

The Town of
Star Valley Ranch, Wyoming
NATURAL RESOURCE BOARD MINUTES
Tuesday, September 21st, 2021

Present: Greg Greenhoe – Chairman
Victor Padilla – Member
Paul Bordwell – Member (via telephone)
Ruzena Rok – Member
Deb Adler – Alternate Member
Taylor Ellis (TSVR NRB Liaison)

Absent: Russ Cargo - Member

Guests: Craig Adler, Chair, Trails Committee
Shirley Greenhoe, Chair, Parks and Landscaping Committee

1. **Call to Order.** A quorum was present and the meeting was called to order at 2:04 PM.
2. **Approve Minutes.** Minutes from the July 15th, 2021 Natural Resource Board (NRB) meeting were reviewed. D. Adler motioned to approve minutes as written. Motion passed unanimously.
3. **NRB Donation Account Report.** G. Greenhoe provided the account review as V. Padilla was running late for the meeting. G. Greenhoe began with the Trail Account (going back to Jul 15th) and discovered that there appeared to be a double entry for T-shirts which would have to be corrected. (The Chairman noted he would send out a corrected Accounts Report following the meeting.)
 - *Trail Fund income transactions* since last NRB meeting included: \$1,000 donation by Brent and Margaret Mortensen (they requested the funds be used for a bench, however, G. Greenhoe relayed he had discussed using the funds for trails instead given that we are “benched out” and that the Mortensen’s were okay with the change); \$3,733 (Garage Sale proceeds which were split half-and-half between the Trails and General fund accounts); \$250 donation by D. Adler; \$100 donation by Howe; \$87 from Garage Sale donation jar; \$75, \$100, and \$325 (\$175 of which was for old chain saw) of additional sales made by D. Adler and C. Adler; and \$100 for the sale of 10 Trail Books. *Trail Fund expenditures* since the last NRB meeting included: \$423.50 rush order for T-shirts; \$450.36 for a new chain saw (to include oil and an extra chain); \$138.16 for road traffic signs (trail closed at night); \$100 for toilet at Green Canyon Trailhead (GCTH) and \$100 for one at Cedar Creek Trailhead (CCTH); \$300 Leisure Valley annual lease for CCTH; and \$127.09 for dump runs during the Garage Sale. Trail Fund current balance is \$6,504.15.
 - *General Fund income transactions* since the last NRB meeting include: \$80 gardener water donation; \$3,733 from the Garage Sale; and a post-Garage Sale amount of \$25. *General Fund expenditures* since the last NRB meeting include: August water bill for Crop Circles community garden (\$61.28); \$28 for tire repair on the watering trailer; and \$43.12 for new drain valve parts at the community garden. General Fund current balance is \$6,434.52
 - Total available funds of \$12,938.67.P. Bordwell motioned to approve the NRB Donation Accounts Report; motion passed unanimously.

4. **Trails Committee/Trail Crew Report.** Prior to the report, the meeting participants discussed a black pick-up with Washington plates that has been sitting at CCTH for over a week and if the Sheriff should be contacted. The Chairman stated he would review the trail cam footage and report to the members prior to taking any other action. C. Adler then reported the following:

- Cedar Creek Trail. In addition to trail maintenance a creek crossing was added at the Spruce Grove. C. Adler noted the Russ Cargo had been very involved with the work at the creek crossing and suggested that the location should be called “Cargo’s Crossing”. The meeting participants agreed this was a very appropriate moniker.
- Prater Canyon Trailhead Improvement Plan; the members had further discussion on the topic to include the project’s budget estimated by G. Greenhoe to be ~\$4,000 with Friends of Bridger Teton to pay half. The road up to Prater Trailhead is a Forest Service Road. The Town recently refurbished the road (after the storm on August 2nd) as it is too low a priority for the Forest Service to get to, however, the Town needs it to access the water supply from the spring.
- Discussion of ATVs going up Green Canyon. G. Greenhoe noted that it is a Star Valley Ranch Association (SVRA) decision to close the road. The ATV trail goes 1.3 miles to where the waterfalls come together. The NRB has not pushed SVRA to close it as it’s a very popular ATV route for the motorized community and provides them with access to the national forest. The SVRA has the road by permit from the Forest Service. The SVRA has all the liability given that it is their road by permit.

[See Trails Committee Report in the Appendix I to this document for full activity details.]

5. **Parks & Landscaping Committee.** S. Greenhoe reported the following:

- Crop Circles Community Garden; gardening activities are essentially done for the season and the lock on the gate has been removed. Gardeners have been asked to clean out their circles by mid-November.
- *Seed Money* grant; this is an incentive program to earn grants beyond donations; Shirley has signed us up again for this and fundraising goes live on 15 November.
- Wyoming Hunger Initiative; we will also try to get more funding from this grant program too.
- Fall Clean-up; looking at 10am on October 30th as a tentative date (this is a Saturday) to clean-up the Town Front entrance on Vista Drive.

