



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 the Hiker Parking vault toilet is on schedule for closure soon. A portable toilet will be installed for the winter months. 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.

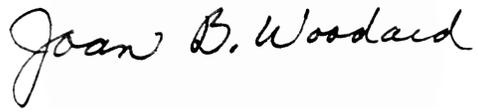
The chair introduced Courtney Arel and Loren Bell from the Enchanted Circle Trails Association, to give a report on the development of a Comprehensive Trails and Greenspace Plan. ECTA reported on the progress to date of stakeholder meetings to gather initial input, and on the scheduling of three open 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 to create 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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joan B. Woodard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and 'W'.

Joan B. Woodard  
Chair