



**PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA
MEETING TO BE HELD VIA ZOOM
TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2026 AT 3:00 PM**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL (Woodard)**
- 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - A. September 23, 2025 **(Woodard/All)**
October 28, 2025
- 3. CHAIR'S REPORT**
 - A. -Delay application for next Trails+ grant until after July 2026 **(Woodard)**
-New meeting start time of 3 pm
-“Trail Salsa”---ECTA forum for cooperation on trails
-Closure of Kachina Vista Park for winter per VTSV Council direction
-completion of email and text messages announcing closure
-status of posting of CLOSED signs and securing gates-? **(Hammond-Paul)**
 - B. Report on Trails+ Grant matching-funds VTSV work **(Hammond-Paul/G. Vasquez)**
-Kachina Vista Park cleanup
-JR Trail ski lift benches—slat replacement
 - C. PARC Comprehensive Planning for Trails and Greenspace **(Woodard)**
-Review of Community Input **(Woodard/Bell)**
-Discussion of Draft report **(Woodard)**
-introduction and background section
-VTSV mission statement vs PARC vision stmt.
-cover design
-consideration of inclusion of letter from Mayor/Village council or PARC
 - D. Discussion of items for grant request to Lodgers Tax Board **(Woodard)**
- 4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DATE, TIME & PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL**

02/24/2026-REGULAR MEETING. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks & Recreation of the Village of Taos Ski Valley will be held as a hybrid in-person and on-line meeting on 02/24/2026 , at 3:00 pm in Room 102, 9 Firehouse Rd., Taos Ski Valley, NM and the Agenda, Agenda attachments, and Zoom Meeting link will be available to the public on the Village website at <https://www.vtsv.org>.
- 5. ADJOURNMENT**



Taos Ski Valley
Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes
September 23, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by the chair. Present were Kent Kiehl, Janet Ratliff Thomas, Dan Vaughan, and Joan Woodard. The chair noted that a quorum of members was present. Also present were Richard Bellis, Village Administrator, Henry Caldwell, Village Councilor, and a few neighbors and property owners. The chair presented the minutes from July 22, and August 26, 2025. The committee unanimously approved the minutes.

The chair reported that the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps crew completed steps in the lower section of the connector trail to the upper entrance of Kachina Vista Park. Some funds from the prior contract with the RMYC which the VTSV Council voted to support a new contract completion date, were used to pay for required supplies. The remaining funds will also support a crew at the beginning of 2026 summer.

The chair reported on the tour of village owned land segments with the Enchanted Circle Trails Association after the master planning kickoff meeting on September 4, 2025. She noted that many committee members joined that tour. The primary focus was to review village owned land segments and to identify existing parks and recreation infrastructure. Following the September 4th meeting, ECTA will develop a schedule for the near term initial outreach meetings. ECTA will provide periodic updates.

The chair concluded her report with a request for volunteers to help with removal of the hanging baskets and a request for village guidance for a storage location.

Dan Vaughan, director of the Taos Ski Valley Chamber, reported on the visitation statistics for the past years from Memorial Day to Labor Day. For Hiker Parking, visitation was up in 2021 and 2022 probably due to COVID, down in 2023 due to Chair 4 construction, up in 2024 and relatively constant from 2024 to 2025. The most popular day is Saturday. The charts presented are attached. Mr. Vaughan also reported on work to possibly get this service restarted; funds are extremely limited for the chamber and funds are being solicited from all sources.

Richard Bellis, Village Administrator, reported on the cleanup of Kachina Vista Park. Approximately one third to half the park length starting at the lower entrance, has been cleared of dirt that has eroded or fallen off the hill. The road has also been graded. He stated that the park work will most likely not be completed this summer and will have to recommence next spring. He reported on staff work on better vehicle layout in Hiker Parking which might increase the vehicle count by 15. The chair reminded everyone of the Hiker Parking design work done by a landscape architect in early 2025 which included a handicap space, increased vehicle numbers as well as some protection for the vault toilet from plow damage. The chair suggested that the topic of Hiker parking be on the agenda for the next meeting. Finally Mr. Bellis reported that

design work has commenced for a camera located at the green water tank for purposes of monitoring the park entrance at the upper end. A camera at the lower end will require power to that site. The chair asked about the work on replacing slats on the Ramming Trail ski lift benches; this work is part of the matching for the Trails+ grant. Mr. Bellis reported that this work will be conducted during the winter. Mr. Bellis reported that a part time person has been added for recycling and will also be dedicated to parks and trails. This person will transition to full time next year.

