



Taos Ski Valley
Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes
July 22, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am by the chair. Present were Steve Hoxie, Kent Kiehl, Janet Ratliff Thomas, and Joan Woodard. The chair noted that a quorum of members was present. Also present were Richard Bellis, Village Administrator; Henry Caldwell, VTSV Councilor; and a few neighbors and property owners.

The first item of business was introduced---approval of meeting minutes from April 22, and June 24. Upon motion and second, the minutes were approved.

The chair reported on the site visit by the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps Field Supervisor. Also present for the site visit was Janet Ratliff Thomas, committee member, and Bob Thomas, home owner. The group review the connector trail from the lower end of Porcupine to the upper end of Kachina Vista Park. It was noted that this trail was not well designed and entails a long section of steep, "fall line" trail near the bottom of the trail, which is unstable and not sustainable. After review of a few options for rerouting and considering the funds available for supplies and crew time, it was concluded that this lower section of the trail should be rebuilt with stabilizing steps. The RMYC committed to phone discussions to finalize the plans for the crew session in August.

The chair reported on the site visit to Kachina Vista Park (KVP). Present for the visit were Joan Woodard, Janet Ratliff Thomas and Bob Thomas (homeowner), Christoff Brownell (business and home owner), Richard Bellis (Village Administrator), and Gabe Vasquez (Director of Public Works). The chair reviewed the purpose of the site visit to plan cleanup of KVP and plan for security with locked gates; both of which will contribute to the match for the Trails+ grant. The group discussed the park noting it is a linear park, with viewpoints throughout. It was also noted that there is usage of the park for hiking, biking, snow shoeing, and cross country skiing. The group discussed the possibility of parking at the top of the park which could be created by building our the area at the upper end of the park using rock and dirt currently stored on the park. It was noted that this could possibly create up to six parking spots as well as a small area for a picnic table. The group walked the length of the park, and discussed the possibility of using the excess dirt and small rock to resurface the road/trail. It was also noted that the large boulders would be useful to secure a few roadside areas along Twining/Zaps/Porcupine at challenging turns in the road that are also steep, and areas where there is steep drop offs. The group concluded that near term cleanup of the excess rock and dirt should be priority to resurface the trail/road, and to improve challenging areas along the main village roads. The group also concluded that a vision document for Kachina Vista Park would be useful next step.

The chair reported on a conversation with Chaz Rockey who is a TSVI representative member of the TIDD board. Chaz provided update on the arrival district planning; updated planning will commence shortly and the PARC will be invited to be involved.

Richard Bellis, Village Administrator, provided updates on a number of topics. Hiker parking is operating well for the summer. July 4th was a busy weekend and it was reported that there were about 300 cars parked in the Kachina Basin area throughout the day. Mr. Bellis reported that work is starting on a joint management plan (Village, NFS, State, Village, etc.) to better manage the overuse of this area. He also reported that an additional plan is being developed to define roles of parking, traffic management, gondola, etc. Mr. Bellis reported that Public Works will install new slats on the benches on Ramming Trail and the chair should contact the PW director.

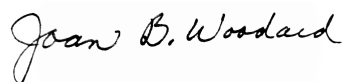
Steve Hoxie, committee member and TSVI Vice President for Mountain Operations reported on the summer 2025 activities. He reported that Chair 7 is being replaced with a fixed grip triple chair from Leitner Poma of America. He also reported that Maxie's ski trail has been graded to remove some of the features from the previous terrain park. Finally, Mr. Hoxie reported that the RFID systems have been installed at Chairs 1 and 4 and the operation has been better than expected.

The chair directed the committee to a few discussion topics---consideration of parking charge in Kachina Basin, and ideas to manage overuse of Kachina Vista Basin and Williams Lake Trail. Charging for parking is currently in the draft plans and a specific parking plan will define the scope, processes, staffing, cost, and expected funds. Mr. Bellis reported that the NFS stated that only a few of their facilities do have not a charge. NFS provided facilities such as parking and sanitation facilities are supported with these charges.

Finally, the committee discussed vision ideas for Kachina Vista Park. It was noted that the park is used in all seasons. It is a valuable trail area for ski valley visitors who are not interested or capable to attempt the steep trails. It provides amazing views of the valley. It is also used in the winter for snow shoeing, cross country skiing, and biking. The chair noted that avalanche danger is a factor for this area in the winter. Janet Ratliff Thomas volunteered to do research into the topic of avalanche safety, signage, etc. She will report at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 am.

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joan B. Woodard". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

PARC Chair