



Taos Ski Valley
Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes
August 26, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am by the chair. Present were Janet Ratliff Thomas, Dan Vaughan, and Joan Woodard. The chair noted that a quorum of members was not present. Also present were Richard Bellis, Village Administrator, and a few neighbors and property owners.

The chair reported that the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps crew is arriving in the ski valley today, and will camp near the base of the Bull of the Woods trail. They will be working on the connector trail to the upper entrance of Kachina Vista Park. She invited members that might in the ski valley to stop by and meet the crew. The chair also reported that supplies for the trail design for this work is supported by funds from the prior contract with the RMYC which the VTSV Council voted to support a new completion date for the contract to allow expenditure of the remaining funds. The remaining funds may also support a crew at the beginning of 2026 summer.

The chair announced that the Enchanted Circle Trails Association will be in the ski valley on September 4, 2025 for the kickoff of the master plan development for PARC. The meeting will start at 9 am in the Firehouse conference room and will include a field visit to existing trail and other infrastructure. One of the first steps will be an inventory of the existing trails etc. PARC members are invited, and a zoom link will be established for the conference room meeting.

Dan Vaughan, director of the Taos Ski Valley Chamber, reported on the visitation statistics. For Hiker Parking area, visitation is relatively constant from 2024. It is up 12% from 2023, and down 21% from 2022. For all locations in the ski valley visitation is up from 2024 by about 12%. The most popular days are Friday and Saturday. Dan will provide a report next month which will include the month of August, and then, due to budget cuts the license for use of this tool will end on September 5.

Richard Bellis, Village Administrator, reported that the use of a bull dozer to prepare roads for the winter with a new treatment approach and to commence cleanup of Kachina Vista Park. Rocks have been moved to provide some security to block access by four wheeled vehicles. It was noted that a truck and two motor cycles intruded into the park recently. Mr. Bellis reported on the new chipper which has been applied to reducing the slash piles and is available to the RMYC if needed. Mr. Bellis also reported on an upcoming meeting with the USFS on the Kachina Basin and Williams Lake usage management. He stated that emphasis is on use of a shuttle and the planned gondola to reduce traffic.

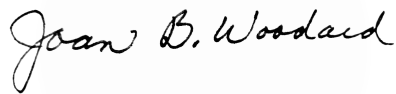
The chair reported that village counselor, Henry Caldwell, volunteered to do some basic maintenance of the Ramming Trail. The chair asked for interest from an organization to adopt

the Ramming Trail for on going maintenance. The commitment for adopt a trail is to organize volunteer sessions for maintenance.

The chair initiated a discussion on the usage of Kachina Vista Park. Janet Ratliff-Thomas reported on a review of the issues with usage of the park in the winter. Janet reported on contact with the NM Department of Transportation to request information on winter safety. Janet also reported on standard signage for this area and the urgency to post signs before the ski season and first snow. Janet also noted that this is a hazardous area year round---in the summer there are mud, loose rock, rock slides, uneven terrain, water runoff, etc. The discussion concluded with a discussion of the legal risks.

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 am.

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joan B. Woodard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

PARC Chair