2 pm | CE Park | DMLH |
| Year Round | Every Saturday | Southwest Ranches Farmer's Market | | SWMPreserve | DMLH |
| Fall, Winter, Spring | Every Sunday | Southwest Ranches Farmer's Market | | SWMPreserve | DMLH |
| January 2026 | | | | | |
| January 2026 | TBA | Monthly Food Truck Event | TBA | Southwest Meadows Preserve | AKPF/DMLH |
| January 2026 | 15 through 19 | Southwest Ranches Country Fair | Various | SWMPreserve | AKPF/DMLH |
| January 2026 | 15 | Southwest Ranches Arbor Day | TBA | Town Hall | DMLH |
| January 2026 | | | | | |
| February 2026 | | | | | |
| February 2026 | TBA | Monthly Food Truck Event | TBA | Southwest Meadows Preserve | AKPF/DMLH |
| February 2026 | 21 | SoFlo Chili Fest | 9am to 4 pm | RO Park | AKPF/DMLH |
| February 2026 | 14 | SWR Fun Youth Horse Show | 8 am to 5 pm | Equestrian Park | DMLH |
| March 2026 | TBA | Monthly Food Truck Event | TBA | Southwest Meadows Preserve | AKPF/DMLH |

Town of Southwest Ranches Annual Calendar of Events

| Month | Date | Event | Time | Location | Organizer |
|--------------|-------------|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| March 2026 | 7 | 24th Annual Water Matters Day | 9am to 3 pm | Tree Tops Park | DMLH |
| March 2026 | | | | | |
| March 2026 | | Barn Dance | 7 pm to 11 pm | RO Park | DR / SEAB |
| March 2026 | Unknown/TBA | Shoe Drive | | Town Hall | RM |
| April 2026 | | | | | |
| April 2026 | TBA | Monthly Food Truck Event | TBA | Southwest Meadows Preserve | AKPF/DMLH |
| April 2026 | TBA | Unity in Diversity 5 K | 7:30 am to end | RO Park | DR/SYA |
| April 2026 | TBA | Easter Egg Hunt– ROCA | 11 am to end | RO Park | ROCA |
| May 2026 | TBA | Monthly Food Truck Event | TBA | Southwest Meadows Preserve | AKPF/DMLH |
| May 2026 | | | | | |
| May 2026 | | | | | |