



AGENDA

Town Hall 551 Hot Springs Blvd
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

Combined Parks and Recreation Advisory
September 3, 2026 @ 5:30 PM

REMOTE PARTICIPATION

Join Zoom Meeting By Computer - <https://zoom.us/j/91787441223>

Dial by Phone - 1-669-900-6833 US - Meeting ID: 917 8744 1223

A Zoom link is made available. The Town cannot guarantee internet service or online broadcasting. Remote participation is at the risk of attendees. The meeting will continue in person regardless of the broadcast capability.

- I. CALL TREE BOARD MEETING TO ORDER**
- II. BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- III. PUBLIC COMMENT**
- IV. NEXT MEETING (NOVEMBER 5, 2026) AT 5:30 PM**
- V. ADJOURNMENT**
- VI. CALL COMBINED PARKS & REC. ADVISORY BOARD MEETING TO ORDER**
- VII. BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - 1. Approval minutes 6/4/26**
- IX. DEPARTMENT REPORT**
 - 1. Parks and Recreation Report**
- X. NEW BUSINESS**
 - 1. Astronomy Shed Proposal (Dena Laterza)**

Public comment and agenda comment item sign-up sheets are available at the meeting
Copies of proposed Ordinances and Resolutions are available to the public from the Town Clerk

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Adopted Goals 2024 Review

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT

XIII. NEXT MEETING (NOVEMBER 5, 2026) AT 5:30 PM

XIV. ADJOURNMENT



MINUTES

Town Hall 551 Hot Springs Blvd
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

Combined Parks and Recreation Advisory Meeting
June 4, 2026 @ 5:30 PM

A regular meeting of the Combined Parks and Recreation Advisory was called to order on June 4, 2026 at 5:30 PM in the Town Hall 551 Hot Springs Blvd.

BOARD PRESENT: Jenny Highum, Larry Lynch, Mike Musgrove, Kevin Metzler, Jason Taylor, Roxanne Rickert

BOARD ABSENT: Mat deGraaf

I. CALL TREE BOARD MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Musgrove called the Tree Board meeting to order at 5:30 PM

II. ROLL CALL

Members identified in attendance included:

- Chair Musgrove — Present
- Board Member Highum — Present
- Board Member Lynch — Present
- Board Member Metzler — Present
- Board Member Rickert — Present

III. BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

Board Announcements / Staff Updates

Director Lewis reported recent landscaping and tree planting activity throughout town, including:

- Additional landscaping improvements were completed near the Walmart area and sheep herder installation.
- Installation of four aspen trees and supplemental small plantings.
- Continued emphasis on improving visual appeal and long-term vegetation growth in public spaces.
- Director Lewis noted positive early impressions of the area improvements and indicated

continued maintenance will occur as landscaping is established.

Arbor Day Recap

Recreation Supervisor Gadomski provided a detailed recap of Arbor Day activities and community participation.

Recreation Supervisor Gadomski and Parks Supervisor Printz coordinated event operations.
Event Participation

Discussion highlighted:

- Participation from Pagosa Peak Open School students, along with additional local youth attendees.
- Attendance included approximately a dozen students despite scheduling challenges created by a no-school day.

Tree Planting Outcomes

Director Lewis and Supervisor Gadomski reported:

- Approximately 3–4 ceremonial trees were planted during the Arbor Day event itself.
- A total of seven additional trees were ultimately installed at Centennial Park.

Staff emphasized that the goal extended beyond ceremonial planting and focused on long-term community investment in the urban forest.

Educational Programming

Additional Arbor Day programming included a Tree Walk and Educational Talk conducted during the week leading up to Arbor Day.

Discussion included:

- Guided participation from Parks staff.
- Community interest and positive attendee feedback.
- Increased awareness of the diversity of tree species throughout Town Park.

Staff noted that many residents are unaware of the variety of established trees already present in public spaces.

Community Engagement Efforts:

- Director Lewis and Supervisor Gadomski discussed continued use of the municipal tree inventory system.

Topics included:

- Maintaining inventory records for Tree City USA certification requirements.
- Mapping and documenting public trees throughout town.
- Using the inventory system as an educational tool.

As part of outreach efforts:

A tree scavenger hunt was developed and distributed to youth participants.

