



**Town of Southwest Ranches
Recreation, Forestry and Natural Resources
Advisory Board Meeting Agenda**

Tuesday
December 8, 2020
7:00 pm

Via Zoom

Board Members

Chris Brownlow, Dena Butler, MaryGay Chaples, Lana Eichel,
Debra Goff-Rose, Debbie Green, Marie Nix
Aster Knight, Board Member Emeritus

Council Liaison

Gary Jablonski

Staff Liaison

December Lauretano-Haines

- A. ROLL CALL**
- B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- C. AGENDA AS FOLLOWS**
- D. NEW BUSINESS:**
 - Excuse absences:
 - Adopt Town of Southwest Ranches Recreation, Forestry and Natural Resources Advisory Board Meeting Minutes for March 2020.
 - Staff wishes to extend thanks to Board member Emeritus Aster Knight. Aster will relocate after New Year's to be with family in Tallahassee. *We thank Aster for his many years of service to our Town and wish he and Birdie all the best in their new surroundings!*
- E. OLD BUSINESS:**
 - Discussion regarding design parameters for Country Estates Park Artistic Entrance.
 - Discussion regarding increased basketball amenities and other resident ideas at Country Estates Park.
 - Discussion regarding resident ideas for increased trail amenities at Rolling Oaks Park.
 - Follow up/Maintenance report attached for the Board's review and discussion.
- F. AGENDA PREP FOR NEXT MEETING**
- G. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**
- H. STAFF COMMENTS**
- I. HOA/PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- J. ADJOURNMENT**



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

March 10, 2020
7:00 pm

Board Members

Chris Brownlow, Dena Butler, Mary Gay Chaples, Lana Eichel, Debra Goff-Rose, Debbie Green, Marie Nix, Karen Parkerson;
Aster Knight - *Member Emeritus*

Council Liaison

Gary Jablonski

Staff Liaison

December Lauretano-Haines

RFNRAB Members present:

Chris Brownlow
Dena Butler
Lana Eichel
Debbie Green
Marie Nix

RPAADAB Members present:

Joan Boyd
Rose Allbritton
Judy Parker
Robert Sirota

Staff Liaison present:

December Lauretano-Haines
Susan Kutz

RFNRAB Members absent:

MaryGay Chaples
Karen Parkerson

Council present:

Gary Jablonski
Bob Hartmann

Others Present:

Andrew Beckman
Mailinn Beckman
Anthony Beckman

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM, A quorum was established.

Debra Goff-Rose motioned to excuse the absences. Marie Nix seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Vice Chair welcomed new Board member Dena Butler to the group. Eagle Scout Anthony Beckman was thanked by the Board for his project, a run-in stall at Rolling Oaks. Eagle Candidate Anthony Beckman addressed the Board regarding his proposed project, a mounting block for Rolling Oaks and potentially the Equestrian Park.

Debra Goff-Rose motioned to approve Andrew Beckman's proposed mounting block project. Marie Nix seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Vice Chair invited members to discuss a community garden idea. The Rural Public Arts and Design Advisory Board would like to do an art contest for a section of the Founders' Trailside Park wall. The members present discussed the proposed project.

Debra Goff-Rose motioned to recommend approval of an art contest for the Founders' Trailside Park wall. Debbie Green seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The members present discussed design parameters for the Country Estates Park Entrance art contest. The members present agreed that visitors should feel they are entering a wilderness.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.



**Town of Southwest Ranches
Recreation, Forestry and Natural Resources Advisory Board
Follow up/Maintenance Report**

Tuesday
December 8, 2020

Board Members

Chris Brownlow, Dena Butler, MaryGay Chaples, Lana Eichel, Debra
Goff-Rose, Debbie Green, Marie Nix
Aster Knight, Board Member Emeritus

Council Liaison

Gary Jablonski

Staff Liaison

December Lauretano-Haines

COVID -19 Update:

Parks remain open for passive use during daylight hours.

Reservations are not currently being accepted for park shelters or meeting rooms.

Restrooms and playgrounds remain closed.

We hope that everyone will enjoy Southwest Ranches' passive parks responsibly and will stay safe as we work to ensure the safety of the public and residents.

EQUESTRIAN PARK

Park is open for passive use. Requests for reservations are deferred until COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

- ✓ **Restroom and Playground:** Closed due to COVID-19 issue.
- ✓ **Painting:** Staff has requested another round of proposals in search of a third proposal for painting services for interior and exterior, as well as for sealing the walkways and tongue and groove ceiling.
- ✓ **Basketball goal:** No repair is scheduled at this time for vandalized backboard. The amenity is usable.
- ✓ **Riding Arenas and Trails:** Riding surfaces are being managed to control overgrowth.
- ✓ **Horse "restroom" corral gate:** New gate was installed by The South Florida Trail Riders. Our thanks to this user group.

