



**Town of Southwest Ranches
Recreation, Forestry and Natural Resources
Advisory Board Meeting Agenda**

Tuesday
October 13, 2020
7:00 pm

Via Zoom

Board Members

Chris Brownlow, Dena Butler, MaryGay Chaples, Lana Eichel,
Debra Goff-Rose, Debbie Green, Marie Nix
Aster Knight, Board Member Emeritus

Council Liaison

Gary Jablonski

Staff Liaison

December Lauretano-Haines

- A. ROLL CALL**
- B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- C. AGENDA AS FOLLOWS**
- D. NEW BUSINESS:**
 - Excuse absences:
 - Adopt Town of Southwest Ranches Recreation, Forestry and Natural Resources Advisory Board Meeting Minutes for March 2020.
 - Staff wishes to extend thanks to Board member Karen Parkerson. Karen's relocation has made it necessary to conclude her service with Southwest Ranches Advisory Boards. *We thank Karen for the years she served and wish her all the best in North Carolina!*
- E. OLD BUSINESS:**
 - Discussion regarding design parameters for Country Estates Park Artistic Entrance.
 - Discussion regarding increased basketball amenities at Country Estates Park.
 - Follow up/Maintenance report attached for the Board's review and discussion.
- F. AGENDA PREP FOR NEXT MEETING**
- G. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**
- H. STAFF COMMENTS**
- I. HOA/PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- J. ADJOURNMENT**

From: [December Lauretano-Haines](#)
To: [December Lauretano-Haines](#)
Cc: [Aster Knight \(asterknight@yahoo.com\)](#); [Chris Brownlow \(173463@dadeschools.net\)](#); [Debbie Green \(phins13@aol.com\)](#); [Debra Goff-Rose \(Debragoffrose@yahoo.com\)](#); [Dena](#); [Karen & Dean Parkerson \(karenparkerson@aol.com\)](#); [Lana Eichel \(lanaeichel@aol.com\)](#); [MaryGay Chaples \(gaichaples@gmail.com\)](#); [Vern and Marie Nix \(marieandvern@aol.com\)](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: ce park hoop
Date: Monday, September 14, 2020 1:18:54 PM

Hi there everyone

We have a request for your consideration with regard to basketball at the Country Estates Park. You can read the thread below to see the whole conversation, but basically, a resident would like to entreat his board and neighbors to donate funds and help to expand the basketball amenities at Country Estates Park.

While staff and administration would like to encourage this possibility, of course you know we are here to make sure that all is done properly and also that it doesn't take away from anything we're supposed to do out there.

I'm sure you'll have questions, and a great time to discuss it would be at our next regularly scheduled meeting on October 13th. Do you think we could make a special effort to get together on Zoom for that night?

Please advise and let me know what your questions are if you have them in advance. It would be great to support/accommodate the request if we can do so responsibly.

December Lauretano-Haines
ISA Certified Arborist® #FL-6019A
LIAF #2007-0045
Parks, Recreation and Open Space Manager
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Southwest Ranches, FL 33330
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dlauretano@southwestranches.org<<mailto:dlauretano@southwestranches.org>>

United States®
Census
2020 | **COMING**
APRIL 1, 2020

EVERYONE COUNTS IN SOUTHWEST RANCHES



From: steve@breitkreuz.org <steve@breitkreuz.org>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2020 12:57 PM
To: Andy Berns <aberns@southwestranches.org>; December Lauretano-Haines <dlauretano@southwestranches.org>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: ce park hoop

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Yes, that sounds good. Thanks for taking this to the board.

Steve

Steve Breitkreuz
(954) 296-6018

From: Andy Berns <aberns@southwestranches.org>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2020 8:58 AM
To: steve@breitkreuz.org; December Lauretano-Haines <dlauretano@southwestranches.org>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: ce park hoop

Thank you both for your efforts. I'm very curious to see how the board feels about this.

Personally, I'm thrilled to hear it gets the use it does. While I had some concerns, I know it wasn't a major investment. If we can expand it due to heavy use, that's okay by me. Just need to find a way to accomplish it, perhaps just not to NBA standards.

-AB
Andy Berns
Town Administrator,
Town of Southwest Ranches
13400 Griffin Road
Southwest Ranches, FL 33330
954.434.0008

From: steve@breitkreuz.org <steve@breitkreuz.org>
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2020 6:40 PM
To: December Lauretano-Haines <dlauretano@southwestranches.org>
Cc: Andy Berns <aberns@southwestranches.org>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: ce park hoop

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I can imagine. Thanks for taking this to the board and thanks for all that you do for our Town.