- Encourage tree identification skills.
- Increase youth interaction with public parks.
- Create educational opportunities tied to recreation programming.
- Staff expressed interest in expanding interactive educational experiences in future years.

Main Street Tree Questions

Discussion clarified:

- Trees removed from Main Street will not return to their original locations.
- Replacement trees have already been installed.
- Temporary watering occurs until irrigation systems are fully operational.
- Decorative flower installations are planned for Main Street.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

V. ADJOURNMENT NEXT MEETING SEPTEMBER 3, 2026 AT 5:30 PM

With no further business brought forward, the meeting was adjourned.

Next Scheduled Tree Board Meeting: September 3 at 5:30 PM.

VI. CALL COMBINED PARKS & REC. ADVISORY BOARD MEETING TO ORDER

Meeting reconvened as the Combined Parks & Recreation Advisory Board.

VII. ROLL CALL

Members identified in attendance included:

- Chair Musgrove — Present
- Board Member Highum — Present
- Board Member Lynch — Present
- Board Member Metzler — Present
- Board Member Rickert — Present

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment

IX. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of March 5 meeting minutes.

1. **Approval March 5, 2026 minutes**

Approval of the March 5 meeting minutes.

X. DEPARTMENT REPORT

1. **Parks and Recreation Report**

Recreation Program Updates

Director Darren Lewis reported:

Completed:

- Basketball season
- Volleyball season
- T-ball season

Current / Upcoming:

- Youth baseball (ages 7–12)
- Adult softball leagues (Men's and Co-ed)
- Registration open for future seasonal sports including soccer and basketball

Community Feedback – Youth T-Ball

Board discussion included operational feedback from parents.

Recommendations:

- Improve field signage and coach identification for easier navigation.
- Rework team photography logistics to reduce idle time for young participants.

Staff agreed to relay recommendations for consideration.

Action Item:

- Review T-ball check-in and team identification procedures.
- Evaluate integrating photography into practice rotations.

BioBlitz Event – June 20

Staff introduced a new recreation and environmental education initiative.

Event Overview:

- 12-hour community science event
- Participants paired with subject experts
- Species identification contributes to broader environmental data collection.

Activities may include:

- Bird observation
- Moth station
- Bat station
- Pollinator and plant identification

Tickets include:

- Event access
- T-shirt
- Dinner

Goal:

Increase environmental awareness and community engagement.

Dark Sky / Astronomy Event

Supervisor Gadomski announced a community astronomy event during the Perseid Meteor Shower.

Planned Details:

- Date: August 12–13
- Location: Yamaguchi baseball field
- Activities:
 - Telescope viewing
 - Educational programming
 - Family picnic environment

Goal:

Promote dark sky awareness and public education.

Parks Operations Update

Director Lewis reported:

Completed / Ongoing:

- Irrigation systems activated
- Seasonal flower planting
- Shade structures installed
- Continued flood debris cleanup

Collected debris will later be:

- Processed
- Repurposed into mulch

Additional discussion:

- Improvements to nearby park access and paving projects were noted.

Skate Park Maintenance

Staff reported upcoming repairs.

Scope:

- Pool coping repairs
- General wear-and-tear maintenance

Discussion noted:

- Damage is primarily from usage and environmental exposure rather than vandalism.

Action Item:

- Coordinate volunteer-supported repair efforts and monitor long-term durability.

Bob's LP Location

Boater ramp has been installed and is being used. Bob's LP still has things on the property and once that is finished, Director Lewis stated that more progress will be made with the area.

Centennial Park Art Call Update

The chosen artist will be coming in for a meeting in a week.

Estimated to be completed by the end of the year.

Supervisor Gadomski explained that the heat transfer panels will be very similar to their original structure and that there will be a display board explaining the origin of the art materials.

Board Questions:

Chair Musgrove questioned the progress of the skate park repairs.

- Director Lewis explained the extent of the repairs
- Board Member Highum questioned for the repairs where from damage or wear and tear.
- Director Lewis stated wear and tear

Additional Updates

- Trail near Walmart sealing has been completed
- River Center Trail is still in need of sealing
- Town Park Trail is still in need of sealing

XI. GRANT UPDATES

1. Fishing for fund grant

River Center Grant Award

Staff announced receipt of a grant totaling approximately:

\$103,791

Town Match:

Approximately **25% (~\$26,000)**

Funding intended for:

- Pond dredging
- Flood recovery
- Head gate improvements

2. Reservoir Hill Grant

Reservoir Hill Acquisition Efforts

Major update provided regarding land acquisition.