The chair initiated a discussion on the topic of year round usage of Kachina Vista Park. She reported on the recent Public Safety meeting discussion of Kachina Vista Park. That committee's conclusion was to not change the village resolution which required closure in the winter. The primary reasons were the avalanche safety risks and the complexity of signage etc, to permit winter use. She stated the village does not have the time and resources to consider this topic and its complexity. The Public Safety committee did state that the PARC should continue to study and consider this topic. A picture of a Jackson Hole sign for such an area is attached. The chair stated that signage will be required this fall to close the park and the village staff will need to consider modification of their snow storage which currently involved heavy vehicles entering the park during the winter, a hazard given the avalanche danger. Finally, the chair stated that there are risks of falling rocks as well as water and mud/dirt slides during the summer. Signage for this will need to be considered in the spring. Janet Ratliff-Thomas reported on a review of the issues associated with usage of the park in the winter. Ms. Thomas reported on contact with the NM Department of Transportation to request information on winter safety and signage. She also reported on discussions with the director of the Taos Avalanche Center who expressed support for year round access as an uncontrolled area. She also talked with the Snow Safety director for TSVI. The discussion included the topic of passive snow mitigation measures. The committee discussion concluded with a committee resolution that the park will be closed in the winter, signage will be posted for avalanche danger and closure, and no vehicles will be permitted inside the gates of the park.

The chair introduced the topic of another Trails+ grant application. The scope might include trail maintenance, cleanup for hiker parking, cleanup of the lower end of Kachina Vista Park and obscuration of the jersey barriers, and signage if the village standard for signage is available. A partnership with ECTA was also discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 11 am

Submitted by

Joan Woodard
PARC Chair



Taos Ski Valley
Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes
October 28, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by the chair. Present were Kent Kiehl, 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 meeting started with the chair reviewing the summer activities. It was reported that all equipment has been stored. The feedback from the summer was positive.

The Village Administrator, Rick Bellis reported on several topics. The work on Kachina Vista Park was not complete and will restart as soon as the snow melts in the spring. The gates at both entrances will be replaced with temporary gates for the winter with posted CLOSED signs which warn of avalanche danger. A sign for the entrance of the park being designed and will be presented to the PARC when a draft is available for approval. Bob Corroon, local property owner, reported that additional avalanche signs have been procured and will be installed shortly. Additionally, the village staff will send notifications of the park winter closure in the utility bill, email and text.

Next Dan Vaughan reported from the chamber. The summer data showed that the visitation was basically flat compared to last year. The chamber also has started a 3-day itinerary service tailored to different visitor persona--such as foodies and non-skiers. It was also reported that the chamber has transitioned the website to winter and is launching a new text messaging tool in two weeks, aimed at building an audience of 1,000-1,500 subscribers for marketing purposes, with a higher open rate (~75%) than email campaigns (~30%). The chair concluded this section by reporting the Steve Hoxie was unable to make this meeting to give the resort corporation report. The chair mentioned the completion of the new chair 7 and the introduction of RFID season passes and tickets.

The chair then introduced the topic of Hiker Parking. The chair described the design work completed one year ago with support from the resort corporation, and no success during the legislative session to secure funds. The cost estimate is between \$135,000 and 140,000 which exceeds the limited for Trails+ grants to municipalities. It was reported that unless the project could be envisioned as a regional project with partners from the region, that Trails+ is not a likely source. It was also reported that other grant sources may be available for this. Mr. Bellis expressed concern about the village's financial situation, noting a significant decrease in revenue, and emphasized the need to prioritize projects, particularly the hiker parking expansion, which he considers a top priority for recreation funding. Mr. Bellis also noted the

existence of USFS land which is crossed in accessing the parking lot. The chair requested that the Village staff forward information and maps on this issue. Mr. Bellis reported that Hiker Parking is on schedule for closure soon. He also reported on the work for the Kachina Basin visitation management plan which is being developed by a collaboration with the village, the US Forest Service and other parties. A question was posed about the idea of permits for the visitors to the basin or trails and the chair reported that she has participated in the plan development sessions and learned that if the US Forest Service proposed implementation of permits for access to forest service land that causes some restriction of access, that NEPA evaluation is required.

The chair introduced Courtney Arel and Loren Bell from the Enchanted Circle Trails Association, to give a report on the development of a Comprehensive Trails and Greenspace Plan. ECTA reported on the progress to date of stakeholder meetings to gather initial input, and on the scheduling of three open public engagement meetings –in Taos town, in Taos Ski Valley, and one virtual session. They requested updated property plats and engineering surveys from the village to avoid potential land ownership issues. The team is working on outreach materials, including a webpage, flyer, and online survey, to be launched starting early next week.

The chair opened the discussion on a Trails+ grant application during the current also talked about a recent Village Council meeting and a related article. Joan expressed concern about the village staff availability for support to new projects. The group considered postponing a grant request, which the committee previously discussed for signage improvements and additional youth corps sessions as potential projects. The group concluded that work should continue on a possible grant application with a submission deadline of January 31, 2026, and decision making on submittal could be considered in the next months. The Village Administrator expressed interest in seeking funding for the Hiker Parking improvements. Mr Bell provided details about the three-tier Trails+ grant structure and mentioned a potential Federal Land Access Program grant for infrastructure improvements, which could support hiker parking.

The chair stated that the Village Administrator has requested that each committee provide proposed priorities for the year which will be considered by the Village Council. The chair stated that topics for prioritization include completion of the current Trails Plus grant by the end of next summer including in-kind work by the Village Public Works team and pursuing new grant opportunities. Kent and Dan agreed that funding should be the top priority, with Kent suggesting exploring public-private partnerships and Dan emphasizing the need to expand recreational opportunities during the summer months. The group also considered organizing more regular PARC events and potentially collaborating with Ski Valley to attract more mountain bikers. The group continued discussion with public park access and PARC funding and grants, with Kent expressing a desire to make public parks available year-round for activities like hiking and cycling. The conversation ended with Michael Chandler joining to emphasize that standing committees, including Parks and Recreation, should clearly define their mandates in alignment with the mayor and council's priorities, as these can change with new council elections. In summary the chair proposed focusing on two main areas: securing resources for new capabilities and attractions and maintaining existing facilities. Mr. Chandler also suggested exploring federal grants for pedestrian paths along highways. The group concluded that they should provide priorities rather than waiting for further direction. The meeting concluded with

notice that the next meeting will be January 27, 2026, with the chair providing updates and a report on the priority discussions process. The meeting adjourned at 11:10 am.

Submitted

Joan B. Woodard
Chair



Trail Salsa Mission, Vision & Structure - DRAFT

Mission

To build a cooperative trail community across the Enchanted Circle by uniting user groups and land management agencies to plan, develop, and maintain a sustainable trail system. We drive tangible progress through open dialogue, shared problem-solving, and mutual support while balancing recreational access with the protection of natural and cultural resources.

Vision

Trails connect us—to each other, to nature, and to healthier minds, bodies, and communities.

We envision a regional trail network that is accessible, interconnected, and essential to the quality of life for all Enchanted Circle residents. Our system will support recreation, transportation, and wellness through trails that are safe, well-maintained, and environmentally responsible.

Through lasting collaboration among public partners, agencies, and community members, we will protect our landscapes, foster an active outdoor culture, and strengthen a resilient local economy for generations to come.

Structure

Trail Salsa is a collaborative, solutions-focused working group dedicated to advancing the Enchanted Circle Trails Plan and related initiatives. Every participant contributes to collective success.

We cultivate a space where all voices are valued, ideas are respected, and innovation is encouraged.

The group meets monthly—preferably in person—for concise, action-oriented sessions to share updates, identify priorities, and coordinate mutual support that leads to real results.

The ~20 participants include the Forest Service, BLM, Taos Pueblo, all Enchanted Circle municipalities, Taos and Colfax Counties as well as trail user groups spanning equestrians, runners, hikers, bikers, and motorized users. Three additional at-large community members will round-out the representation.