



Village of Taos Ski Valley
Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting
March 26, 2024

2 pm Location: Village Offices, 7 Firehouse Road, Taos Ski Valley
Zoom link also provided

Call to Order	Scovil
Minutes February 27, 2024 Meeting	Scovil
Committee Chair Remarks	Woodard/Scovil
PARC Resolution and Roster Approval by Council	
Annual Plan update	
Memorial Benches	
Report of task force	Scovil
Adjourn	

Village of Taos Ski Valley
Parks and Recreation Committee
February 27, 2024
Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 4 pm via zoom teleconference. Present were Ryan Scovil, Dan Vaughn, and Joan Woodard (chair). About 5 neighbors were also present. Village staff present were Carroll Griesedieck, Patrick Nicholson, Ann Marie Wooldridge, and Village Administrator, John Avila. Also present was Mayor Chris Stanek.

The chair called the committees attention to minutes of the January 29, 2024 meeting which were approved electronically prior to this meeting. The chair thanked several people --- John Avila, Carroll Griesedieck, Ann Marie Wooldridge, VTSV councilors, past chair Kat Kett, and Patrick Nicholson who have spent a significant amount of time providing history, educating regarding village processes and policies, and providing advice on various PARC matters.

The chair reported on discussions with committee members regarding the time and day of the committee meeting which resulted in identifying the 4th Tuesday at 2 pm as the best time for future meetings. This will be reviewed periodically to accommodate the members schedules.

Next the chair introduced the subject of membership. It was reported that no new applications have been received. The committee continues to seek representation from the village core and Kachina basin areas.

The chair discussed the development of the committee charter. The chair contacted all the village councilors to seek their input, and a draft based on committee discussion in February as well as councilor input was provided to the committee. Committee members and staff offered comments which led to the addition of stewardship of the natural environment and sustainment to the scope of PARC, and some “wordsmithing” to improve clarity. [Subsequent to the meeting an update draft was sent to the committee. Also subsequent to the meeting, the chair received direction from Village legal advisor to drop the use of the name “charter” to avoid confusion with municipal charters, and further the chair was requested to reformat the document into a resolution which will be brought by the mayor before the March council meeting.]

The next topic was memorial benches. Ryan Scovil reported on work to develop a price quote for a bench with plaque. Mr. Scovil also reported on several questions which the committee should consider in formulating a proposal for this program. These questions include—is this a memorial for individual who have passed on? Should the plaque include more than the name such as description of role in the ski valley? Where should the program start—what location should be first? What locations might be offered for subsequent benches? How will the bench and its installation be paid for? What are the maintenance requirements for the bench and how will it be paid for? The conclusion from the discussion was a request to develop a draft

description of the program, answering these questions, and to bring that to the committee for review and possibly forwarding to the council for approval.

The chair next reported that some of the information that the committee requested at the previous meeting such as the flora and fauna study of the wetlands, and the design of the wetlands trail were found not to exist. The committee will consider these topics in future discussions.

Next the committee considered the draft annual plan for 2024/25. The following topics were discussed:

- village core beautification---the committee supported seeking funding to reestablish the summer flower baskets and seeking collaboration with TSVI on refurbishment of the Sutton Place. It was also discussed that PARC should confer with the TIDD board and Village Administration regarding village receipt/dedication of TIDD projects to understand if and how landscaping is accepted.

- inventory of Village trails, open space, parks etc---the committee discussed the resources available to develop an inventory. The chair will research available resources.

- hiker parking sustainment---the committee agreed to request funds for cleaning and toilet pumping

- JR Ramming Trail—the committee agreed to seek funds for annual maintenance and refurbishment after confirming TSVI support for the trail which occupies NFS land in the TSVI Special Use Permit

- recreation facilities---the committee agreed to seek funding for disc golf and volleyball after confirming with TSVI that golf will be located at the base of chair 1 and volleyball will be reestablished at Kachina basin at the previous location.

- Kachina Vista Park—the committee discussed the needs for park refurbishment and concluded that a police report should be filed on the stolen bench, discussions with Village administration should explore what cleanup can be done, and funds should be sought to start refurbishment of the park.