Forest Legacy Grant:

- Request: **\$5.7 million**
- Project ranked **7th nationally**
- Only Colorado project selected.

Status:

Promising but not yet finalized.

Additional Funding Strategy:

- Regional partnership funding
- GOCO Community Impact funding
- Conservation Fund support
- Potential future fundraising

Estimated funding gap remains under discussion.

Action Items:

- Continue grant applications.
- Continue negotiations with land partners.
- Prepare contingency fundraising strategy if necessary.

Reservoir Hill Acquisition Update

Director Lewis and Supervisor Gadomski presented a significant update regarding land preservation efforts.

Discussion included:

- Current grant positioning (Top 11)
- Partnership opportunities
- Long-term conservation benefits

Director Lewis and Supervisor Gadomski reported continued work with funding partners and emphasized the importance of preserving recreation access and open space.

Action Items:

- Continue funding applications.
- Monitor grant timelines.
- Develop supplemental funding strategies if required.

Recreation & Infrastructure Planning

Staff announced continued work toward a comprehensive Parks & Recreation planning effort.

PARC final draft plan is lengthy but open June 12 for public comment.

Objectives:

- Gather community input.
- Establish long-term recreation priorities.
- Guide future capital investment.

Methods:

- Public surveys
- Outreach efforts
- Community engagement sessions

Action Item:

Launch public participation process and collect feedback.

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Outdoor Fitness Equipment

Outdoor Fitness Equipment

Director Lewis reviewed the outdoor fitness equipment installation.

- Three additional pieces of fitness equipment have been installed

Discussion included projected timelines, contractor coordination, and expected public impact.

2. Pickleball Court Fence and Windscreen

Pickleball Courts

- A new fence and windscreen have been installed

3. Bike Park

Bike Park Update

Director Lewis explained the new bike park area is about an acre in size and construction is starting soon with an early fall completion.

The Multi-Pavillion discussion included grant search. The existing grant found did not meet the grant requirements.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Adopted Goals

New Business: Review of Adopted Goals

The Board moved into New Business and began discussion of the Board's previously adopted short-term and long-term goals.

Director Lewis and Supervisor Gadomski explained that the purpose of bringing the goals back before the Board was to review the existing document and determine whether any goals should be removed, revised, clarified, or replaced. The Board was reminded that the goals represent the

Board's overall vision and should reflect both current priorities and feedback received from the community.

The Board could begin discussing possible changes and continue the process at the September meeting.

Board member Rickert asked for additional clarification regarding **Short-Term Goal No. 5**, specifically the status of the **Town to Lakes Trail**.

Town to Lakes Trail Connectivity and Funding

Director Lewis explained that the overall Town to Lakes Trail project is estimated at approximately \$20 million and that the Town is working to identify funding opportunities to complete the project in phases.

The current focus is on extending the trail from approximately 10th Street near the elementary school toward Great West. Director Lewis reported that the Town is still approximately \$1.2 million short of the funding needed to complete that particular section.

Board member Lynch questioned whether the Town could reapply for a grant that had previously been unsuccessful and whether modifications to the application could improve future funding opportunities.

Director Lewis explained that Development Director Dickhoff and Project Manager Kyle Rickert had pursued the grant twice. The grant program was previously known as the **BUILD Grant** and has since been renamed the **RAISE Grant**. Director Lewis noted that grant applications must fit specific program requirements and scoring criteria, and the Town's proposed trail does not always fit neatly within the available funding categories.

The available grants generally tend to support either:

- Highway and transportation safety improvements, such as widened shoulders or other improvements along a roadway; or
- More traditional multi-use trail projects.

The Town's proposed trail is more complex because the long-term vision includes a wide, hard-surfaced, ADA-accessible trail, which does not always align with the available grant programs. Director Lewis and Supervisor Gadomski stated that the Town has considered whether a less expensive alternative, such as beginning with a natural-surface or single-track trail, could provide initial connectivity while additional funding is pursued.