Steve

Steve Breitkreuz
(954) 296-6018

From: December Lauretano-Haines <dlauretano@southwestranches.org>
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2020 5:44 PM
To: steve@breitkreuz.org
Cc: Andy Berns <aberns@southwestranches.org>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: ce park hoop

Thanks, Steve. I'll discuss with Andy and also see if my Board can get together in October. It's been tough trying to Zoom our meetings, we have a few technophobic people on the board!

From: steve@breitkreuz.org <steve@breitkreuz.org>
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2020 4:48 PM
To: December Lauretano-Haines <dlauretano@southwestranches.org>
Cc: Andy Berns <aberns@southwestranches.org>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: ce park hoop

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Hi December,

Thanks for passing this along. First, let me say from a general standpoint, I agree with the direction John is going. This amenity is used more than just about any other in the park, so I think that it could be something that is worth expanding.

With that said, if I understand John, and I would agree with this, I think that the objective would be to provide this enhancement with a minimal amount of funding (And frankly, that might be a condition of moving forward) so that that might not be an issue. I do think that it is possible (I would need to check with the Board) that the CEHOA could make a contribution as well. While I think that the size should be standard if possible, but frankly if it needs to be reduced slightly to make the plan work, I personally don't see that as a major hurdle, but other may disagree. I think that regular pavement is fine. That is normal for an outside court.

But with that said, I definitely would want to get the input of the Parks board before making any recommended changes or enhancements. I would like input from them as to potential locations within the park as well as thoughts on how it would impact other items within the park.

As for the points that you have concerns about, I will give you my quick thoughts:

- I'm still trying to meet grant commitments at this and every other property we have. This proposed basketball court is not among the things we've already committed to but have yet to build. I don't think that we should divert funding from items that we have committed to do to this project, but I am hoping that we can alternate funding.
- A high-level of expectation and ongoing maintenance expense. The care of a court is important if it is to remain playable. A court surface is costly to make properly and costly to keep in good shape. I believe that this should be normal asphalt. Maybe repaint the strips every 2 or 3 years. I think that we can minimize the maintenance cost. I might be missing something but I don't see this as a significant issue.
- More stuff for people to destroy, deface, or otherwise vandalize. If this was rarely used, I would agree that it is not worth it, but it is used a lot. I don't think that we should allow the few bad apples to impact the benefit of the many... If it becomes a more chronic issue, then we might need to revisit.
- What location John aims the proposed court be placed. It shouldn't cut into an area designed for other uses (i.e. within the existing ballfield or parking area). I will remain open-minded about this, but it is a question in my mind. Yes, this definitely needs input from the Parks Board. They are much more familiar with the particulars and I would want them to feel comfortable that this entire project makes sense.

Thanks again for check December. I would say let's get this idea on the agenda for the Parks board for the next time they meet and make sure that John is sent an invitation and take it from there. Their response will greatly determine the next steps.

Steve

Steve Breitkreuz
(954) 296-6018

From: December Lauretano-Haines <dlauretano@southwestranches.org>
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2020 1:01 PM
To: 'Steve Breitkreuz' <steve@breitkreuz.org>
Cc: Andy Berns <aberns@southwestranches.org>
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: ce park hoop

Hi Steve

Please read below: sharing some more email conversation I'm having with John E. regarding basketball at Country Estates Park.

John is very determined. Regarding the Parks board: I believe they would be glad to support the idea, but we have not been able to meet about it yet.

I will remain open-minded, but I do have misgivings. This is not a simple thing.

My concerns:

- I'm still trying to meet grant commitments at this and every other property we have. This proposed basketball court is not among the things we've already committed to but have yet to build.
- A high-level of expectation and ongoing maintenance expense. The care of a court is important if it is to remain playable. A court surface is costly to make properly and costly to keep in good shape.
- More stuff for people to destroy, deface, or otherwise vandalize.
- What location John aims the proposed court be placed. It shouldn't cut into an area designed for other uses (i.e. within the existing ballfield or parking area). I will remain open-minded about this, but it is a question in my mind.

Please share your thoughts? Thanks.

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dlauretano@southwestranches.org<<mailto:dlauretano@southwestranches.org>>



From: December Lauretano-Haines
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2020 4:05 PM
To: 'John Eastman' <john426@bellsouth.net>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: ce park hoop

Hi John

I had the backboard replaced this week. The new one will not be as nice to shoot for, because it's more durable plexiglass.

Though I would love to improve the basketball amenities, we do not have the right dimension/configuration of paved space, even for a half court. Paved area in front of the current goal is only half of what it would need to be for a half court. Any other configuration would throw basketball goal in the way of traffic pattern or parking.

The fact that we had these instances of vandalism (they also did the same damage at the Equestrian Park's goal, and I haven't forgotten how they initially pulled this one crooked almost as soon as it was installed) makes me inclined to provide less things for them to destroy, not more. Like you suggested, someone has to ruin it for everyone...

Various dimensions of basketball courts:

NBA Professional and College – 94 feet long and 50 feet wide

High School – 84 feet long and 50 feet wide

Junior High – 74 feet long and 42 feet wide

Anyway, John, at least you can go shoot some hoops if you want to.

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From: john eastman <john426@bellsouth.net>
Sent: Sunday, September 6, 2020 12:28 AM
To: December Lauretano-Haines <dlauretano@southwestranches.org>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: ce park hoop

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thanks, I really does get a workout . I asked Steve if the hoa may be interested in doing a regulation sized court with 2 baskets. I could ask weekly to donate the blacktop. I would donate machine time as necessary. Anyway run it by the parks board see what they think. There is a lot of demand. have a blessed Holiday.

On Sep 5, 2020, at 6:54 PM, December Lauretano-Haines
<dlauretano@southwestranches.org> wrote:

Happened a couple weeks ago, John. Replacement backboard will be up within the next week.

New one will be less playable but more durable plexi instead of glass

We can't have nice things, I guess.

On Sep 5, 2020 6:22 PM, john eastman <john426@bellsouth.net> wrote:

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found the backboard shattered at the park today. shame because virtually every day this single hoop is used constantly.

john

Begin forwarded message:

From: john eastman <john426@bellsouth.net>

Subject: ce park hoop

Date: September 5, 2020 at 6:20:06 PM EDT

To: John Eastman <john4260@comcast.net>



Sent from my iPhone



**Town of Southwest Ranches
Recreation, Forestry and Natural Resources Advisory Board
Follow up/Maintenance Report**

Tuesday
October 13, 2020

Board Members

Chris Brownlow, Dena Butler, MaryGay Chaples, Lana Eichel, Debra
Goff-Rose, Debbie Green, Marie Nix
Aster Knight, Board Member Emeritus

Council Liaison

Gary Jablonski

Staff Liaison

December Lauretano-Haines

COVID -19 Update:

Parks remain open for passive use during daylight hours.

Reservations are not currently being accepted for park shelters or meeting rooms.

Restrooms and playgrounds remain closed.

We hope that everyone will enjoy Southwest Ranches' passive parks responsibly and will stay safe as we work to ensure the safety of the public and residents.

EQUESTRIAN PARK

Park is open for passive use. Requests for reservations are deferred until COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

- ✓ **Restroom and Playground:** Closed due to COVID-19 issue.
- ✓ **Painting:** Staff is awaiting third proposal for painting services for interior and exterior, as well as for sealing the walkways and tongue and groove ceiling.
- ✓ **Basketball goal:** Vandalized backboard was reported and repaired. It has now been vandalized again. No repair is scheduled at this time. Police are on the lookout at each location.
- ✓ **Riding Arenas and Trails:** Contractor has remediated the riding surface and these areas will be managed to control overgrowth.

ROLLING OAKS PARK

Park is open for passive use. Requests for reservations are deferred until COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

- ✓ **Restrooms** are closed due to COVID-19 issue. Law Enforcement officials have been given access to use the restrooms during their shifts via the lockbox.
- ✓ **Painting:** Staff is awaiting third proposal for painting services for interior and exterior.
- ✓ **SEAB Event:** The SEAB has scheduled an event for this week. Staff drafted a COVID 19 rider and provided to the liaison due to the Town's inability to comply with Broward County Emergency Order 20-27, currently in effect.

COUNTRY ESTATES PARK

Park is open for passive use. Requests for reservations are deferred until COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

- ✓ **Restroom and Playground:** Closed due to COVID-19 issue.
- ✓ **Painting: Restrooms and Picnic Pavilion:** Staff is awaiting third proposal for painting services for interior and exterior, including the issue of delaminating stucco on the restroom building.
- ✓ **Basketball goal:** backboard was vandalized at this location in August. Report filed with police. Ordered replacement part was delivered and repair is scheduled. Park users are suggesting that improved basketball amenities are warranted at this location. The request is attached for the Board's review and discussion.

SOUTHWEST MEADOWS SANCTUARY

Fill contractor has vacated the property and has refused to complete punch list to leave property in a maintainable condition. Staff is working to remediate the issues with contractors. The Parks Foundation will utilize donated funds to correct the issues.

CALUSA CORNERS

Park is open for passive use.

- ✓ **Playground:** Closed due to COVID-19 issue.
- ✓ **Picnic Shelter:** Shelter floor and tongue and groove ceiling were cleaned and sealed in September.

FRONTIER TRAILS PARK

This park is open for passive use.

- ✓ **Picnic Shelter:** Shelter floor and tongue and groove ceiling were cleaned and sealed in September.

FOUNDERS' TRAILSIDE PARK

This park is open for passive use.

- ✓ **Picnic Shelter:** Shelter floor and tongue and groove ceiling were cleaned and sealed in September.