

**Town of Star Valley Ranch
Natural Resource Board**

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 14, 2023 – 2:00 PM

NRB room, Public Works building

Present: Victor Padilla – Chairman
Craig Adler – Chair, Trails Committee/Trail Crew
Paul Bordwell - Member
Joanne Leeper – Member
Debbie LaJeunesse – Member
Guests: Rusty and Jessie Adshade

Absent: Deb Johnson - Chair, Parks and Landscaping Committee
Ruzena Rok – Town Council Liaison

Regular Meeting:

Call to Order and Introductions. Chairman Victor Padilla called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. There was a quorum. We still need an alternate member.

Parks & Landscaping Committee, Deb Johnson arranged for a special presentation from Rusty's Tree Service. Rusty and Jessie Adshade from Rusty's Tree Service gave a presentation on Aspen trees and disease. They have lived in SVR for 10 years and he has 42 years of tree/arbor experience. Many Aspen trees have mushrooms at the bottom which is a good indicator that there is a problem, but many trees can be dead without a mushroom. The handout distributed went into more detail about the life cycle of Aspen trees and how and when they should be removed. Most residents don't realize the dangers of Aspen trees so we must do a better job of education. Chemicals can help with some diseases but generally it is just their life cycle, and they must be removed.

Thanks to Rusty's Tree Service for a great presentation to the NRB. The life cycle of Aspen trees is relatively short, and this helps us understand how to co-exist with them.

Regular Parks/Garden report below.

Review and Approve Minutes from the October 3, 2023 NRB Meeting. A motion to accept minutes made by Joanne, second by Paul, motion passed unanimously.

Budget (2023) and NRB Donation Account Report. Victor presented. Craig has turned over approximately \$880 from other garage sale items. Trails, \$18,572.80 and discussion of porta

potty expenses and dog waste bags. The general side has \$9,090.50, for total of \$27,663.30. Motion to approve by Joanne, seconded by Paul, approved by all.

Trails Committee/Trail Crew Report. Craig reported:

- 6 / 19 Oct - Last Trailhead Projects / Maintenance for 2023
 - Green Canyon Winter Parking Sign Installed
 - Green Canyon - 1 x Pole replaced / Fencing
 - Fox Run Park - B & P Fence Maintenance
 - Fox Run Park - Spruce Tree Maintenance
 - Fox Run Park - Parking, pothole repair
 - Cedar Creek TH, 3 x Sections Wildlife Mods
 - Cedar Creek TH - Access Road, pothole repair
 - Cedar Creek TH - Paint upper Bridge structure
 - Cedar Creek TH - Final Tongue Oil, Safety Fence
 - Cedar Creek TH - Winter Parking Signs, Rock Cairns improved
 - Cedar Creek TH - Snow Poles, Valve Pit Cover

- 10 Oct - Upper Cedar Creek Trail Maintenance
 - 2.0 to 3.5 Miles
 - Brushing, Limbing, Downed Tree removal
 - Water Bar maintenance / Tread maintenance
 - Creek Crossing maintenance / Cairn building

- 19 Oct - Prater-Murphy Trail (East Side) Maintenance
 - Trail Sign, Snow Pole installed
 - Downed tree removal / Cairn building
 - Water Bars added (3) / Re-claimed 25 yards of damaged/eroded trail
 - Trail clearing, Tread improvements, Erosion control

- 21 Oct - 1 Nov: Misc. Trailhead / Trails maintenance
 - Fox Run Park, Teepee structure removed
 - Green Canyon TH, Mutt Mitts replaced, Damage to Kiosk discovered
 - All Mutt Mitt Trash Cans emptied - end of season

- 14 Nov - Garage Sale Update – he has turned in \$880 in recent sales to the town

- Projects Remaining in 2023:
 - Annual Trails Report
 - Plan of Work for 2024
 - On-Going Garage Sale Marketing

And some new business below.

Old Business.

Garden notes. Deborah Johnson provided a written report describing another successful year for the garden circles.

1. All tanks cleared
2. Compost bin emptied
3. Hoses stored and water turned off
4. All gardeners notified of end of year
5. Article submitted to town newsletter
6. 40+ # of potatoes submitted to Thayne food bank and were well received.

And Deborah supplied recommendations and items for discussion for next year including composting bin, pollinator program, watering trees, weed control, and trail camera being used at CGCircles.

New Business.

During the Trails Report, Craig shared an email from Jennifer Ricupero, Friends of The Bridger-Teton, regarding American Hiking Society's Volunteer Vacation program. A group would potentially be here for a week, we would provide them lodging/camping, food and or cooking supplies, transportation, tools and safety equipment, work plan, etc. Working on the upper section of Prater-Murphy Trail would be ideal since it is further from the Ranch and hard for Craig to get people that far from town. Having a 6-person group could be ideal, and we are very interested in this.

During the January meeting we should be prepared to brainstorm future work projects, ideas and budget items. We also discussed potential walking paths being installed with the Vista water project.

Next Meeting. Will be determined: January 18, 2024 @ 2:00 PM, Town Hall

Move to adjourn made by Debbie L, seconded by Paul, approved unanimously at 3:16.