However, it was explained that constructing even a smaller trail could create complications related to:

- Existing easements;
- Drainage and water flow;
- Engineering requirements;
- Trail alignment; and
- Potential future changes to the easement location.

It was noted that some portions of the area are already used informally as single-track paths. However, formally developing a trail without completing the necessary engineering and drainage

review could create additional complications.

The Board agreed that trail connectivity remains an important community priority and noted that the project continues to appear as a priority through public feedback and Parks and Recreation survey discussions.

Additional challenges were discussed regarding the terrain between the Walmart/church area and Wells Fargo. Director Lewis noted that portions of the route would require significant work, including cutting into rock, constructing switchbacks, and addressing other physical barriers.

An alternative alignment along Highway 160 was also discussed. This option would potentially involve widening the highway shoulder and improving pedestrian access. Supervisor Gadomski noted that the intersection in that area is already part of a future CDOT project, which is expected to include improved crosswalks and pedestrian staging areas.

Board members discussed the current difficulty of traveling through portions of the proposed trail area and noted that certain sections contain steep or rocky terrain and require substantial work before they would be safely passable.

Director Lewis reiterated that, if the additional \$1.2 million needed for the current section became available, the Town could proceed with that phase.

Review of Existing Goals and Completed Projects

The Board discussed the importance of reviewing goals that are already underway or nearing completion.

One example discussed was river access. Staff noted that river access improvements are currently in progress and that the planned boat ramps upstream and downstream of town will provide much of the access that had previously been identified as a Board goal.

The Board discussed whether a goal that is actively being completed should remain on the adopted goals list. Members indicated that river access could potentially be removed or revised when the goals are formally reviewed in the fall.

The Board also discussed the goal regarding parking lot improvements.

Director Lewis explained that parking improvements are addressed regularly as part of ongoing Parks and Recreation maintenance and capital improvement work. Recent and ongoing work includes:

- Parking improvements near the Grow Domes;
- Ongoing maintenance and chip sealing at Yamaguchi Park;
- Re-striping parking areas;
- Improvements around the pickleball courts; and
- Installation of two additional parking areas.

Director Lewis also identified Mary Fisher Park as an area where parking lot improvements may be needed and stated an intention to seek funding for those improvements in the next budget cycle. Director Lewis explained that parking maintenance is an ongoing responsibility and that projects are prioritized and completed as funding becomes available.

Board member Lynch asked about the status and future use of the property behind Reservoir Hill, which was clarified as the Goodman Property / Sky Rocket Trail area.

Director Lewis reported that the property is currently being used by WW Clyde, a CDOT contractor, for material and equipment storage.

The Town is considering making some initial improvements to the property during the current year, including:

- Installing a kiosk;
- Adding mulch or other basic site improvements; and
- Possibly installing a picnic table.

Director Lewis stated that the long-term purpose of the property has not yet been determined. Possible future uses discussed include:

- A campground;
- A potential location for the multipurpose facility; or
- Other future recreation or community uses.

No decision has been made regarding the final use of the property.

Director Lewis stated that once WW Clyde is finished using the site and the Town continues its planning process, the Board and staff will have a better opportunity to evaluate what is appropriate for the property. Considerations would include whether the site is large enough to accommodate a multipurpose facility and whether that location fits the Town's overall Parks and Recreation planning goals.

Board members noted the property's scenic views and agreed that it could be a potential location for future development.

It was also discussed that the future of this property may be addressed as part of the broader Parks and Recreation Master Plan process.

Board Discussion

Board member Rickert requested that the multipurpose pavilion/facility be considered as a long-term goal during the upcoming review of adopted goals.

The Board expressed agreement that this should be considered.

Clarifying and Updating Short-Term Goals

The Board discussed making the existing short-term goals more specific and easier for future Board members and the public to understand.

Board member Rickert noted that some goals, particularly certain numbered short-term goals, are helpful because they clearly identify a project or intended outcome. However, some broader goals, such as "parking lot improvements," do not identify which parks or parking areas are being referenced.

The Board discussed whether future revisions should identify more specific projects, such as:

- Particular parking lots;
- Specific park locations;

- River Center parking improvements; or
- Other identified infrastructure needs.

One example mentioned was the River Center parking area behind the liquor store, including addressing significant potholes.

