



Village of Taos Ski Valley  
Special Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting  
February 25, 2025

The chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Present were Steve Hoxie, Kent Kiehl, Katherine Kett, Ryan Scovil, Dan Vaughan, and Joan Woodard. Also present was Rick Bellis from Village of Taos Ski Valley (VTSV). The chair welcomed the committee members, thanked them for their participation, and thanked the residents in attendance. The chair asked for approval of the minutes from the special meeting of December 3, 2024. The minutes were approved unanimously. A guest attendee, Mike Fitzpatrick, requested time to discuss the possibility of a Nordic loop. The chair indicated that time will be available at the end of the regular agenda.

The chair presented the first topic which was the award of a Trails+ grant. She acknowledged all the work by Rick Bellis for the submittal of the application, as well as Loren Bell from the Enchanted Circle Trails Association who supported the application preparation. Next the committee discussed the publicity for receipt of the grant. The committee found that the village, TSV chamber, and the Enchanted Circle Trails Association websites were appropriate places for some announcement of the grant. It was also noted that the Taos Ski Valley Incorporated (TSVI) will consider some publicity in the spring and early summer. Regarding contracting for the key parts of the grant work, the chair reported that she is expecting some information from the Trails+ director who indicated that the standard contract template of VTSV will be acceptable. The chair reported that the closeout report was accepted by the Trails+ office for the past grant for the vault toilet. She noted that the collection of pictures and report information for this current grant is needed and Kent Kiehl agreed to help with this process during the summer.

The chair presented the conceptual design information from Hart Howerton for Hiker Parking Lot. She thanked the TSVI for their support of Hart Howerton for the conduct of this work. The chair reviewed the material provided for this conceptual design as well as the cost estimate. It was noted that the cost estimate does not include the new parking lot signage or the new information kiosks; therefore, the total cost may be approximately \$150,000. The chair stated that the design included rail fencing around the parking lot and along Deer Lane. The committee found the design good with one additional suggestion that the parking spots should be marked in some way to create efficient parking. It was stated that though there is one cost estimate for the purposes of this conceptual design, the actual contract will start with an open bid process. Rick Bellis stated that the requirement is to seek multiple bids if the contract amount is over \$60,000. The experience of TSVI is that it is difficult to attract many bids. The

discussion turned to possible sources of support for this project. It was suggested that the next cycle of Trails+ might be a good avenue to pursue.

The chair next presented early draft plan ideas for the summer of 2025 (FY 2026). The chair reviewed the history of PARC and its historic focus on activities and facilities for summer visitors and residents. The committee found that some hanging flower baskets for the village core area is appropriate even in the possible condition of national forest closure. The number of baskets may be reduced on Sutton Place to accommodate the construction. The chair will seek partnerships for the watering maintenance of the baskets. Steve Hoxie stated he would check with the individual at TSVI who does flower planters. The chair will also contact the local nursery for pricing information.

Recreation in the ski valley was discussed. General consensus was that disc golf will continue with plans to set up the course earlier in the summer. The TSV chamber said that disc golf is a popular offering. The chair will consult with TSVI regarding recreation in the Kachina Basin. The committee affirmed the continued maintenance of the vault toilet, and the chair will consult with the VTSV administration to determine the most cost effective approach.

Trail maintenance was discussed. It was noted that a Rocky Mountain Youth Corps crew session is in the grant proposal for some maintenance of connector trails. The chair stated she will discuss possible Ramming trail maintenance with Field Institute of Taos. The Kachina Vista Park refurbishment and cleanup is part of the match for the Trails+ grant and the chair will coordinate with VTSV on this work.

Memorial benches were discussed and the chair stated that she will work with committee member Ryan Scovil with the goal of two benches in 2025.

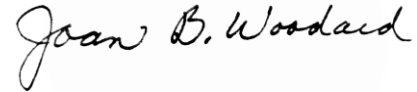
Cleanup days for 2025 were discussed and Steve Hoxie stated that the return to work day for TSVI staff is May 27, 2025. The chair stated that in 2024, this date work very well for a cleanup day partnered with TSVI and the committee agreed to plan for this event. The chair also stated that the TSV Neighborhood Association expressed interest in a weekend cleanup day, and she will discuss with them. The fall cleanup day or week will be discussed later. The question was raised about the availability of the return to base trail for hiking in 2025. Steve Hoxie stated that it will be available similar to past years with some short duration closures due to construction of a new lift for chair 7.

Mike Fitzpatrick proposed an idea of a joint venture between VTSV and TSVI to establish a Nordic loop and snow park below the lower parking lots and maintenance areas. He emphasized the possibility of a more accessible and affordable option for residents of Taos County and the village. He suggested the project could be supported by volunteer time to reduce operating costs. The chair asked about the location to which Mike responded that he has a map which he can send. He also stated that the National Forest Service indicated approval of the project. The chair asked for evidence or documentation of that approval. The committee discussed the relationship between this and the package of projects which is under

consideration for approval by the National Forest Service. The chair stated she would seek the documents from Mike and look into this matter further. She thanked Mike for his comments.

The meeting adjourned at 11 am.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joan B. Woodard". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Joan Woodard  
PARC Chair