ROLLING OAKS PARK

Park is open for passive use. Requests for reservations are deferred until COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

- ✓ **Restrooms** are closed due to COVID-19 issue. Law Enforcement officials have been given access to use the restrooms during their shifts via the lockbox.
- ✓ **Painting:** Staff has requested another round of proposals in search of a third proposal for painting services for interior and exterior.
- ✓ **Public Requests:** attached for the Board's discussion is an email from a resident suggesting ideas for ways to improve the park, including improved trail amenities. Staff will meet with the resident in January with a goal of finding low-cost options for improvement, since our grant commitments on other properties are still a higher fiscal responsibility/priority.

COUNTRY ESTATES PARK

Park is open for passive use. Requests for reservations are deferred until COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

- ✓ **Restroom and Playground:** Closed due to COVID-19 issue.
- ✓ **Painting: Restrooms and Picnic Pavilion:** Staff has requested another round of proposals in search of a third proposal for painting services for interior and exterior, including the issue of delaminating stucco on the restroom building.
- ✓ **Public Requests:** attached for the Board's discussion are emails from a resident suggesting ideas for ways to improve the park, including improved basketball amenities, different species of grass, volunteer projects, and more.

SOUTHWEST MEADOWS SANCTUARY

Site maintenance is vastly improved now that our contractor has taken over. Some fill issues will need remediation.

CALUSA CORNERS

Park is open for passive use.

- ✓ **Playground:** Closed due to COVID-19 issue.

FRONTIER TRAILS PARK

This park is open for passive use.

FOUNDERS' TRAILSIDE PARK

This park is open for passive use.

- ✓ **Art project:** The Rural Public Arts and Design Advisory Board has created its call for entries for a mural for the wall. Staff has asked the Board's liaison if the Board will consider options other than paint, such as mosaic or other, more durable, media.

From: [December Lauretano-Haines](#)
To: [December Lauretano-Haines](#)
Cc: [Aster Knight \(asterknight@yahoo.com\)](#); [Chris Brownlow \(173463@dadeschools.net\)](#); [Debbie Green \(phins13@aol.com\)](#); [Debra Goff-Rose \(Debragoffrose@yahoo.com\)](#); [Dena](#); [Karen & Dean Parkerson \(karenparkerson@aol.com\)](#); [Lana Eichel \(lanaeichel@aol.com\)](#); [MaryGay Chaples \(gaichaples@gmail.com\)](#); [Vern and Marie Nix \(marieandvern@aol.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: ce park hoop
Date: Monday, September 14, 2020 1:18:54 PM

Hi there everyone

We have a request for your consideration with regard to basketball at the Country Estates Park. You can read the thread below to see the whole conversation, but basically, a resident would like to entreat his board and neighbors to donate funds and help to expand the basketball amenities at Country Estates Park.

While staff and administration would like to encourage this possibility, of course you know we are here to make sure that all is done properly and also that it doesn't take away from anything we're supposed to do out there.

I'm sure you'll have questions, and a great time to discuss it would be at our next regularly scheduled meeting on October 13th. Do you think we could make a special effort to get together on Zoom for that night?

Please advise and let me know what your questions are if you have them in advance. It would be great to support/accommodate the request if we can do so responsibly.

December Lauretano-Haines
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LIAF #2007-0045
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United States®
Census
2020 | **COMING**
APRIL 1, 2020 ↓

EVERYONE COUNTS IN SOUTHWEST RANCHES



From: steve@breitkreuz.org <steve@breitkreuz.org>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2020 12:57 PM
To: Andy Berns <aberns@southwestranches.org>; December Lauretano-Haines <dlauretano@southwestranches.org>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: ce park hoop

This message has originated from an **External Source**. Please use proper judgment and caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding to this email.

Yes, that sounds good. Thanks for taking this to the board.

Steve

Steve Breitkreuz
(954) 296-6018

From: Andy Berns <aberns@southwestranches.org>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2020 8:58 AM
To: steve@breitkreuz.org; December Lauretano-Haines <dlauretano@southwestranches.org>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: ce park hoop

Thank you both for your efforts. I'm very curious to see how the board feels about this.

Personally, I'm thrilled to hear it gets the use it does. While I had some concerns, I know it wasn't a major investment. If we can expand it due to heavy use, that's okay by me. Just need to find a way to accomplish it, perhaps just not to NBA standards.

