

**SANTA FE COUNTY
COUNTY OPEN LAND, TRAILS, AND PARKS
ADVISORY COMMITTEE (COLTPAC)
AUGUST 2, 2023, 6:00 PM
PLAZA CONFERENCE ROOM, SANTA FE COUNTY
ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEX
100 CATRON ST., SANTA FE, NM 87501**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the County Open Land, Trails, and Parks Advisory Committee (COLTPAC) was called to order by Christopher Mann, Chair, at 6:00 pm on August 2, 2023, at the Santa Fe County Administrative Complex, in the Plaza Conference Room, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Christopher Mann, Chair
Steven Forde, Vice Chair
Sandra Madrid-Massengill
Paige Grant
Jan Cohen
Elise Apple Snider
Dan Potter

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Jill St. Thomas
Genna Waldvogel

OTHERS PRESENT

Commissioner Hank Hughes
Brett Clavio, Planning Manager, Santa Fe County
Monica Harmon, Open Space Resource Management Specialist, Santa Fe County
Angela Bordegaray, Senior Planner, Santa Fe County
Amelia Adair

III. APPROVAL OF The AGENDA

MOTION A motion was made Mr. Forde, seconded by Ms. Madrid-Massengill, to

approve the agenda as presented.

VOTE The motion passed on a voice vote.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. MAY 3, 2023 REGULAR MEETING

MOTION A motion was made by Ms. Madrid-Massengill, seconded by Mr. Forde, to approve the minutes as presented.

VOTE The motion passed on a voice vote.

V. MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE

A. ACQUISITION SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

Chair Mann said this process has gone a bit slower than he envisioned. We set out to revise a document we use for people who are submitting acquisitions to COLTPAC and the guidelines we use to do our evaluations. We felt things, over time, has become too bureaucratic. We did complete the streamlining of the form and we are ready to go before this Committee with the draft. As to the application, we decided we needed to have a clear idea of what information should be required for the applicant. We are getting feedback on that now. We did not intentionally mean to tackle the concerns among the Commissioners about the acquisition of the San Pedro property, but we are looking at how to diversify the funding of the program with additional State, Federal and private resources. Our intention is to include more of a narrative in the application. It is our hope to call a special meeting of the Committee in the future to consider that.

B. PARKING SHORTAGE ON HYDE PARK ROAD

Ms. Grant gave an overview of the issue of parking on Hyde Park Road.

Mr. Clavio said there is a plan by the New Mexico Department of Transportation to redo that road and put in better bike and parking facilities in the area. It is a long process and will probably take several more years to get the engineering done. It is an expensive process, but one he thinks the county will like and appreciate. We could prepare a statement from COLTPAC expressing recommendations and stressing the needs.

Mr. Forde asked if it would make more sense if we addressed the needs more broadly to improve access across the County.

Ms. Madrid-Massengill asked if there is an opportunity to speed up the process.

Mr. Clavio said perhaps we can refine the statement to MPO and include other parking areas. There has been a lot of concern about making that a complete street. It has been vetted as an important project regionally. Federal funds are being provided through the Forest Service. Public comment will be conducted by DOT.

C. RAPTOR CENTER PROPOSAL

Chair Mann said we have been working to explore the release of animals from the Wildlife Center on County land. Ms. Cohen brought up the idea of doing the same work with the Raptor Center.

Ms. Cohen said the Santa Fe Raptor Center deals with the rehabilitation of birds, raptors specifically. They are the only certified rehab for Eagles in the State. They are interested in releasing these birds on protected County land.

Ms. Cohen gave an overview of the program.

There was a discussion about the proposed partnership including that everyone thought the proposal was reasonable. Concern was expressed about critter management and the responsibilities of County staff.

Mr. Potter said he spoke with the Galisteo Basin Manager who expressed his interest in assisting with this project. Maybe staff could follow up with him.

VI. MATTERS FROM COUNTY STAFF

A. NEW MEXICO WILDLIFE CENTER PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

Ms. Harmon said we are working on an MOA with the Wildlife Center on an MOA regarding access to County open spaces and protected areas.

Ms. Harmon reviewed the types of birds and animals considered and the spaces that were looked at, and the mechanisms for the agreement.

B. SANTA FE COUNTY WETLANDS ACTION PLAN UPDATE

Ms. Harmon reviewed the information in the packet and reported that staff is working with the consultants who did the previous plan. They have asked us to look over the plan. We are asking if you would like to participate in the process. We will get the plan to you for comment. The timeline is short.

Chair Mann said please send the plan to all of the Committee members and we

will send you our comments.

C. OPEN SPACE ACQUISITIONS UPDATES

Ms. Harmon reported that Real Properties is bringing a Resolution to the Board of County Commissioners on the 8th of this month. The plan is for a purchase agreement to be done.

Chair Mann said there is a statement in the packet from the Chair and Vice Chair. He doesn't think it needs COLTPAC approval.

Mr. Clavio explained that this was time sensitive. It does need a vote of the Committee.

Chair Mann said it was not noticed as an action item.

There was a discussion around the circumstances regarding the acquisition and the statement being developed.

Commissioner Hughes explained the history of the acquisition of San Pedro and the process through the Board of County Commissioners saying that he thinks you have done your job through the statement done. We had not allocated the funding at the last meeting. It will be up for a vote of the County Commission at the next meeting on the Consent Agenda.

Chair Mann said it is a terrible idea to take properties the Committee has recommended for open space and use it for affordable housing. We should not commingle those things. He found it alarming. Is there funding for trail heads and parking.

Commissioner Hughes said not yet. We will be talking about those issues separately.

Chair Mann said he hopes we have a recommendation for a comprehensive plan for funding.

