

Town of Silver City Trails & Open Space Committee Regular Meeting Record

Wednesday, January 28th, 2026 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM (MDT)

Members Present

Harry Browne
Bob Schiowitz
Bruce McKinney
Amy McLane
Patricia Stoller

Others Present

Susan Mittlestadt
Vickie Toney
Emily Hickle

Members Absent

Martha Egnal

Call to Order 5:31 pm

Approval of Agenda

Amy moves, Patricia seconds. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Input –

Mayor-elect Simon Wheaton-Smith began by introducing himself to the committee, then presented his plan to invite a representative of each committee to present to the council what they are working on.

- Bob – Asked which portion of the meeting would be dedicated to these presentations.

Approval of Minutes – December 17th, 2025

Bob motions to amend and approve the agenda to update Ms. Vickie Toney's name, remove a portion detailing Bruce's relationship with a property owner, and correct various typos. Patricia Seconds and the motion passed unanimously.

Staff Reports-

Susan informed the committee that Bruce Coats—the trails staff—had cleaned Market Street. trail head of debris and litter, in doing so, trimmed the cat's claw to access any debris embedded in the plant.

- Susan – asked if the Toss No Mass organizers would be willing to help.
- Harry – asked if Toss No Mass had a coordinator.
- Amy – asked if Bruce had a schedule or list of duties assigned.

She then detailed Bruce's routine and weekly duties. She then updated the committee on the excessive puddles located on or near various trail heads. She stated the town's Roads Department would be willing to help fill in the larger holes where the water tends to accumulate.

Susan then shared a flyer with the committee advertising a Board of Governments workshop happening in early April.

- Bob – asked if there was a list detailing the various trainings offered

Committee Reports-

Harry Browne, Chair –

Harry proposed starting an official webpage to committee. Detailing how previous discussions did not result in any action being taken. New talks have been propagated by a former member of the committee, as well as concerns for the agenda and minutes being publicly available. The former Member offered to help build the website. However, the Chair added that applications for the new committee seat will open shortly before the next meeting on March 25th. Harry then went on to propose the idea of creating an onboarding packet for new committee members, as well as a meeting in person to provide further details.

Bob Schiowitz –

Offered to guide a committee site visit to the Fairway Drive trailhead to indicate the property lines that abut the trailhead, as the current indicators do not appear to be useful to both trail goers and the landowners.

Old Business-

The Chair began by asking the committee to help create a ranked list for the agenda, so the committee could focus on and accomplish tasks rather than further discussing the items on the agenda.

- Amy – asked if they can create a project description to help order the tasks
- Vickie – asked how the projects like the kiosks funded? Does the city or committee use grant money?
- Bruce – asked if there are any funds available through the Town of Silver City or the Community Development Department?
- Amy – asked if the committee could detail the importance of each project and the amount of money it may take to complete.

Market Street Trailhead-

The committee discussed the conclusions they had already reached and noted that the amount of money required for this project would be significant.

Proposed Pinos Altos Trail-

The committee discussed this project, agreeing that the current phase would require no funding. Susan would need to initiate contact to obtain an easement from the Western Housing Authority and the school district.

Status of Trailhead Kiosk Signage Improvements-

The money left in the grant would be enough to cover another kiosk, but current bids are out of the price range necessary. The town is still seeking new bids.

Status of Fairway Drive Trail Access-

A kiosk will need to be constructed, which would require funding but significantly less than other projects, as noted by the committee.

Status of Scott Park Motorized Vehicle Access-

The construction of a sign would be an additional cost to this project. It was proposed that the street department may be able to help by utilizing a backhoe to move boulders for the prevention of access for future motorists. This may reduce the project's cost if the streets department agrees.

F Street Trailhead Relocation-

The costs associated with this project included a survey necessary for the easements, as well as a fence for the trailhead. The abutting property owners would also need to be contacted for the relocation.

Spring Street Trailhead Plan Review-

Susan updated the committee on progress since the last meeting. The Community Development Department is waiting on another survey from Mr. Joe Hutto. She then went on to explain the vacation and the easement process.

- Bruce – asked if the committee could utilize the funds from Mr. Hutto's purchase to move the trailhead.

Continental Divide Trail-

The chair reintroduced this topic to the committee. As access from HWY-180 and Market Street is significantly more dangerous due to the high-speed traffic and the number of previous accidents on this portion. The coordinator reached out to explain the proposal of a different entry point, located off the Highway Bypass Road.

- Bob – asked if the trail could not be moved to the Market Street Trailhead, as any funding could also be used to improve the trailhead, as detailed earlier in the meeting. As there are already easements dedicated to walking along Market Street.
- Bruce – asked whether there is any advantage to the idea
- Susan – asked if the committee was aware of the local universities' initiative to connect the students to the Trailhead, as they have worked with the New Mexico Department of Transportation to accomplish this.
- Bob – asked if the CDT committee is still considering rerouting through Mangus valley, as this would not require any additional discussion with the Trails and Open Space Committee.

New Business-

Discuss a Field Trip to View the Existing Pinos Altos Bridges

Amy presented the information on the three bridges located on the East side of Hudson St., South of Highway 180. She noted that the Bridges are decrepit and scary, and that because some bridges are connected to the Pinos Altos trail, the committee should help review them.

- Bruce – asked for more clarification on the committee actions available.
- Bob – asked if any grant money would be available.
- Susan – asked if any grants would apply.
- Amy – asked if they would need an engineer
- Harry – asked if this project would fall under the committee's purview.
- Amy – asked if the committee would like to take a field trip to inspect the bridges.
- Patricia – questioned if the committee's opinions would have any effect on the project
- Bob – asked if the committee could also inspect the new park off of Corbin St.
- Bruce – asked for the dimensions of the park.
- Amy – asked if the committee had any availability on February 18th.
- Harry – asked if they could move the date to February 23rd at 1:00 pm.
- Susan – asked if the committee would meet at the Silver City Annex
- Bruce asked if the committee could walk portions of the Pinos Altos trail.

Status of Mobile Drive Trail Access

Susan updated the committee on the progress. A site visit between Susan and Amy was conducted to investigate the barriers to entry reported. The access was no longer blocked at the time of the investigation.

Adjournment 6:55 pm