-AB
Andy Berns
Town Administrator,
Town of Southwest Ranches
13400 Griffin Road
Southwest Ranches, FL 33330
954.434.0008

From: steve@breitkreuz.org <steve@breitkreuz.org>
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2020 6:40 PM
To: December Lauretano-Haines <dlauretano@southwestranches.org>
Cc: Andy Berns <aberns@southwestranches.org>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: ce park hoop

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I can imagine. Thanks for taking this to the board and thanks for all that you do for our Town.

Steve

Steve Breitkreuz
(954) 296-6018

From: December Lauretano-Haines <dlauretano@southwestranches.org>
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2020 5:44 PM
To: steve@breitkreuz.org
Cc: Andy Berns <aberns@southwestranches.org>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: ce park hoop

Thanks, Steve. I'll discuss with Andy and also see if my Board can get together in October. It's been tough trying to Zoom our meetings, we have a few technophobic people on the board!

From: steve@breitkreuz.org <steve@breitkreuz.org>
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2020 4:48 PM
To: December Lauretano-Haines <dlauretano@southwestranches.org>
Cc: Andy Berns <aberns@southwestranches.org>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: ce park hoop

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Hi December,

Thanks for passing this along. First, let me say from a general standpoint, I agree with the direction John is going. This amenity is used more than just about any other in the park, so I think that it could be something that is worth expanding.

With that said, if I understand John, and I would agree with this, I think that the objective would be to provide this enhancement with a minimal amount of funding (And frankly, that might be a condition of moving forward) so that that might not be an issue. I do think that it is possible (I would need to check with the Board) that the CEHOA could make a contribution as well. While I think that the size should be standard if possible, but frankly if it needs to be reduced slightly to make the plan work, I personally don't see that as a major hurdle, but other may disagree. I think that regular pavement is fine. That is normal for an outside court.

But with that said, I definitely would want to get the input of the Parks board before making any recommended changes or enhancements. I would like input from them as to potential locations within the park as well as thoughts on how it would impact other items within the park.

As for the points that you have concerns about, I will give you my quick thoughts:

- I'm still trying to meet grant commitments at this and every other property we have. This proposed basketball court is not among the things we've already committed to but have yet to build. I don't think that we should divert funding from items that we have committed to do to this project, but I am hoping that we can alternate funding.
- A high-level of expectation and ongoing maintenance expense. The care of a court is important if it is to remain playable. A court surface is costly to make properly and costly to keep in good shape. I believe that this should be normal asphalt. Maybe repaint the strips every 2 or 3 years. I think that we can minimize the maintenance cost. I might be missing something but I don't see this as a significant issue.
- More stuff for people to destroy, deface, or otherwise vandalize. If this was rarely used, I would agree that it is not worth it, but it is used a lot. I don't think that we should allow the few bad apples to impact the benefit of the many... If it becomes a more chronic issue, then we might need to revisit.
- What location John aims the proposed court be placed. It shouldn't cut into an area designed for other uses (i.e. within the existing ballfield or parking area). I will remain open-minded about this, but it is a question in my mind. Yes, this definitely needs input from the Parks Board. They are much more familiar with the particulars and I would want them to feel comfortable that this entire project makes sense.

Thanks again for check December. I would say let's get this idea on the agenda for the Parks board for the next time they meet and make sure that John is sent an invitation and take it from there. Their response will greatly determine the next steps.

Steve

Steve Breitkreuz
(954) 296-6018

From: December Lauretano-Haines <dlauretano@southwestranches.org>
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2020 1:01 PM
To: 'Steve Breitkreuz' <steve@breitkreuz.org>
Cc: Andy Berns <aberns@southwestranches.org>
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: ce park hoop

Hi Steve

Please read below: sharing some more email conversation I'm having with John E. regarding basketball at Country Estates Park.

John is very determined. Regarding the Parks board: I believe they would be glad to support the idea, but we have not been able to meet about it yet.

I will remain open-minded, but I do have misgivings. This is not a simple thing.

My concerns:

- I'm still trying to meet grant commitments at this and every other property we have. This proposed basketball court is not among the things we've already committed to but have yet to build.
- A high-level of expectation and ongoing maintenance expense. The care of a court is important if it is to remain playable. A court surface is costly to make properly and costly to keep in good shape.
- More stuff for people to destroy, deface, or otherwise vandalize.
- What location John aims the proposed court be placed. It shouldn't cut into an area designed for other uses (i.e. within the existing ballfield or parking area). I will remain open-minded about this, but it is a question in my mind.

