



Town of Southwest Ranches Parks, Recreation, Forestry and Natural Resources Advisory Board Minutes

February 8, 2022
7:00 pm

Board Members

Chris Brownlow, Dena Butler, Debra Goff-Rose, Debbie Green, Wendi Halberg,
Sheryl Melson, Laurie Morse, Catalina Stubbe

Emeritus

MaryGay Chaples, Aster Knight

Council Liaison

Gary Jablonski

Staff Liaison

December Lauretano-Haines

Members present:

Chris Brownlow
Debra Goff-Rose
Dena Butler
Debbie Green
Wendi Halberg
Laurie Morse
Catalina Stubbe
MaryGay Chaples

RFNRAB Members absent:

Sheryl Melson

Staff present:

December Lauretano-Haines

Emily Aceti

Council present:

Gary Jablonski
Mayor Steve Breitkreuz
Bob Hartmann
David Kuczenski

Others present:

Doug McKay
Kathy Cox
Fred Cox
Jeff Katims
Tanya Kantner
Pablo Garcia

Call to order at 7:10 PM

The members present reviewed the minutes of the January 2022 meeting.

Debbie Green motioned to approve the January 2022 minutes as corrected, to reflect Debbie Green as Secretary. Dena Butler seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Jeff Katims, the Town Planning Staff, provided materials and information regarding the planned Akai Estates Trail. The planned trail runs from Bonaventure and Griffin and on to 49th street and then exits to the east to 184th Ave. Now that the developers received permission from the county to access direct from Griffin Rd, the developers have decided that there will no longer be a need for a bridge to connect over the canal to 184th, as they previously had planned, and now don't plan for access at this point. On the west side of canal there is a maintenance easement. That is one potential alignment as opposed to going over the canal. Another option is to just back out that segment of the trail. Question we should ask in looking at this request; is it more desirable to go north or only south to continue the trail. Members present voiced that it is very important to continue north for the connection of the trails through all the parks, including those on the North side of Griffin Road. Mary Gay shared some history of the importance of the trails and connecting them throughout. She met with the South Broward Drainage District, and they don't have any problem of keeping the trail as is. We have use of the easements. There is an easement or right of way from the Country Estates Park and we need the access through the AKAI development to connect the trail to 184th. The trails connect all the way around Town. It was voiced that part of the allure of the trails is not just getting from point A to point B, but to do it in an enjoyable safe way, not on the street or swale. An example of how we've made connections in the past when Sunshine Ranches equestrian park needed to find a trailway into Sunshine Ranches. At the time, the only way to connect was on Volunteer Road or Stirling Road, which were not safe options. The Town was able to work with a property owner to allow connections on Thoroughbred Lane

using part of their property. Kathy Cox shared how with other developments in Davie, that if the trails are in prior to the development, all those that buy in already know that they exist and accept them. There are trails through parks in Davie that connect in a very well-hidden way with the right landscaping.

Chair requested that we put on future agendas to discuss the status of the trails throughout the Town so the board can be updated.

Debbie Green motioned to recommend to Council that the Akai Estates be required to create, preserve, maintain, and include a deed restricted covenant to include for a recreational trail, 15ft wide, going along the east boundary canal maintenance easement from Griffin Road to the south boundary and also create the trail that connects through 49th street right of way to the western boundary. Laurie Morse seconded, and motion passed unanimously.

Wendi Halberg motioned to recommend to Council that they request of Akai Estates to build a pedestrian/equestrian bridge east across the 184th Ave canal. Debra Goff-Rose seconded, and motion passed unanimously.

Staff gave her maintenance report. Founders Trailside Park and the mural are in the process of being painted and have had some graffiti cleaned up. The user groups at the Sunshine Ranches Equestrian Park have submitted their paperwork and made the required payments. Staff is working diligently on the site where the carnival took place for a farmers' market. Staff will be meeting with the contractor at Rolling Oaks Park regarding the clean-up of the wetlands project. At Country Estates Park, Staff is looking at putting a fence around the ball field with a gate on each side. Also looking at improving the fence on 190th Ave. Staff is working on potential improvements for the 5-acre site at Southwest Meadows Sanctuary Park. She is looking at what it would take to get basic amenities there that would support other activities on that site. Catalina has been in conversations with Hawks Bluff Elementary School about partnering with Town to make part of the planting improvements on Frontier Trails Park an educational experience. The school is looking forward to this project and asked for us to give them a date the beginning of May. The board recommended Wednesday, May 4th.

Debbie Green shared with everyone that the Education Advisory Board has planned to hold the Barn Dance on March 12th and the pink flamingos will begin to roost very soon. The Sikh Youth's 4th Annual "Race for Unity in Diversity" 5K run/walk to support the College Scholarship Fund will be on April 9th in Rolling Oaks.

During public comments, there was a concern made of motorized vehicles driving through the parks. Motorized vehicles are not allowed (other than parking areas) and this is posted at all Town Parks. If you see a motorized vehicle driving through, you should call Davie police.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 9:03 pm.