[See Parks and Landscaping Committee’s Budget proposal in Appendix II to this document for additional details.]

6. **Garage Sale for Trails & Parks.** G. Greenhoe, C. Adler, and V. Padilla provided a summary of the Garage Sale outcome held August 20th-21st, 2021. Total funds from the Garage Sale were slightly over \$8,000. G. Greenhoe stated that for now these funds are split between the General and Trails funds, however, this can always be adjusted. Drop-offs seemed to work well leading up to the Garage Sale. C. Adler relayed that sales on Misty’s list since the Garage Sale have been doing well and that prices received on Misty’s list are higher than at the Garage Sale. The side shed at the Barn (where unsold Garage Sale items are being stored) is not water-tight and there is an issue with leaking. There was discussion of getting a storage shed or something more water-tight, however, where to put it is an issue. The beauty of the Barn is that it is co-located where the Garage Sale occurs. A storage shed likely would not be in the same location so there would be transportation to consider. There was discussion of potentially using the lean-to side of the Barn as an area where a container could be placed. G. Greenhoe recommended research be done on purchasing a

container. There was agreement among the meeting participants that a short-term plan for use of the Barn and a long-term plan once the lean-to areas on either side of the Barn are no longer available is needed. T. Ellis noted that the Barn will remain in place for at least two-more years. The meeting participants agreed that the strategy near-term is to continue to use the lean-to portions of the Barn for the next couple of years, to sell items as they come in, and to throw items away that aren't saleable. Basically, to store as little as possible. The meeting participants also agreed that taking donations closer to the annual Garage Sale date was advisable, however, that donations of "good stuff" could still be considered for acceptance year-round (i.e., items that could be sold on Misty's list as they come in).

7. **War-on-Weeds Bounty Program and Nuisance Ordinance.** T. Ellis provided an update on the status of the Nuisance Ordinance. The Ordinance did not pass at the September Town Council meeting. However, the Ordinance will again be on the October Town Council agenda. It is anticipated there will be no further changes accepted at that point and the Ordinance can then be put to vote.
8. **Status of Annexation of Cedar Creek Trailhead.** G. Greenhoe reported that annexations will not happen unless other landowners join in. The Town attorney stated if we annex the Stewarts we create a "donut hole" as the top area of land touches Sunrise Estates on the east and the bottom portion on the west touches main Star Valley Ranch; this would leave a triangular donut hole of three landowners that would be surrounded by the annexed area. These landowners would have to join the effort as there is a law that precludes creating donut holes, therefore for the present time the Town of Star Valley Ranch (TSVR) cannot proceed with the annexation. We will continue to manage the trailhead despite it not being within the Town.
9. **Update on Winter Recreation Committee.** G. Greenhoe provided an update on this topic. The Committee meets tomorrow and a final report will go to the SVRA and TSVR the first of October. The SVRA has come to the town wanting to rezone some areas for recreational purposes (per T. Ellis). The latter includes the pool area. All are lots with Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (DCC&Rs) – so recreational use is a bit iffy. The original transfer deed for these areas to the SVRA from the Stewarts clearly said they were for recreational use so it is now on the SVRA to get rid of the DCC&Rs. The Stewarts originally put 21 plats together to form Star Valley Ranch (from about 1970 through 1986). All plats have DCC&Rs and while all DCC&Rs are similar they are not the same and that creates problems (today). The SVRA can change the DCC&Rs but only once every 20 years. The last attempt in 2010 to change the DCC&Rs failed after lot owners challenged the validity of the amended covenants in *Star Valley Ranch Ass'n v. Daley* when (in 2014) the Wyoming Supreme Court held that the amended covenants were invalid. The Town could remove the DCC&Rs if the Town owned the lots. Bottom line, G. Greenhoe said he is not overly confident that the Winter Recreation Plan will come to fruition this year. There was further brief discussion on the topic to include the subject of short-term rentals. T. Ellis noted that Councilman Lee Hansen is currently working to draft an ordinance that will address short-term rentals.
10. **Star Party at Fox Run Park.** G. Greenhoe asked the meeting participants their opinion on trying to reschedule the Star Party. After discussion it was determined that it is too late in the season so we will forgo the event for this year.

11. **November Newsletter Articles.** G. Greenhoe noted that a notice about Mountain View Pickle Ball may go into the next newsletter. Deb Larson is president of the latter. G. Greenhoe proposed to the TSVR Mayor that the NRB work with Mountain View Pickle Ball to better understand what they are looking for and where proposed new pickle ball courts should be placed. G. Greenhoe discussed this as a possibility given that the NRB has a recreation committee. This would really just be a “study” of sorts to figure out what they want and how much money it would take (via fund-raising). The meeting participants concurred with the approach and G. Greenhoe and S. Greenhoe will meet with Deb Larson. Other articles for the newsletter will include fundraising for the Canine Commons Dog Park sail and Seed Money donations going live in mid-November.