Please share your thoughts? Thanks.

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dlauretano@southwestranches.org<<mailto:dlauretano@southwestranches.org>>



From: December Lauretano-Haines
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2020 4:05 PM
To: 'John Eastman' <john426@bellsouth.net>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: ce park hoop

Hi John

I had the backboard replaced this week. The new one will not be as nice to shoot for, because it's more durable plexiglass.

Though I would love to improve the basketball amenities, we do not have the right dimension/configuration of paved space, even for a half court. Paved area in front of the current goal is only half of what it would need to be for a half court. Any other configuration would throw basketball goal in the way of traffic pattern or parking.

The fact that we had these instances of vandalism (they also did the same damage at the Equestrian Park's goal, and I haven't forgotten how they initially pulled this one crooked almost as soon as it was installed) makes me inclined to provide less things for them to destroy, not more. Like you suggested, someone has to ruin it for everyone...

Various dimensions of basketball courts:
NBA Professional and College – 94 feet long and 50 feet wide
High School – 84 feet long and 50 feet wide
Junior High – 74 feet long and 42 feet wide

Anyway, John, at least you can go shoot some hoops if you want to.

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From: john eastman <john426@bellsouth.net>
Sent: Sunday, September 6, 2020 12:28 AM
To: December Lauretano-Haines <dlauretano@southwestranches.org>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: ce park hoop

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thanks, I really does get a workout . I asked Steve if the hoa may be interested in doing a regulation sized court with 2 baskets. I could ask weekly to donate the blacktop. I would donate machine time as necessary. Anyway run it by the parks board see what they think. There is a lot of demand. have a blessed Holiday.

On Sep 5, 2020, at 6:54 PM, December Lauretano-Haines
<dlauretano@southwestranches.org> wrote:

Happened a couple weeks ago, John. Replacement backboard will be up within the next week.

New one will be less playable but more durable plexi instead of glass

We can't have nice things, I guess.

On Sep 5, 2020 6:22 PM, john eastman <john426@bellsouth.net> wrote:

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found the backboard shattered at the park today. shame because virtually every day this single hoop is used constantly.

john

Begin forwarded message:

From: john eastman <john426@bellsouth.net>

Subject: ce park hoop

Date: September 5, 2020 at 6:20:06 PM EDT

To: John Eastman <john4260@comcast.net>



Sent from my iPhone

From: [December Lauretano-Haines](#)
To: [john eastman](#)
Cc: [Andy Berns](#)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] CE Park
Date: Thursday, November 5, 2020 11:08:00 AM

So many thoughts you've shared here, John! Its obvious you think about ways to improve things at the park and I appreciate that. I hope you appreciate that we do, too?

Please understand that I hear your suggestions and I'm happy to be part of a conversation about ideas. Decisions, of course, are the purview of our Council and I will be happy to make sure they know your suggestions.

In the meantime, I do not see a volunteer workday to be scheduled in the near future. I understand you disagree with our being proactive about not opening playgrounds and restrooms up, but with cases on the rise, I don't understand that way of thinking at all. COVID isn't a cold. Lots of people have lost dear ones to COVID this year, John. Including me. Being cautious is not mindless.

December Lauretano-Haines
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dlauretano@southwestranches.org<<mailto:dlauretano@southwestranches.org>>

-----Original Message-----

From: john eastman <john426@bellsouth.net>
Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 10:48 AM
To: December Lauretano-Haines <dlauretano@southwestranches.org>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] CE Park

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December,

The horse trails are now impassable. The red pepper has taken over. The 4 wheelers are not using them anymore either. From a selfish standpoint I have privacy in my yard again. I really hate no privacy at all in my yard. The clearing I did on the east side of the playground is growing back and I need to bring in the dozer and rip out the encroaching invasives by the roots. I will need some volunteers to help. So see how many at the Parks Board will come out and help me? We can have a Saturday work party. Cater with Shortys or Mission BBQ and in one day we can clean it out. I will supply the machines.

Get county burn permit. I will dig a burn pit and bury it when done.

The care and maintenance of the CE park needs to be turned over to a private non profit. What I would recommend is an Optimist Club be formed and start group sports to use the park. Our Stiltsville Optimist Club sponsors a chapter in Miami Springs.

A baseball diamond, Soccer field and basketball court. We don't have enough slots in Western Broward for these activities. The Town can't afford to even mow the grass much less develop a field.

All the paper concepts are nothing more than feel good tax holes. There should be no more money spent on overpriced playground equipment. Land is a commodity and turning this park over to a non profit for use is the best of all worlds.