- Interconnecting Trails project with Rocky Mountain Youth Corps—the committee discussed this work and agreed that committee members would help with review of completed trail sections, review of roughed in trail sections, and the locations of trail sections yet to be started. The committee also discussed further exploration of the idea of a boardwalk access to the wetlands which was first brought up by the committee in October, 2023.

- Spring cleanup—the committee agreed that PARC should work with the chamber to organize and support a spring cleanup day as in previous years.

- Strategic planning and community engagement---the committee discussed the importance of broad community engagement in the development of a PARC strategic plan. Several ideas were suggested to engage and seek community ideas and input. The committee generally concluded that a number of avenues be used to seek input including: at Spring Cleanup announce an upcoming session to seek community input and give out a questionnaire to seek input at the cleanup event; work with the chamber to conduct an online survey of ideas; host a session (in person and possibly zoom) to gather input and feedback from the community about the strategic plan including vision and goals.

The chair summarized and the committee approved a list of requests from the Lodgers Tax Board.

Committee member, Dan Vaughn, and Village administrator, John Avila encouraged the committee to consider grant opportunities such as Trails+, NM Youth Corps (YCC), and the Land & Water Conservation Fund. The chair added that one village councilor suggested that the committee consider requests for appropriations from the legislature. Committee members were encouraged to join the February 29, 2024 Webinar on the Trails+ program.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm.

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Chair's Report

At the March 22, 2024 regular meeting of the VTSV Council, the resolution establishing, defining the role, and directing the work of PARC was passed. Also passed was the roster of members and officers.

During the past weeks, the chair has conducted the following activities related to the annual plan:

- Reviewed January 24, 2023 Council meeting booklet and minutes regarding approval of professional services agreement with Rocky Mountain Youth Corps; reviewed copy of Rocky Mountain Youth Corps Contract

 - requesting review of contract work completed and planned, at the April PARC meeting

- Reviewed GIS on Village website---property boundaries indicate that Village land and Wetlands open space boundaries are south of the amphitheater platform and Village lands and wetlands boundary is in the wetlands. Consider exploring with RMYC regarding design options.

- Started discussions with TSVI officials on the following topics

 - connector trail from Kachina Road to Williams Lake Trail created summer 2023

 - commitment to JR Ramming Trail

 - location of disc golf at base of chair 1

 - location of volleyball at existing sand court at base of chair 4

 - collaboration with TSVI on Sutton Place and River Walk landscaping

- Filed police report March 14, 2024 on stolen bench from Kachina Vista Municipal Park

- Started discussions with Village Administration on the cleanup of Kachina Vista Municipal Park; have identified emergency egress use and snow storage requirements as well as cleanup actions

Village of Taos Ski Valley
Memorial Bench Program
DRAFT
March 2024

1. The purpose of Memorial Benches Program is to provide memorial recognition for deceased individuals who were connected in meaningful ways to Taos Ski Valley including founders, leaders, and members of the Taos Ski Valley community who have had positive impact on the ski valley, the community, and its reputation.
2. The Memorial Benches Program will be financed through donations provided by individuals requesting recognition of an individual. The amount of the donation will cover the cost of the bench, plaque, installation including secure attachment, and maintenance.
3. There are one bench design with two size options—~4 feet and 8 feet.
4. The plaque design offers two options: a basic design with text only up to XX characters; and an option upgraded plaque with picture and YY characters. PARC reviews and approves the proposed wording; wording is suggested to include the person's name, years in Taos Ski Valley, roles, and statement about impact.
5. After a donation is made in the amount to finance a bench, PARC and VTSV staff in collaboration will contract for the bench and plaque, and arrange for installation. The sponsors have the option of a community dedication ceremony if desired.
6. A list of potential locations for benches is developed and amended by PARC; first/inaugural bench on River Walk. The locations will include sites throughout the village from Amizette area to Kachina basin. Sites on TSVI property or NFS property (including that in the Special Use Agreement) will be coordinated with TSVI. The total number of sites offered will be approximately 20.
7. The bench design has been chosen to have minimal maintenance. Any maintenance provided by VTSV staff and paid by fund collected from donations; damage from snow plows or vehicle accidents is responsibility of Village.