



Village of Taos Ski Valley
Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting
July 23, 2024
10 am
Location: Zoom only

Call to Order	Woodard
Minutes May 28, 2024 Meeting & June 25, 2024 Meeting	Woodard
Committee Chair Remarks	Woodard
Annual Plan and Operations update	
Community Day June 29, 2024 report	
Report on RMYC work & meeting with RMYC manager	
Report on NFS Visitor Use Management Program	Scovil/Vaughan
Plans for grant applications	Woodard
-Trails+ ----- Grant concept	
-Part 1--community-built Taos Ski Valley Village Trails Plan	
-Part 2 (focused projects) --Hiker parking upgrade kiosks and signage, redesign of parking to add more slots; concrete filled pipes to protect vault toilet from plows; completion of Porcupine to Kachina Vista Park segment (adding steps)	
-Engage Enchanted Circle Trails Association for grant application and for Part 1	
Comments from Village staff	
Adjourn	



Village of Taos Ski Valley
Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting
June 25, 2024

The chair called the meeting to order at 2 pm and explained that the meeting agenda was not posted with sufficient time to allow a regular meeting so the meeting will not include decision. The chair introduced Kent Kiehl who is a guest and prospective committee member, and Loren Bell, the presenter for the meeting.

The meeting commenced with a presentation by Loren Bell regarding the Enchanted Circle Trails Association. Mr. Bell described the history of the association and the history of involvement with Taos Ski Valley. He then described the current projects with the association and various ways the association might be able to work with Taos Ski Valley to further its plans and goals for trails. Mr Bell also stated that the next annual two day field workshop & training session on trail building is due to be in Taos Ski Valley. The discussion concluded with some specific discussions about a possible relationship to develop a grant proposal for a village trails plan and for some continued trails construction and maintenance. The committee thanked Loren for his presentation.

The committee chair described to the committee the plans for a table at community day on June 29, 2024. The survey will be made available with hopes to receive more input on PARC priorities. The chair described discussions with Carson National Forest and TSVI regarding the expected increase traffic at the Kachina Basin and at hiker parking. This increased traffic is expected to require an increase in the schedule for cleaning and pumping the toilets. The chair reviewed other updates to the annual plan including the increase in expenses for hiker parking. The committee also discussed reducing costs in other areas such as Ramming Trail bench maintenance through use of volunteers. The chair reported that the council resolution in 2017 creating Kachina Vista Park was for two years so a new resolution making it permanent is needed. The committee supported creating such a resolution for council consideration. Finally the chair described the work to date by the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps. Their work has included a short path with benches along Lake Fork Creek near Hiker Parking and some maintenance on Ramming Trail. Ryan Scovil volunteered to contact Glorietta Geosciences regarding assessment of the wetlands.

The committee briefly discussed areas of focus for grant applications such as hiker parking upgrade kiosks and signage as well as completion of other trails previously started.

Finally the committee discussed changing the time for the meeting to 10 am. This earlier time will be tried at the July meeting to see what impact it has on attendance.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

VTSV PARC
Annual Plan FY25 (2024/25) Updated July 16, 2024

[PARC requested \$18,500 from Lodger's Tax Board; granted \$10,000 and remaining \$5,000 is contingent on the Lodger's tax revenue.]

Village Core Beautification

Note: As TIDD projects are accepted the condition or the landscaping should be reviewed prior to acceptance---PARC chair has conveyed this idea to the chair of the TIDD board.

- hanging baskets---wire baskets in PARC storage unit; Petri built and mature the baskets; wire frame baskets have been delivered to nursery April 1; baskets put up on June 19; take baskets down ~Sept 18; baskets started at Petri April 9, 2024—cost is \$1950. ~\$1000 to water through summer----will explore interconnection with drip watering system for road landscaping
- flower troughs (4 of them) stored in maintenance yard; planted with perennials, placed in front of the chamber visitor center in the summer; watered by same equipment and people that do the hanging baskets
- Budget ~\$3000 for beautification on Sutton Place (requested from LTB)

Inventory of existing trails, open space, parks, facilities, recreation (postponed to next year)

Sustainment

- Hiker parking pit toilets
 - Cleaning-weekly cleaning -- ~\$200 per month (total ~ \$1200) for summer/fall (toilets locked during winter and early spring VTSV unlocks toilets May 1 and locks on Oct 31. Cleaning starts May 1 and ends Oct 31.
 - Pumping---\$1500 for three pumping's – one mid July, one end of August, and one end of October before locking – village staff will order pumping; water addition and chemical additive---rely on Gabe for advice and direction
 - Budget increased---\$2700 for Hiker Parking routine maintenance (requested from LTB)
- JW Ramming Trail maintenance
 - Trail maintenance -- completed by RMYC in June
 - Oil ski lift benches and new stands if needed -- ~\$780; Possible delay and replace with Trex composite boards in 2025
 - picnic benches (2)—ordered through RMYC to be installed in July or September
 - for future---no trail signage---plaque at west entrance on John William Ramming; no nature signs; update visitor information flyers
 - Note: Carson National Forest informed us that we may need to do NEPA for major work on this trail since it is probably not an official trail; also plaques are not allowed on NFS trails.

-Budget \$0 for JR Ramming

-Recreation facilities

-Disc Golf--- \$2300 to set up and tear down—has a visitor following –most sought after summer activity based on Chamber feedback; TSVI agreed to disc golf in village core area; [Evan Firestone does course set up for a fee of \$2300 (Timmy Teague design was very popular)] ; Evan set up course in May & new locations for ~5 of the baskets due to construction; new discs and two additional sets purchased for Chamber to hand out with request for \$5 donation (purchase cost--\$115

-Volleyball-need to re-establish ---\$5000 for sand (very fine (e.g. plaster grade sand) and reestablishment of court after construction; in 2024 TSVI reestablishing Kachina Basin---rebuilding court with greens grade sand and log edges plus adding features to switch to badminton (PARC will contribute \$5000 toward estimated cost of court and of \$14000); purchase lawn games & a storage box for game gear (\$100+ \$135); Normal operations---mid May, inspect and rake; determine how much sand

-Budget \$7650 for recreation

-generate list of ideas for recreation for base of chair 1 and Kachina basin—

-Corn Hole—existng, should we buy more?

-Volleyball--- existing, need refurbishment

-Crossnet

-Badmitten

-Horseshoes

-Giant checkers; Tic tac toe

-Kachina Vista Park

-Major cleanup and rebuild needed---10 foot high and 80-100 foot long pile of dirt & rocks, at least two old pieces of rusty equipment ---discussed with Public Works who are started cleanup

-Grading of road---rough grade complete June 2024 - use of road for emergency & snow.

-Add picnic benches—RMYC will add 2 locations—avoiding avalanche chutes

-One of two benches was stolen---filed a police report 3/14/24; secured second bench with cable and anchor;

-Budget \$0 for refurbishment of Kachina Vista Park for as much cleanup as affordable

New and continuing projects

-Rocky Mountain Youth Corps –“signs and completion of trails” started in 2023; signs cancelled because no record of plans for signs & some trails obliterated due to safety risks; \$36,200 matching from post-ordinance Impact Fees promised to RMYC for summer 2024;

- Discussions with Quinn Mendelson, Nick Burns, and Devin Vigil
 - Previous work — trail off Porcupine above Zaps to Kachina Vista requires wood steps and an 8-day work period; bridge connector from trail segment to Bull of the Woods Trail will require NEPA and must be submitted to the NFS work schedule—they estimated 3-4 years out
 - North south trail along steep hill above Lake Ford creek---roughed in first 20 feet in 2023; RMYC and PARC member assessment is trail area is too steep for a village trail so entrance was removed and wood steps repurposed; short trail and picnic bench as well as log benches is being created at south end
 - Wetlands trail – TSVI created a trail from venue entrance to Kachina Road which can be used by public; a picnic bench will be added in the flat space which prior picnic bench was located
 - wetlands sign – developed by Amigos Bravos, and produced on a contract with RMYC is incorrect on one sign panel---sign has been found in Amizette
 - Ramming Trail general cleanup is complete and two spots for picnic tables identified
 - Two additional picnic tables to be placed on Kachina Vista Park
 - Monitor 2024 work— engaged with RMYC to understand and oversee the 2024 work

-Consult & identify source for study of wetlands flora and fauna---possibly Glorietta Geoscience (505) 983-5446;

-Amizette to Village Core connector trail---informal planning underway; ensure planning involves broad community input; planning must include proposing project to NFS for their workplan; must do NEPA on this project; 3-4 years to get on NFS work schedule and complete NEPA

-Carson NFS expressed interest in the village proposing a special use permit for the area of the Twining Campground. This also includes a historic artifact from the Twining Hotel (Interpretative sign with historic picture might be good). The campground needs maintenance---picnic bench painting, clearing for fire areas, maintenance of fire rings, redesign of trails. NFS said the first step is site redesign, and development of a proposal. They said we may consider fees for campsite use to cover upkeep and maintenance of toilet, trash etc. --- delayed for future consideration

Memorial benches

- identify locations
- installation and security (bolt into concrete)
- explore use of village contractor for installation
- to install memorial benches on NFS land in special use permit, must submit a proposal to NFS

Spring cleanup

- May 28, 2024; collaboration with TSVI and Chamber; approximately 90 volunteers collected ~ 160 bags of trash
- Set up---upper plaza---TSVI provided tables, a canopy, large water jugs and some food; bags distribution and lunch in upper plaza;
- lunch provided by PARC; PARC bin of supplies used—utensils etc.
 - Menu prepared---Costco and Smiths;
- had QR code at tables and possibly a handout page---3-5 questions to gather community input on strategic plan---Dan Vaughn set this up
- had PARC applications on the table and try to recruit new applicants
- Budget \$280

Fall Cleanup

- Oct 15 at Kachina Basin
- Budget ~\$250

Planning

- Strategic Plan development ideas
 - Focus topics—trails, Recreation facilities (popularity of disc golf, volleyball; children’s playground); Parks; open space; beautification
 - Community engagement & input---use of survey and sessions
 - Meeting facilitation & documentation
- Funding Source identification & development—state and other government grant sources; state appropriations; private grant sources----develop grants information document with dates, scope, funding levels, etc
- 2025/26 Annual Plan development – develop in fall based on strategic plan



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COMPLETE SURVEYING, MAPPING AND EARTH INFORMATION SERVICES
Robert A Watt, NMPS #11770

June 4, 2024

Joan Woodard
Village of Taos Ski Valley Parks and Recreation

RE: VTSV Open Space and Wetland areas in the Kachina Basin of the Village of Taos Ski Valley

Dear Joan,

Thank you for the opportunity to meet with yourself and Kerrie Brokaw in the Kachina Basin on May 8, 2024. The main purpose of this visit was to verify if there were any encroachments from the neighboring Wedding Venue development onto the VTSV Open Space & Wetlands tracts located in Block 3 of the Kachina Village Subdivision. Please refer to the attached sketch, which depicts the findings of our field visit, as I provide the following summary of our time together.

To identify the common boundary line on the ground, we found most of the survey stakes between the VTSV's Open Space & Wetland Mitigation (Lot 7-B) parcels and the "Wedding Venue Parcels" (Taos Ski Valley, Inc.'s Lot 6 & Taos Holdings, LLC's Lot 7-A).

The wedding venue infrastructure, including the wooden platform, seating, bench swing, above-ground utilities, and arbor arches located along and crossing the trail, is all located on the "Wedding Venue Parcels".

We did observe that a portion of a long-standing gravel trail does cross and meander between the boundaries of the VTSV's Open Space and TSVI's Lot 6 properties.

There was still a substantial amount of snow in the vicinity of the southerly boundary of the VTSV Wetland Mitigation parcel (Lot 7-B), hence the property corners were not found during our visit. As discussed, this task could be accomplished as soon as the snow melts.

Aside from the Wedding Venue area, we briefly looked at the terrain above the Quast House in the VTSV Southwest Open Space area of the Kachina Village Subdivision Block O but had to leave fairly quickly as the strong winds were creating a hazardous situation. It is evident that the trail that is to be further constructed in this area will be quite steep. Please let me know if you would like to set up a time to re-visit this area prior to further trail construction.

I do thank you for your important work with VTSV in assessing the recreational opportunities in and around the subject Open Space areas. Your efforts will certainly help to create better access to the pleasures of this mountain community which are cared about by so many.

Again, I am available for further assistance if needed.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Watt

Enclosure: VTSV Kachina Open Space Sketch