

Minutes of the Parks, Trails and Outdoor Recreation Committee Meeting

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm by Kurt Raymond, committee chair. Present were committee members Lisa Foss, Russ Durer, Mr. Raymond, and Ken Wilburt, board liaison Patrick Moore, staff Larry Lynch and Allen Roth GM.

The committee reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting.

The first agenda item was an update by Lynch to the committee of current projects. Lynch updated the committee on progress of the trail resurfacing projects on North Pagosa Blvd and Lake Forest Circle, including details on the water main break on Lake Forest Circle that caused some significant damage to the prepared trail surface. Additional updates on the crack fill and seal coating of 2 trail segments in Vista and the northerly portion of North Pagosa Trail. Additionally, Lynch updated the committee on current greenbelt wildfire fuel mitigation projects occurring this summer and the committee agreed that it would be good to go out and take a look at some of this work. The possibility remains that some of the greenbelts may have some potential for additional parks or trails in the future. The committee was also updated on the recent grant that the Town of Pagosa has applied for to help complete the Town to Lakes Trail, including trail portions in the core area and possibly into South Pagosa Blvd and the hospital area.

The next agenda item was a discussion on long range capital improvements for parks and trails. The recent completion of the Northlake Ave trail was discussed and deemed a very successful project as well as the footbridge project completed in 2022. Lynch gave the committee a brief overview of the current long range capital improvement schedule concerning parks and trails, including scheduled construction of the North Pagosa Blvd trail extension to Apsenglow Blvd; the extension of the Park Avenue trail to Holiday Ave; and the gas line trail project in Vista. Allen wanted to remind the committee that some of these numbers and schedule may need to be adjusted from time to time by the board to accommodate other projects. One example was the North Pagosa trail extension south to Hwy 160, where that money may not be needed if the town is successful with the grant for the Town to Lakes trail (that would be included in that project). Additionally, the Vista Gas line trail money may need to be moved or adjusted as well. Large projects at the Rec Center such as the proposed multi-purpose field and the gymnasium may impact the schedule to some degree. Kurt expressed support for these types of projects but also wanted to make sure that trails and parks are not lost in the shuffle, expressing that trails have been the number one priority and project supported by the community and in surveys.

Kurt and Patrick agreed that it might be a good idea for some of these different Association committees to keep abreast of other committee projects and proposals, there may be some overlap or ways to help support each other. The idea of an occasional joint meeting of the committee chairs was suggested.

Lisa Foss reminded everyone that grant funding applications to GOCO and State Trails could help bring some of these trail project costs way down and help keep them on track for scheduled completion.

Kurt emphasized that he would like to continue working toward updating the 2013 Parks and Trails 7-Year Master Plan and would like to have that completed this year if feasible. The committee agreed that this would be a goal.

The meeting was adjourned.