Director Lewis explained that the current goals were originally written more broadly and conceptually. Broad goals provide staff with flexibility to prioritize maintenance and improvements as needs and funding opportunities arise.

Director Lewis stated that parking improvements across the parks system are part of the responsibility of Parks staff and supervisors, who assess conditions and prioritize projects as funding becomes available.

The Board agreed that it may be beneficial to discuss how specific or general the updated goals should be during the formal goal review.

The Board again expressed support for adding the multipurpose pavilion to the long-term goals for consideration.

Town and County Trail Connectivity

The Board discussed whether the existing goal regarding Town and County trail connectivity was the same as Phase 2 of the Town to Lakes Trail or whether it should be considered more broadly. Staff explained that the broader connectivity goal includes connections beyond the Town to Lakes Trail. Discussion included the importance of connecting the Town's trail system with trails in surrounding county and residential areas, including **PLPOA**.

Staff noted that PLPOA has developed an extensive trail system and that improving connections between trail systems would benefit the entire community.

Future and existing connectivity discussed included:

- Connections north toward Hatcher;
- Planned hard-surface trail improvements in the Twin Creek area;
- Trail development along North Pagosa Boulevard;
- Loop trails;
- Downtown trail connections; and
- Connections between recreation, commercial, historic, and river areas.

The overall objective discussed was to continue developing an interconnected trail system rather than a collection of isolated trails.

Director Lewis also provided an update on the planned pedestrian bridge near the mulch shop. The bridge is intended to improve safe pedestrian connectivity across the area and provide a safer alternative to crossing near the existing vehicular bridge.

The Town is still hoping to complete the pedestrian bridge project in the fall.

However, staff reported that flood conditions affected the project. The bridge design had to be modified because the span needed to be extended by approximately 30 additional feet. This required redesign work and other adjustments before the project could proceed.

Potential New School and Future Trail Connections

Board member Metzler asked whether the potential new school planned near Vista could result in additional trail connectivity needs.

Director Lewis agreed that this is an important consideration.

It was reported by Board member Lynch that discussions have occurred between local representatives and the school district regarding the potential need for additional trails and non-motorized connections if the new school is developed.

Board member Lynch specifically discussed the need for potential improvements around:

- Park Avenue;
- The west end of Park Avenue; and
- Connections between the proposed school area and the Town's larger trail system.

The school location had not previously been a primary focus for trail development, but the possibility of a new campus creates additional opportunities and needs related to safe non-motorized access for students and families.

Director Lewis stated that if the school project moves forward, the Town would like to work cooperatively with the school district to develop appropriate trail connections.

A trail currently parallels Vista Boulevard and could provide a useful north-south connection for the school area. However, additional work would likely be needed to create east-west connections back toward the Town's core trail system.

The Board discussed whether school connectivity should potentially be included as part of the Board's future goals.

Staff confirmed that this type of project fits within the broader concept of Town and County trail connectivity, even if the area extends beyond Town limits.

Potential Future Goal

The Board agreed that trail connectivity associated with the potential new school should be considered during the upcoming goal review.

Plan for September Goal-Setting Discussion

The Board discussed how to proceed with the review and revision of its adopted goals.

Members agreed that the Board should hold a more extensive discussion during the September meeting.

Board member Highum recommended using a whiteboard exercise, similar to previous Board discussions, to identify:

- Existing goals that should remain;
- Goals that have been completed;
- Goals currently underway;
- New short-term priorities;
- New long-term priorities; and
- Ideas that may not have previously been considered.

The Board agreed that the upcoming Town Parks and Recreation survey would provide valuable community feedback and should be considered during the goal-setting process.

Staff confirmed that survey information should be available for the Board's September 3 meeting. The Board discussed reviewing the short-term and long-term goals in more detail at that meeting. Staff noted that some current short-term goals are already being addressed but are not yet fully complete. During the review process, the Board can decide whether to:

- Keep them as short-term goals;
- Move them to a different category;
- Remove completed items; or
- Add new priorities.

Staff emphasized that the goals document is an important planning tool that helps guide Parks and Recreation priorities and future decisions. Maintaining current plans and using public survey feedback helps ensure that future projects are guided by documented community priorities.

Action Item

Staff will prepare for a more detailed Board goal-setting discussion at the September 3 meeting, including use of a whiteboard exercise and incorporation of community survey results.

