



Town Hall - 551 Hot Springs Blvd.  
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

Combined Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting  
March 6, 2025 @ 5:30 PM

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## MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Combined Parks & Recreation Advisory Board was called to order on March 6, 2025, at 5:30 PM in the Town Hall - 551 Hot Springs Blvd..

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Sally High, Jenny Highum, Larry Lynch, Mike Musgrove, Gwen Taylor, and Chantelle Jordan

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** Council Member deGraaf, Veronica Medina, and Kevin Metzler

- 1 CALL MEETING TO ORDER – A regular meeting of the Tree Board was called to order on March 6, 2025 at 5:30pm in 551 Hot Springs Blvd- Town Hall.
- 2 **ROLL CALL**
- 3 **BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- 4 **PUBLIC COMMENT**
  - a) No public comment
- 5 **NEXT MEETING June 5, 2025 AT 5:30 PM**
- 6 **ADJOURNMENT** – By Motion duly made, Tree Board meeting adjourned at 5:34pm
- 7 **CALL MEETING TO ORDER** – A regular meeting of the Combined Parks & Recreation Advisory Board was called to order on March 6, 2025, at 5:35pm in 551 Hot Springs, blvd-Town Hall.
- 8 **ROLL CALL**
- 9 **PUBLIC COMMENT**
  - a) No public comments
- 10 **BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS**
  - a) Chair Gwen Taylor informs the board that she will be stepping down from the board after today's meeting.  
  
Larry Lynch updated the board on the Pagosa Area Recreation Coalition's plan to release a community survey about recreation later this month.

Park and Recreation Director Darren Lewis informed the board of the Town Council decision meeting that we will not be having the parade on the 4th of July. The council directed staff to have a Yamaguchi Park celebration in the afternoon prior to the fireworks. Staff will start working on that, but not sure what that would look like. It could be similar to Comfest in terms of games and music.

This morning, I was involved with department heads and the town council in strategic planning at the hospital. The Town Council will meet tomorrow to discuss the importance of recreation, what it looks like now, and what it will look like ten and twenty years from now. All this information will be distributed.

Lewis welcomes Chantelle Jordan, the assistant principal and the high school's athletic director, as our new board member. She replaces Josh Sanchez.

Lewis informed the board that Amanda will be running April's Board Meeting because he will be out of town. She will discuss.

**11 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**a) Approval of the November 7, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

**12 DEPARTMENT REPORT**

**a) Parks Department Report**

Park and Recreation Director Darren Lewis informs the board with the mild winter we have had; we are able to accomplish quite a bit in our parks. This includes cleaning and trimming trees.

**b) Recreation Report**

Park and Recreation Director Darren Lewis informs the board of our stats for our free community programs. The Festival of Trees was a success. We raised over sixty thousand dollars for the no-profits.

We have finished 7-12 youth basketball and are currently in 9-12 youth volleyball that will end the third week of April.

We are always looking for ways to do things better. We are looking at changing how we do our uniforms for all of our youth sports. We are going to start this summer with a standard uniform. When you register for a sport, you get your uniform jersey, and if you keep it in good condition, you can use it in the next sport. The price is lower for the families, and this will be easier on the staff who are organizing and handing them out.

We are gearing up for Kids Camp and in the process of hiring counselors for that. Depending on the number of counselors we hire will determine the number of kids we can accept.

**13 OLD BUSINESS**

**a) Grant Updates For Projects**

Park and Recreation Director Darren Lewis reminds the board of upcoming grant opportunities and projects. We are reapplying for the Raised Grant for the Town to Lakes project that we did not receive last year. This time, it is going to be called The Build Grant. We applied for twenty million dollars to go toward the Town to Lakes Trail project and should hear something by this summer. Chair Taylor asked if this is an All or Nothing grant or if they could offer a fractional amount. Lewis responded as an All or

Nothing grant.

Last fall, we received a state GoCo grant for four hundred twenty thousand dollars for the Bob's LP property. We also went for a four hundred and sixty thousand dollar federal grant with a land water conservation fund. Dave

Hilborn should be hearing about that today. The combined funding of the two grants will be used to purchase the property.

**b) Vendor Access Yamaguchi Park Update**

Park and Recreational Director Darren Lewis informed the board about the project at Yamaguchi Park. By the large tent, we will be putting in a large concrete slab for when we have events. This will make it easier for our vendors to have access to the park. This should be completed by June 1st.

**c) Bike Park Update**

Park and Recreation Director Darren Lewis informs the board that the Bike Park project will be pushed back a little. We wanted to start in May, but we are still waiting for approval from Public Works to begin filling in the lagoon. The Bike park will be built on part of that lagoon. Most likely this will begin in the fall.

**d) 1st Pedestrian Bridge Update**

Park and Recreational Director Darren Lewis informed the board that the 1st Street Pedestrian Bridge will be located to the north of the vehicular bridge by the museum, this bridge will cross over into the trail that leads to the River Center Ponds. This project will start either in the fall or spring of next year.

**e) Outdoor Exercise Equipment Update**

Park and Recreation Director Darren Lewis informed the board of four pieces of outdoor exercise equipment that will be purchased and installed around May at Yamachuchi Park. This will be located south of the baseball field.

**f) Pagosa Gateway Project**

Park and Recreational Director Darren Lewis informed the board this project came out of planning as a design as you build. This will allow for the stabilization of the banks and cleanup of the river.

**g) Yamaguchi South River Improvement Project**

Park and Recreational Director Darren Lewis informed the board this project would start where the current takeout is at Yamaguchi Park and ending approximately seventeen hundred feet downstream at the new boater's access. This project is scheduled for this fall.

**14 NEW BUSINESS**

**a) Fitness Court**

<https://www.nationalfitnesscampaign.com/watch>

Park and Recreational Director Darren Lewis presented a video and information to the board about a Fitness Court project we are looking at for 2026. This court would cost roughly two hundred thousand

dollars. I am very confident about a fifty-thousand-dollar grant that can be used towards this. Chair Taylor asked where this court would be placed. Lewis responded that this would be in the area of Yamaguchi Park.

Lewis mentioned that over the years, he has heard people talk about wanting outdoor exercise equipment. Jenny Highum asked Lewis what outdoor equipment is being installed. Lewis answered with a strider machine, one that works all over your body, one that will help with ADA access for people and a few others.

**b) Chair and Vice Chair for Board**

Park and Recreational Director Darren Lewis informed the board that we need to fill the Chair and Vice Chair positions. I will advertise for Gwen's spot, and we will do the interview process. Sally High reminded the board that the last two times we chose a new board member, we told the ones who were not chosen that we would be back in touch with them if something came up. Lewis assured the board that he would reach out to the ones that applied. With Mike and Larry's approval, The board has nominated Mike Mustgrove as chair and Larry Lynch as vice chair.

**c) Identifying dates, times and location of Parks and Rec. meeting**

Park and Recreational Director Darren Lewis and the board have agreed that the board meetings will continue on the first Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m. at the same location.

**15** PUBLIC COMMENT – No public comment

**16** NEXT MEETING April 3, 2025 AT 5:30 PM

**17** ADJOURNMENT