Mr. Clavio said he can bring the statement to a future meeting for a vote. Can we get consensus on this. Is there any dissent from anyone on the statement.

The statement was reviewed and discussed.

Ms. Bordegaray read the action statement.

Chair Mann said the action statement is from staff. They are requesting the action. The COLTPAC statement is what we would be voting on.

Mr. Clavio asked if there are any objections to the COLTPAC statement.

A comment was made that the statement could be left in, but it should not be described as a statement from COLTPAC since it was not voted on and there was no input from the Committee.

Ms. Cohen said we can get consensus not as to if we can support this. It seems the meaning of COLTPAC is getting cloudy. We need clarification on that and maybe have a special meeting about it.

Chair Mann said he is reluctant to have a special meeting on just that.

Chair Mann said he thinks there should be a report from COLTPAC to offer alternatives. The statement will now just be from he and Steve. Let's have staff revise that.

D. NEW MEXICO REBURIAL GROUNDS ACT ON OPEN SPACE PROPERTIES

Ms. Harmon said we met with SHPO to discuss reburial of remains on Santa Fe County open space. It was our first meeting to discuss this issue. We thought we should mention it to the Committee.

Mr. Clavio said the information on the two properties identified is in the packet. They were identified because they are large. SHPO needs two small spaces, one acre each, that would not be disturbed. They need a site for Tribal remains and a site for remains without Tribal connections. We want you to think about this and we will come back to you with a definitive proposal. It will take a year or two. It will be a great gesture to our Native American brothers and sisters.

Mr. Potter asked if this was a request from SHPO and if the Tribes have signed off on this.

Mr. Clavio said his understanding is that most of the Tribes are in agreement with this.

Mr. Potter said he would be very cautious about this. Maybe it needs to be dealt with on a case by case basis. We need an expression of support from the Tribal entities. It is a moral issue. It is not just the State burial law we need follow. There are Federal laws as well. We need to be fully aware of all of the pieces of this and what the Tribal entities fee is appropriate and secure. We need to be very careful with this.

Chair Mann said he would like to ask Dan and others who are interested to be in touch with staff on this and report back to the Committee.

Mr. Clavio said he will invite SHPO to present to this Committee.

Chair Mann said that is a good idea.

Mr. Clavio said we wanted to remind the Committee of the Open Meetings Act and what that means in the operation of this Committee.

Mr. Clavio reviewed the rules of the Open Meetings Act and compliance saying everyone has great ideas and he does not want to quash that, but it is a \$500 fine if we do not operate within the Act.

Commissioner Hughes reviewed the rolling quorum issue and the process for sharing information.

Mr. Clavio said he recommends that we utilize the Committee meetings to communicate ideas and have discussions. If we need to meet more often we can. Subcommittees can also meet more often. A quorum of this Committee is five. Subcommittees can only have up to four Committee members participating.

Chair Mann said he wants to have a special meeting on acquisitions.

VII. MATTERS OF PUBLIC CONCERN

Commissioner Hughes said he is moving forward to amend our Ordinances so that any sale of open space requires two public hearings. He will be working with staff to develop the changes and will send them to you for your comment. There will also be language that the Commission will consult with COLTPAC on the sale of open space land.

There was a discussion around the South Meadows project and the Ordinance changes.

Ms. Adair said she is here tonight to understand more about what this group does. She is a member of the Northern New Mexico Horse Riding Association and she hikes and bikes.

VIII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. SAN PEDRO OPEN SPACE EXPANSION STATEMENT

This item was discussed previously.

B. E-BIKE POLICY AND OUTREACH

Mr. Forde said he is glad to see some enthusiasm around setting up subcommittees. The meeting packet includes a Bill that was passed by the Legislature regarding E-Bikes. He thinks it behooves every County in the State to look at this and see what would work for their County.

Mr. Forde gave a Power Point presentation.

Ms. Bordegaray said it is important to let people know that E-Bikes are allowed on the trails. You are on the right track. The City has an Ordinance going through Committees and the Council.

Mr. Forde said he did review the City Ordinance. He would like to have a subcommittee to look at this issue.

Five members of the Committee volunteered to serve on a subcommittee, which is one more than allowed according to the Open meetings Act. This item will be on the next agenda to vote to create the subcommittee and to appoint the members.

C. ORTIZ MOUNTAINS OPEN SPACE FOREST MANAGEMENT

Chair Mann said there was a Town Hall meeting where Ortiz Mountain was presented as an alternative by the Forest Service.

Mr. Forde spoke about the Forest Service plans. There was discussion about alternatives.

Ms. Cohen said she attended the Town Hall meeting. They refused to do an environmental impact assessment. She thinks that is a real red flag. She was a wild land firefighter in her youth and she can tell you that things can turn around fast with a tiny breeze. There should be environmental impact assessment.

Ms. Snider asked if there is a decision to be made on this topic.

Chair Mann said this is informative. He does not believe there is to be any action.

Ms. Harmon said there could be a general policy for the County.

Mr. Potter asked if it would be possible to have Peggy come in and give us a briefing of her plan and how it differs with the Forest Service plan.

Chair Mann said he does not see why not. It is Forest Service land. We don't manage Forest Service land. We can start with a presentation from Peggy for now.

IX. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2023

X. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION A motion was made by Mr. Forde, seconded by Ms. Madrid-Massengill, to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE The motion passed on a voice vote.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.



Christopher Mann, Chair

Elizabeth Martin

Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer



COUNTY OF SANTA FE) COLTPAC MINUTES
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss PAGES: 8

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for Record On The 5TH Day Of April, 2024 at 01:05:30 PM And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 2031404 Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Katharine E. Clark
Deputy *Miri Go-Jull* County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM