

## **MINUTES OF THE PARKS, TRAILS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2025**

The meeting was called to order at 3 pm by committee chair Kurt Raymond. Present were committee members Mr Raymond, Lisa Foss, Russ Durrer and Ken Wilbert. Staff present was Larry Lynch. Committee members Steve Chaney and Dennis Medina were out of town but have been closely involved in committee activities and recommendations.

The committee has been working to update the 2013, Parks and Trails Master Plan for the past couple of years, the plan is quite outdated. Lynch informed the committee that he had met with Davis Engineering in early January to determine the next steps. Between 2021 and 2023 the committee had generated a recommended project priority list for the board long Range Capital improvement project schedule (originally presented to the board in February of 2021). Davis engineering said that updating the old plan should be fairly easily accomplished, updating project priorities, updating cost estimates and maps.

The committee reviewed the parks and trails project priority recommendation that was presented to the board in 2021 and 2023 that included projects like the Northlake Trail, the North Pagosa Blvd trail extension to Aspenglow Blvd, the Park Avenue trail extension to Holiday etc. After reviewing the 2023 list of recommended priorities that was presented to the board, and would be used as a base plate for the updated 2025 Master Plan a few adjustments were made to that priority list including dropping the North Lake Trail project down (it was completed in 2023); moving the North Pagosa trail extension to Aspenglow up one spot in the priority list; moving the Park Avenue Trail extension to Holiday up one slot; moving the eventual Park Avenue trail extension to Cloudcap Avenue up one slot; moving the gravel trail extension in the Hatcher area extension up to Pebble Cir up 2 slots and moving the recommended hard surface trail conversion in the Hatcher area down 2 slots. It was also recommended to keep the Northlake Trail extension in the list and move it to priority project number 7, to complete the trail from its terminus at Antelope easterly to Holiday Ave to complete that segment (it may be a possibility that it could be routed through Glade Dr as well). The Dutton Trailhead project would remain priority #2 as we research possibilities there with Davis Engineering and the county.

The committee then reviewed the Park projects priority list that was presented to the board in 2021 and recommended that the potential playground and park development in the Chris Mt area be moved up to the number one slot (would be funded by a potential CDC grant); followed by north Village Lake Park project; and then the number 3 project would be park improvements at Vista Lake site.

A couple other ideas were discussed for inclusion in the Parks and Trails Master Plan update included possible cross-country ski trail grooming in selected areas; the connection with the Town to Lakes Trail; a recommended shorter trail segment to be constructed on Pinon Causeway near the Wyndham offices on Village Drive over to Valleyview and multiple and dense condo complexes in that area; a discussion regarding e-bikes on the trails and whether some policy should be developed concerning e-bikes on the non-motorized trail systems; and the importance of partnering with the county, town and Forest Service on the current regional recreation plan that is being developed (Pagosa Area Recreation Coalition). It was also discussed that when the draft of the parks and trails is completed this spring a community meeting should be considered for owner feedback.