12. **Budget Planning.** The meeting participants discussed the budget for 2022. The following projects and estimated “\$s” were presented:

- Fence at Fox Run Park and Hardman Road – Two Rail Fence \$8,500 or Buck & Pole Fence \$5,800
- 9 Crop Circle Tanks + 6’x2’x2’ Potato tanks - \$6,300
- Town Hall Flowers - \$285
- Shade Sail at Canine Commons - \$1,330
- Arbor Day - \$1,400
- Prater Trailhead - \$3,850
- Tools - \$250
- Green Canyon Toilet Screen - \$500

○ *Total Estimated \$s Needed:* \$19,715 (using Buck & Pole fence option)

The meeting participants then discussed the potential sources of income for 2022 as follows:

- Funds balance now - \$12,938
- Arbor Day Fundraising - \$1,800
- General Donations - \$1,000
- Seed Money Grant - \$5,000
- Hunger Initiative Grant - \$1,000
- Friends of Bridger Teton (share of Prater TH) - \$2,000
- Dog Owners/Shade Sail donations - \$200

○ *Total Expected Income:* \$23,938 (estimated)

For 2022, estimated income exceeds estimated \$ needs by: +\$4,223

13. **New Business.** G. Greenhoe read the “Proclamation for Garage Sale Volunteers” given at last week’s Town Council meeting to honor the Trails & Parks volunteers to board attendees.

14. **Next NRB Meeting.** Planned for the last week of October on Monday the 25th at 2:00pm.

15. **Motion to Adjourn.** D. Adler motioned for the meeting to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 4:00pm.

Trails Committee Report - September 21, 2021

Work Completed 15 July - 21 September, 2021:

- Valley View Trail Maintenance (Top of Maple to GC Road)
- Completed By-Pass on Cedar Trail

Cedar Creek Trail:

- Completed Full Maintenance to 1.1 miles
- Completed tree removal (small & medium) to 4.7 miles (lake)
- Completed Cairn work - extensive cairn network now to 4.5 miles
- Added Creek Crossing at the Spruce Grove
- Added two Water Bars / Erosion control

Prater Mountain Trail:

- Flagged trail entry for Re-Build (Pending Forest Service approval)
- Tread work, brushing, erosion control up to 2nd avalanche chute
- Cairn work from the meadow to the saddle
- Straightened the saddle trail sign
- Tread widened / leveled at first avalanche chute
- Fixed horse damage to 3 water bars and routine maintenance to another 14 water bars
- Added 3 water bars / erosion control & added 1 erosion culvert

2 August Flood Damage - Repairs:

- Vista-Prater, North end, Creek crossing Re-Build
- Fixed runoff damage to Green Canyon complex, Cedar & Prater
- Prater Mountain trail - 2 Creek crossings Re-Built
- Prater Mountain trail - Scree chute Re-Built

Prater Canyon Access Road Fix - Following 2 August Flood damage:

- TOSVR Re-graded roadway, added erosion control, & cleared culvert
- Trail Crew - - 2 full work days to complete brushing (entire road)

APPENDIX I (continued)

Projects to complete - Fall 2021:

- 21 September, Trailhead Maintenance, Install parking sign Prater, Buck and Pole Fence repair Green, Cedar Creek bridge boulder work (4 hours)
- 1 October, Finish Prater Mountain trail maintenance from the 2nd avalanche chute to the meadow turn-off (4 hours)
- 2 October, Cub Scout service project, Prep planting area for Aspen tree starts to be planted next spring, NW corner of Canine Commons (2 hours - still in planning stage)
- 3 October, Cedar Creek trail large tree removal to 4.5 miles, 13 trees, 25 yard trail re-route, (8 hours - Horse support pending)
- Date TBD, Cedar Creek trailhead, complete 8 sections of Buck and Pole fencing at the entrance (4 hours - weather permitting / supplies backordered)

Budget Items for 2022 Trail Work:

- Estimate \$2500 for Prater Turn-around Trailhead Upgrade (Pending Forest Service approval)
- Estimate \$250 for Tools
- Estimate \$800 for Green Canyon toilet screen Re-Build

APPENDIX II

NRB Meeting, September 21, 2021

Parks and Landscaping Committee Budget Proposal 2022

- Post and 2 rail fence at Fox Run Park property line along Hardman Rd. Pressure treated (PT) posts and ranch rails at 9' spacing, estimate: \$8,500.00.
Premium PT post and rail at 8' spacing, estimate: \$9,500.00
- Increase the number of garden tanks in Crop Circles by 9 tanks. Add smaller garden tanks, 6'x2'x2', between Crop Circles and Canine Commons to grow deer resistant crops. Estimated cost for the combined project: 6,310.00\$
- Flowers for pots at Town Hall, summertime, \$200.00. Wintertime, potted conifer w/ lights, 85.00\$
- Shade sail for Canine Commons 24x33.9 x24 triangle approx. \$100.00
3 – 12' stainless steel poles \$410.00 ea. = \$1230.00 plus shipping.
Suggest we encourage dog owners to donate to this project.