

The Town of
Star Valley Ranch, Wyoming
NATURAL RESOURCE BOARD MINUTES
Thursday, July 15th, 2021

Present: Greg Greenhoe – Chairman
Victor Padilla – Member
Ruzena Rok – Member
Russ Cargo – Member
Paul Bordwell – via telephone

Absent: Deb Adler – Alternate Member
Taylor Ellis – Council Liaison

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

1. **Call to Order:** A quorum is present, and the meeting is called to order at 2:01 PM.
2. **Approve Minutes:** Minutes from the June 3rd, 2021 NRB meeting were reviewed. R. Cargo noted that his appointment to the NRB as documented in the minutes should state “July 1st” rather than “June 1st”. This correction was documented and no further comments or changes to the June 3rd, 2021 NRB minutes were raised. V. Padilla motioned to approve minutes with correction as noted. R. Cargo seconded and motion passed unanimously.
3. **Election of NRB Chair:** G. Greenhoe noted that as he has been NRB Chairman for the past 10 years (since about 2011) and if no other current board member was willing to take over the role of Chairman, he would prefer to only serve for one more year. V. Padilla nominated G. Greenhoe as NRB Chairman for a term of one-year. G. Greenhoe nominated V. Padilla as Treasurer and R. Rok as Secretary (both for one-year terms). The nominations were unanimously approved.
4. **NRB Donation Account Report:** The General NRB Fund has a balance of \$2,728.92. Expenditures since our meeting on June 3rd included \$132 for Arbor Day brass plates, purchase of soil pep at True Value, lunch for the War on Weeds crew from Lincoln County Weed & Pest, and a \$63 water bill for the Community Garden. Income since the last meeting included a \$50 cash donation, \$40 Community Garden water donation, and a \$1,000 grant from the Wyoming Hunger Initiative. The Trails Donation Account has a balance of \$2,373.26. A total of about \$1,200 was spent since the June 3rd, 2021 NRB meeting on last minute purchases prior to the dedication of the Cedar Creek Trailhead (to include replacement of stolen signs). A bench was also purchased for Fox Run Park. A total of \$970 was donated to the Trails Fund during this same time period.
 - Total funds available: \$5,102.18P. Bordwell motioned to approve the account report. Motion passed unanimously.
5. **Trails Committee/Trail Crew Report:** C. Adler reported the following:
 - The Cedar Creek trailhead and dedication are complete.
 - The Green Canyon complex trails are also all complete with the exception of the spur off of Maple Trail to Green Canyon Road.
 - Installed a bench donated by Diane Carlsen in Fox Run Park.
 - Completed two work days on Prater Canyon trails.
 - Finished Mutt Mitts at Cedar Creek and Green Canyon trailheads.
 - Completed three work days on Cedar Creek trails; two on the bypass to reroute the trail and one day of

clearing and tread-work.

- C. Adler listed the following as near-term things to do:
 - Need to finish Valley View Trail maintenance from the top of Maple Trail to the Green Canyon road;
 - Finish bypass on Cedar Creek; estimate that Cedar Creek Canyon maintenance will be done by 24 July to include working back from lake;
 - Prater Canyon trail maintenance planned from 29 July to 7 August;
 - Prater Canyon Trailhead construction is planned for the fall.
- There was additional discussion by the NRB members on the Prater Canyon Trailhead:
 - Prater Canyon trailhead will need some effort to get approved; i.e., we will need a proposal to the Ranger Justin Laycock and “Miranda” (Miranda Rogers-Gardner, Recreation Tech and liaison to the District).
 - G. Greenhoe stated that the Prater Canyon Trailhead will need to be a planned project.
- G. Greenhoe noted that there have been some issues with kids at the Cedar Creek Trailhead area which has already caused damage to the sign and parking area. Volunteer John Blakely has been doing the drag/rake maintenance of the Cedar Creek Trailhead parking area as required to fix damage from ATVs and dirt bikes. A camera has also been mounted at the trailhead area. Another issue has been observed with kids playing on the water wheel and/or wash machine-box; no trespassing signs have been installed.

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

- Notified on 8 June 2021 that the application to the WY Hunger Initiation for a \$1,000 grant was approved. The grant money will be used to improve the water system to the Crop Circles Community Garden.
- Two hoses at Crop Circles have had to be replaced.
- Locks have been installed on the Crop Circles gates.
- Chisellers (ground squirrels) made a foray into one of the Crop Circles garden tanks. This is believed to be an isolated incident due to foliage trailing over the side of the tank which facilitated the critter being able to climb up onto the planted surface of the tank.
- On 24 June 2021 a local church youth group and NRB volunteers worked for 2 hours at Fox Run Park to mulch, weed, and conduct various other projects.
- Flower pots have been relocated from the old mail center to the Town Hall and new mail center.
- The Parks and Landscaping Committee has had three members step down and is now looking for some new members.

[See the full report of the Parks and Landscaping Activities in the appendix to this document.]

7. **Arbor Day and War-on-Weeds Report:** Arbor Day was held June 12th at Fox Run Park. The Chair reported that eight (8) trees were planted just west of Canine Commons during the event and to date all trees look good.

War-on-Weeds Day was held June 19th from 9 am to 1 pm at the First Response Center. The turnout was excellent and the crew from Lincoln County Weed & Pest nearly ran out of the herbicide products they brought with them to sell to the community.

8. **Roadside Spraying and Bounty Program:** Roadside spraying was completed on June 22nd and 23rd along all Town roads. Additionally, the east and south berms around the public works yard were also sprayed. Spot spraying is ongoing in Fox Run Park.

The SVRA Men’s Golf Association and the Auburn Ward Youth Group will again pull weeds this year (probably toward the end of July or early August). The NRB needs to determine where to send these two

groups.

9. **Status of Annexation of Cedar Creek Trailhead (CCTH):** Annexation of the CCTH is on the Town Council workshop agenda for next week.

The Wyoming Parks & Cultural Resources Board currently has about \$2 million available to make improvements in recreational lands. (Matching funds are necessary.) One possible approach is to determine if the Stewarts might be willing to sell the land that is currently being used to access the CCTH, but also maintain an easement. The Chair asked C. Adler if he would talk with D. Adler about engaging Nancy Dana or Val Stewart to see if they have any interest in this type of option.

10. **Winter Recreation Plan:** A public meeting/open house is scheduled for August 31st from 7pm-9pm at the Star Valley Ranch Member Center. The Winter Recreation Plan Committee will meet on August 16th at 4pm to prepare for the open house.
11. **Star Party:** The Star Party is planned for July 30th at 8:30pm at the Fox Run Park Trailhead. The Star Party will be hosted by Brandon Burnham and the Star Valley Astronomy Club. An inclement weather date for The Star Party will be July 31st.
12. **Garage Sale for Trails & Parks:** The Garage Sale for Trails and Parks is scheduled for Friday, August 20th at 12 noon to 4pm and for Saturday, August 21st from 8am to 3pm at the First Response Center. C. Adler requested some edits to the draft Garage Sale flyer to include the addition of his email address on the flyer. Pick-up and drop-off dates for Garage Sale donations were also discussed and determined notionally as follows:
- Donation drop-offs will occur August 3rd-7th and August 16th-19th from 2pm to 4pm.
 - Donation pick-ups will occur August 3rd-7th and August 16th-19th from 4pm to 6pm.
 - Additionally, donation drop-offs will also be accepted on August 20th from 7:30am until noon.
- The aforementioned drop-off and pick-up days/times will be added to the Garage Sale flyer. Everything will need to be removed from the barn early on the 20th of August as the official start of the sale will be a noon.
13. **Status of First Response Center Barn:** NRB, Town Road Crew and Fire Department all use the barn. Following the Garage Sale, the NRB will not put any of our items back in the barn but rather we will use the lean-to on the side of the barn for storage. The trail shed will still be used by the NRB.
14. **August Newsletter:** Working on articles for the Town Newsletter for August to include information on the Garage Sale.
15. **New Business:** The Chair discussed Aspen leaf scorch as a response to lack of water (i.e., drought). V. Padilla noted that he will be on vacation from July 30th through August 14th. There was no other new business discussed.
16. **Next NRB Meeting:** Tuesday, August 17th, 2021 @ 2:00 PM – Town Hall. An alternate date may, however, be considered given that Garage Sale activities will be in full swing that week. G. Greenhoe will notify NRB members of any change to the next meeting date.
17. **Motion to Adjourn:** A motion to adjourn was made and passed. Meeting adjourned at 3:41 PM.

Appendix:

Parks and Landscaping Committee report – July 15, 2021

- June 8, 2021 - received word from Trista Ostrom, Chief of Staff to First Lady Jennie Gordon, that we will receive a WY Hunger Initiative grant of \$1,000. This will be spent on improving the water system to Crop Circles. We are required to repay any portion of the Grant that is not used for the purposes stated. Also we are to submit a final report consisting of a project report, community partnerships that our organization has worked with and measurable results by Dec. 1, 2021.
- We have replaced 2 hoses, part of the temp. water system to Crop Circles that ruptured due to high pressure.
- Now that crops are producing, locks have been placed on both gates into the garden area. We are concerned that visitors may feel free to pick.
- June 24, 2021 – 30 young people ages 14-18 and 10 adult chaperones from a church youth conference volunteered to do community service. They worked in Fox Run Park for approx. 2 hours. NRB volunteers Craig and Deb Adler, Victor Padilla, Paul Bordwell and Shirley Greenhoe each took a group to the various work projects: built rock basins, mulched and watered new Arbor Day trees, removed dead tree limbs and brush along ditch, east side of park, trimmed lower limbs from trees along Middle Branch, trimmed the large juniper, north end of park, constructed trail/path from toilet to walking path, enlarged drainage basin, misc. trail work. A very productive afternoon.
- Flower pots, formerly placed at the old mail center, have been placed at the Town Hall door facing the parking lot and one flower pot near the entrance to the new mail center.
- The Parks and Landscaping Committee has had 3 members step down. We are now a committee of 3 and looking now for some new members.