Could we get rid of the bahia grass spec. It is totally unsuitable to even picnic on. Absolutely horrible ground cover. Ok for highway medians but not for public places.

Please get the bathrooms open and take down the barricades. That is mindless and we are all paying for something we can't use. The zone cops and mail carriers depend upon those facilities. What is wrong with the town to continue this mindless lockdown.

No one ever caught a cold from a toilet seat.

John

From: [Yardiel Fuentes](#)
To: [December Lauretano-Haines](#)
Cc: [Melinda Stringer](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] SWR Parks and Recreation Advisory Board contact info
Date: Thursday, December 3, 2020 12:31:22 PM

This message has originated from an **External Source**. Please use proper judgment and caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding to this email.

Hello December and Melinda,

Below is a quick summary of a proposed project for your consideration and recommendations. I am very much open to champion the idea as much (or as little!) as needed in order to make it a reality for our SWR town.

***** Title: Create SWR parks pathways

***** High-Level Summary:

Our town has awesome open nature parks and recreation areas. It would be great to make a bit more friendly for outdoor activities such as jogging, cycling, pet walking, or simply nature observing for all SWR residents' enjoyment.

I see many SWR residents running, jogging, cycling, pet walking, etc in our streets and neighborhoods. If we can make the SWR parks a bit friendlier to such activities, these parks could increase utilization.

***** Proposed details/specifics:

- * No need for concrete pathways at all.
- * A few signs along the pathway would be great -- signs like marking 0/0.5/1/1.5/ etc miles would be great. Also maybe signs with the name of the tree or nature found along the pathway would be great.
- * A few benches along the pathway to rest or simply observe nature would be great.
- * I'm attaching 2 snapshots of pathways samples just as a reference.

I am an outdoors enthusiast and love to ride my bike or run to the Rolling Oaks park to use the outdoor exercise circuit there. I'd like to see our town implement the above for its residents -- I live in Rolling Oaks, so I am a bit biased and I'd love to see the Rolling Oaks park having these. It would be awesome to have these for all SWR Parks.

Thanks for your help with the SWR parks and looking forward to getting your feedback,

Best to you,

Yardiel Fuentes
954-591-4887

On Thu, Dec 3, 2020 at 10:47 AM December Lauretano-Haines
<dlauretano@southwesttranches.org> wrote:

Hello Yardiell

Please call my office at 954-343-7452. My assistant, Melinda, will speak with you and get other contact info from you so that I can call you. She is able to answer some questions, or I will call you, myself, if you provide your phone number.

Thanks for your interest in Southwest Ranches Parks.

December Lauretano-Haines

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Fax 954.434.1490

dlauretano@southwestranches.org<mailto:dlauretano@southwestranches.org>



From: Russell Muniz <rmuniz@southwestranches.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 10:35 AM
To: Yardiel Fuentes <yardiel@guanenetworks.com>
Cc: December Lauretano-Haines <dlauretano@southwestranches.org>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] SWR Parks and Recreation Advisory Board contact info

Good Morning Yardiel,

Actually December Lauretano-Haines (copied on this email) is the staff liaison for the Recreation, Forestry and Natural Resources Advisory Board (Parks Board). She will be able to assist you in bringing your proposal before the Board.

Ivette Solera is no longer with the Town – she created the series of appointments that show on the website calendar hence why her name is there.

I hope all is well with you and your family.

Have a great day.

Regards,

Russell Muñiz, MBA, MPA, MMC

Assistant Town Administrator/Town Clerk

Town of Southwest Ranches

13400 Griffin Road

Southwest Ranches, FL 33330

Phone: (954) 434-0008

Fax: (954) 434-1490

E-mail: rmuniz@southwestranches.org

Website: www.southwestranches.org



From: Yardiél Fuentes <yardiel@guanetworks.com>

Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 10:22 AM

To: Russell Muniz <rmuniz@southwestranches.org>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] SWR Parks and Recreation Advisory Board contact info

This message has originated from an **External Source**. Please use proper judgment and caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding to this email.

Hi Russel,

Could you point me in the right direction to contact and hopefully, get in the agenda and attend of their meetings, of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board? -- I have a proposed project to present to them. I thought the Infrastructure Board would be the right forum but; in last night's Infrastructure Board meeting, I was advised to contact the Parks and Recreation Board.

I am not sure if their SWR URL info is updated. The SWR website shows a person named "Ivette Solera" as the Organizer but no contact info and the website says the meeting venue is the town hall (which I think it is closed) -- see below:

<https://www.southwestranches.org/event/parks-recreation-open-space-advisory-board-2017-05-09-2020-12-09/>



