



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

Via Zoom

April 13, 2021  
7:00 pm

**Board Members**

Chris Brownlow, Dena Butler, MaryGay Chaples, Lana Eichel,  
Debra Goff-Rose, Debbie Green, Wendi Halberg,  
Sheryl Melson, Laurie Morse

**Council Liaison**

Gary Jablonski

**Staff Liaison**

December Lauretano-Haines

**Members present:**

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

**RFNRAB Members absent:**

MaryGay Chaples  
Lana Eichel

**Staff present:**

December Lauretano-Haines

**Council present:**

Gary Jablonski  
Mayor Steve Breitkreuz  
Jim Allbritton  
Bob Hartmann  
David Kuczenski

Call to order at 7:00 PM.

The members present reviewed the minutes of the March 2021 meeting.

Laurie Morse motioned to approve the minutes of the January 2021 meeting. Dena Butler seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Staff briefed the members present about the Mayor's Monarch Pledge, and that the Town has taken this pledge on the request of Mayor Breitkreuz. Staff made everyone aware that the Monarch Butterflies population has declined tremendously in recent years. Through the National Wildlife Federation's Mayor's Monarch Pledge, U.S. cities, municipalities, and other communities are committing to create habitat for the monarch butterfly and pollinators, and to educate residents about how they can make a difference at home and in their community. Monarch butterflies must lay their eggs on the milkweed plant.

Staff updated the members present on the various parks.

- Founders' Trailside Park – Staff has begun preparation of the wall for painting.
- Equestrian Park – Irrigation contractor is working on repair to the zone that caused flooding near the practice arena.
- Southwest Meadows Sanctuary – This location may be prepared as an emergency evacuation pasture for cases of extreme flooding. The Mayor added that this area seemed to stay fairly dry. We need research fencing options to make sure we have the right fencing for different livestock. The Parks Foundation is discussing having an annual carnival at this park site.
- Rolling Oaks Park – Staff has plans to improve trail access to this park at very little cost. Wetlands upgrade, when completed, may help the site be eligible for an Emerald Award.

Staff shared with the members present that the Town received monies, in the amount of \$111,307, that came from the foreclosure fund. The following park improvements were all approved by Council with these funds.

- Sunshine Ranches Equestrian Park - \$32,125 for playground upgrade
- Rolling Oaks Park - \$33,920 Wetlands upgrade and \$9,500 for fitness trail upgrade
- Country Estates Park (Fishing Hole) - \$31,726 ballfield upgrade and \$4,036 for playground educational signs

### **Old Business**

We need to look at our role in encouraging habitat pollinators. Spread the word on how to plant and create pollinator habitat gardens. For these gardens we need to provide: food, clean water, cover, and places to raise young.

Dena will work with Staff to come up with a call for entries for the newsletter ad/notice to encourage residents to submit "Design Entryway" ideas for the Country Estates Park.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.