Community Parks and Recreation Survey

The Board asked when survey results would be available.

Director Lewis explained that the survey will be promoted at all three ComFest events, with the final ComFest scheduled for August 21.

The Town plans to promote the survey using:

- A QR code at events;
- Additional online links; and
- Other outreach opportunities.

Director Lewis and Supervisor Gadomski expects the survey information to be gathered and tabulated by the end of August and available for the September 3 Board meeting.

Board members requested that the survey results be provided as early as possible before the meeting, so members have adequate time to review the information.

Director Lewis and Supervisor Gadomski agreed to provide the information as soon as it is available, ideally approximately one week before the meeting if timing allows.

They also discussed the possibility of giving Board members access to an active survey results link or similar tool so they can begin reviewing responses as they are received rather than waiting until all survey responses are compiled.

The Board expressed interest in being able to monitor incoming feedback during the summer.

Staff noted that Town Council had requested a new Parks survey in order to gauge current community priorities and determine whether public needs and opinions have changed.

Staff reviewed previous planning documents and feedback dating back to approximately 2007. Staff noted that many of the goals and priorities identified in earlier community planning efforts have continued to guide current projects.

The discussion noted that, while projects have been completed over time, the Town has generally

remained consistent with the direction established through earlier community feedback rather than moving away from the community's original priorities.

The Board expressed interest in seeing whether the new survey confirms that the Town remains on the right path or identifies significant changes in community needs.

Staff noted that, regardless of community priorities, funding remains a significant factor in determining how quickly projects can be completed.

Action Items

- Promote the Parks and Recreation survey at all three ComFest events.
 - Use a QR code and other outreach methods to increase public participation.
 - Compile survey results by the end of August for review before the September 3 meeting.
 - Provide Board members with survey results as early as possible before the meeting.
 - Explore providing Board members access to ongoing survey responses during the collection period.
-

Mapping Project Update

Board member Metzler asked for an update on the status of the mapping project.

He referenced discussion from the previous meeting indicating that wet conditions at Reservoir Hill had delayed completion of some of the work.

Mr. Metzler asked whether the mapping effort included only park boundaries or whether it also included trails within the parks.

Supervisor Gadomski reported that the field data collection has been completed and includes:

- Park boundaries;
- Trails; and
- Other relevant mapped features.

Supervisor Gadomski explained that the remaining work is to process the collected information within the computer system and convert the data into a clear, usable map.

Mr. Metzler confirmed his understanding that the information has been collected and compiled but that the final map has not yet been produced.

Staff confirmed this understanding.

Action Item / Follow-Up

Staff will continue processing the completed mapping data into a final, understandable map format.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT NEXT MEETING SEPTEMBER 3, 2026 AT 5:30 PM

Adjournment

With no further business brought forward, the meeting was adjourned.

Next Scheduled Combined Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting: September 3 at 5:30 PM.



AGENDA BRIEF

MEETING: Combined Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
FROM: Darren Lewis

PROJECT: Parks and Recreation Report
ACTION: Information Only

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND:
Parks and Recreation Report

Parks

- Maintenance: Staff remain focused on ongoing maintenance across all parks and town properties.
- Events: We continue to assist with setups for various events throughout the park system.
- Landscaping: Landscaping work near the switchback at Cotton's Hole and the First Street Bridge is complete. Staff are planning to continue tree maintenance along the riverwalk. Staff have landscaped the East welcome sign. Staff have been planting trees throughout the parks with a donation of 10 pine and 2 aspen trees from Pagosa Nursery.

Recreation Brief

Free Community Programs

In July, 719 community members participated in our free program offerings, including yoga, dance, mommy and me sessions, drop-in volleyball, open gym, outdoor skills classes, and pickleball lessons and play.

Recreation Programming

K.I.D.S. Camp concluded on July 31 after another successful nine-week summer program, serving more than 60 youth each day. The softball season also wrapped up, with 12 teams completing a fun and competitive season. Our fall youth sports season is off to a great start. Pee Wee Soccer kicked off with 40 participants, while the 7–9 Soccer program has exceeded capacity with 73 youth registered. Upcoming programs include 5–6 Soccer, 10–12 Soccer, 7–9 Co-Ed Basketball, 10–12 Girls Basketball, Youth Strength & Fitness classes, and 10–12 Boys Basketball.

TOPS Parks and Recreation Master Plan

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey remains open through the end of August, and we encourage community members to participate. [Survey Link](#). Staff will continue conducting an inventory of the Town's parks, trails, and recreation facilities to establish the baseline data needed to guide the development of the updated Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Parks Area Recreation Coalition (PARC)

PARC submitted its Early Wins and Capacity Grant application in July and anticipates a funding decision by the end of 2026. The pilot program providing portable restrooms and trash service at key recreation access points has been well received, with strong community support for improving trail access infrastructure. The grant application includes funding to continue and expand this successful effort. Staff is also developing a dedicated PARC website to better coordinate recreation information, share project updates, and create opportunities for collaboration among partners and the community.

Reservoir Hill Land Acquisition

Staff put the letter of intent in for GOCO matching funds to cover funds not covered by the Forest Legacy Program. Staff were notified mid-August that the Town was accepted to put in a full application in September. Forty nine applications were submitted to GOCO and only seventeen were selected to move forward..

Events

-Park After Dark: Perseid Meteor Shower Watch Night, August 12, 8:30 pm-midnight. Join us for an unforgettable evening under some of the darkest skies of the year! Experience the annual Perseid Meteor Shower, with the potential to see more than 100 meteors per hour under moonless skies. As part of the Town's Dark Sky Project, downtown lights will be reduced to help protect our night skies and create ideal viewing conditions. Bring your family, lawn chairs, blankets, and warm layers, and enjoy this free community event at the Yamaguchi Park Baseball Diamond.

-Comfest: Is scheduled for August 21 at 5:30 PM, featuring The Williams Brothers Band. Proceeds will benefit Wings Early Childhood Center

Projects

- **Yamaguchi South Bike Park:** Construction continues, with the project anticipated to be completed this fall.
- **River Center Pond Dredging:** Dredging of the River Center ponds started the week of 8/24.
- **Trail Maintenance:** The asphalt trails at Walmart and Town Park have been sealed. Sealing of the River Center Trail will be completed following the dredging of the River Center ponds to avoid potential damage from construction activities.

AmeriCorp Group is working on cleaning both cemeteries while in town.

Centennial Park art project starts in September



AGENDA BRIEF

MEETING: Combined Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
FROM: Darren Lewis

PROJECT: Astronomy Shed Proposal (Dena Laterza)
ACTION: Discussion and Action

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND:
Discussion of possible location and recommendations

PROJECT PROPOSAL

Dena Laterza
July 27, 2026

PROJECT TITLE

Pagosa Astronomy Center: A Stellar Spot

DESCRIPTION

The Pagosa Sidewalk Astronomers are seeking approval to install a small storage building on Town park property to house telescopes and educational materials. This installation will facilitate consistent public night sky programming and protect sensitive optical equipment from the mechanical strain of frequent vehicle transport.

BACKGROUND & IMPACT

For the past 2 years, our organization has hosted public Astronomy events throughout Pagosa Springs. While these sessions successfully engage the community, the current requirement to transport gear in personal vehicles frequently jars optics out of alignment which increases setup and breakdown time. Additionally, transportation potentially causes damage to delicate equipment. Establishing a fixed location will:

- Enhance Outreach: Create a reliable, branded destination for residents and tourists.
- Protect Equipment: Minimize the need for recalibration and reduce wear on specialized optics.
- Expand Programming: Allow for more frequent events by streamlining the transition from storage to observation.



PROPOSED LOCATION

Based on technical requirements for astronomical observation, we have identified Yamaguchi Park South and the South portion of Reservoir Hill as potential sites. These locations meet all essential criteria:

- **Optical Conditions:** Offers dark skies, a clear view of the horizon in all directions, and minimal obstruction from structures, mountains, or trees.
- **Light Mitigation:** Distanced from major roadways, streetlights, and protected from vehicular traffic (headlights/backup lights) which would compromise night-adapted vision.
- **Public Safety & Access:** Provides level ground for telescope stability, ample parking for attendees, and a safe environment for all ages.

By securing a lasting location, we aim to foster a "safe-haven" for stargazing and train the next generation of astronomy enthusiasts. We look forward to discussing how this partnership can enhance the Town's recreational and educational offerings.

OPPORTUNITY

The establishment of an Astronomy Center will transform our capacity for community impact and regional distinction. Key opportunities include:

- **Educational Integration:** Collaboration with schools and the library providing structured workshops and night sky programming expanding Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) curriculum.
- **Civic Engagement:** Hosting special observation events for local first responders, clubs, and major employers like PSMC and The Springs Resort. Integrating remote control of smart telescopes for astrophotography.
- **Strategic Alignment:** Supporting the Town's pursuit of International Dark Sky Community certification by providing a visible hub for dark sky advocacy and education of dark sky ambassadors.
- **Economic Development:** With our pursuit of certification from Dark Sky International as an International Dark Sky Community, the Astronomy Center positions Pagosa Springs on the "Colorado Stargazing Trail" recently debuted by Dark Sky Colorado to celebrate the state's 150th anniversary. This infrastructure allows the Town to capture the growing global demand for astrotourism.

FINANCIAL INVESTMENT & IMPLEMENTATION

The Pagosa Sidewalk Astronomers are committed to fully funding the projected \$8,000 capital cost through private donations, with the

completed facility to be donated to the Town of Pagosa Springs. We welcome the opportunity to discuss any potential matching funds the Town may contribute.

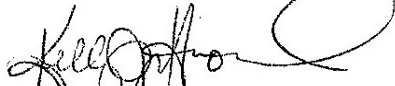
To ensure a low-impact and sustainable installation, our plan includes:

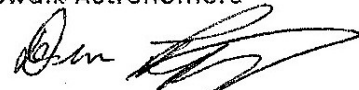
- Infrastructure: A pre-built 8' x 12' professional-grade storage building, of equal or better quality than a Tuff Shed, delivered to a location designated by the Town Planning Department.
- Color Selection: The exterior can be color-matched to Town specifications.
- Minimal Site Impact: The structure will utilize a non-intrusive pad foundation, no concrete needed. We will prepare the site by creating an 10' x 14' gravel-filled pad to ensure proper drainage and a level base.
- Sustainability: The facility will be entirely solar-powered, requiring no electrical grid connection or utility infrastructure from the Town.

Please let us know the next steps for formal review and if there are potential matching funds available to further subsidize this community asset.

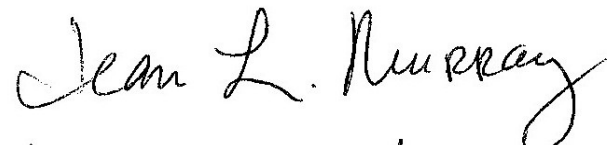
Best regards,

Dena Laterza and other Pagosa Sidewalk Astronomers



Paul M. (7/23/26)


Aaron McGracken
Aara Kelbre
Kelly Hasenbubler
Michael Bottitt
John Thewissen


Jean L. Murray
Patricia Hasenbubler
R. Scott McKenzie

**PARKS AND RECREATION JOINT ADVISORY COMMISSION
TOWN OF PAGOSA SPRINGS
STATE OF COLORADO**

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION
JOINT ADVISORY COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF
PAGOSA SPRINGS IDENTIFYING PARKS AND
RECREATION JOINT ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR 2024 GOALS**

2024 GOALS (In no certain order):

SHORT TERM GOALS 1-3 YEARS

Short term Goals

- #1- Improving River access.
- #2 - Parking Lot Improvements - In all Parks
- #3 - Riverwalk Improvements
- #4 – Developing Yamaguchi South
- #5 - Phase 2 of Town to Lakes Trails connectivity
- #6 - Action Park (Skate Park expansion)

LONG TERM GOALS 4-10 YEARS

Long term goals:

- #1 - Recreation Center with Town and County involvement
- #2 - Explore funding mechanisms for park & recreation improvement and development.
- #3 - Town and County trail connectivity
- #4 – Town and County Growth Collaboration

INTRODUCED, READ, APPROVED BY A VOTE OF FOR AND AGAINST, BY THE PARKS AND RECREATION JOINT ADVISORY COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF PAGOSA SPRINGS, COLORADO, AT ITS REGULAR MEETING HELD AT TOWN HALL, ON THE 3rd DAY OF March, 2024.

By:

Chairperson _____