

**MINUTES OF THE
SANTA FÉ COUNTY
COUNTY OPEN LAND TRAILS AND PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(COLTPAC)**

March 2, 2016

1. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Santa Fé County Open Land, Trails and Parks Advisory Committee (COLTPAC) was called to order on the above date at approximately 6:00 p.m. by Chair Dave Dannenberg in the Projects, Facilities and Open Space Conference Room, 901 West Alameda St., Suite 20C, Santa Fé, New Mexico.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll Call indicated the presence of a quorum as follows:

Members Present

Dave Dannenberg, Chair
Patricia Conoway
Judy Kowalski
Ernesto Ortega
John Parker

Members Absent

(Two vacancies)
Greg Betts [excused]
Ruben Cedeño [excused]

Staff Members Present

Maria Lohmann, Open Space and Trails Planner
Robert Griego, Planning Projects Manger
Elizabeth Halpin
Erin Ortigoza

Others Present

Carl Boaz, Stenographer
Melanie Pierson, Conservation by Design
Bill Johnson, Former COLTPAC Member

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Member Conoway moved to approve the agenda as published. Member Kowalski seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 3, 2016

Member Parker requested on page 2 to change it to say, “he noted that all GUTS trails will be natural surface trails but major, multi-purpose trails need more than a natural surface.”

On page 6, 3rd paragraph under B, should say “the spur trail is great but GUTS is so conceptual.”

Ms. Lohmann requested a change on page 7, in the paragraph numbers 1, to strike the sentence, “One million is to go into a fund to allow for TDRs.”

Ms. Ortigoza asked to strike the last sentence under that section #1.

There were no other changes to the minutes.

Member Conway moved to approve the February 3, 2016 minutes as amended. Member Parker seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

Chair Dannenberg said throughout the minutes we have things that people agreed to do. They include: Santa Fé Staff update next several months, Los Caminitos stakeholders, Mr. Olafson was to provide an update on Romero Park in the March meeting regarding budget shortfalls around the playground. Mr. Olafson was going to review the standards and forward them to the members. The Committee needs to agree on the intended purpose for each of the properties bought by the County. The materials need to be distributed ahead of time. The Committee will attach a member to each of the plans. Member Conway is assigned to Ortiz Mountains and Member Ortega to Thornton Ranch. A letter of support for GUTS was to be distributed. And we need to call a meeting of the outreach subcommittee.

5. MATTERS OF PUBLIC CONCERN

There were no matters of public concern.

6. MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE

A. Future Agenda Topics

Member Parker said discussions on Trail Day might be reported back.

Mr. Johnson said Trail Day is the first Saturday in June.

Member Parker suggested a Trail Day for Dale Ball's passing.

7. MATTERS FROM COUNTY STAFF

A. Romero Park Project Update

Ms. Lohman said the project is 75% complete with a little pause for the winter. The playground is being scaled back but the equipment is ordered and it should complete in May. An open house will be scheduled for it.

B. BCC Appointments in COLTPAC

Member Parker and Member Ortega are officially appointed to the Committee and Ms. Lohmann gave the certificates to them.

8. ACTION ITEMS

A. Election of Vice-Chair

Member Conoway nominated John Parker, who thought Member Ortega was next in line. Member Ortega declined because of family matters and Member Parker accepted the nomination.

The Committee elected Mr. Parker as Vice-Chair by unanimous voice vote.

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Presentation and update on integrative focus groups for new management plans (Lamy Open Space Park, Ortíz Mountains Educational Preserve, Madrid Open Space)

Ms. Melanie Pierson, from Conservation by Design, was selected for the Petroglyph Hill interpretive plan. She is also helping with the interpretive plans for Lamy, Ortíz and Madrid as well as activity programs and education programs. She has been on the job for one week.

She shared five good qualities for Interpretation with visitors more than just facts but as a communication process that forges intellectual and emotional connections with the audience. She gave the good qualities for effective interpretation including purposeful, understanding the care for the resource, enjoyable to provoke curiosity, relevant to the audience perspective, organized and well planned, thematic to convey an overarching consistent message, and to convey non-verbal messages. The model is: Messages, Market, Media, Management and Mechanics.

She shared her schedule with the Committee. She will put together docent tool kits for Thornton Ranch and Ortíz Mountains. She will be gathering information from stakeholders and asked members to share whatever information they have for her that could help.

Member Ortega said with docents, they have practices they have employed over the past few years and it seems each one has their individual perspective. What would help is a core understanding of the purpose for which the site has been established as a site or a trail - why this property was included in the County inventory. Each docent has their own idea of why this place is important.

Ms. Pierson agreed. A clear policy with specific guidelines should be used in interpretation and tours.

Chair Dannenberg said Thornton Ranch is centered around protection of Petroglyph Hill. He asked about Ortiz.

Ms. Lohmann said originally it was educational through a lawsuit for tours while preserving the nature of the property. So at that time, it was deeded to the Botanical Gardens. Santa Fe Conservation Trust has an easement moving forward there. The Nature Conservancy has an easement at the Ball Ranch next door. There is an access through the gold mine but it doesn't allow bicycles or horses.

Member Ortega said the Committee needs to capture those restrictions so the interpretive plan ties into them. The process is very appropriate.

Ms. Lohman said the details of the conservation easement include; no adverse effects to the environment and no erosion. It needs to be evaluated by the Santa Fe Conservation Trust before moving forward. Archaeology is to be preserved. Access is limited mostly to pedestrian although pack animals can be used for trail construction. No vehicles are allowed except motorized vehicles to get to the educational center. The Trust amended the easement to allow for that. She didn't recall if it limited the number of visitors.

Member Ortega said the plan should include what numbers we want to allow and what the risk factors involved are in terms of the access conditions. What kind of exertion is needed to get where you can see things?

Member Parker agreed. A lot of these properties came to the County because they were available. But there should be some statements to the BCC about why this was a valuable acquisition. It is in conflict with access at other properties. The County can be more selective regarding access.

Ms. Pierson said the Committee could decide not to build a trail to Petroglyph Hill or give people a sense of satisfaction with the other petroglyphs.

Ms. Lohmann said they might make a replica of the more popular types. They need to come up with a solution at Thornton Ranch soon.

For next steps, Ms. Lohmann said they will review Ms. Pierson's plan and then those higher level comments on how they work together. The newer management plans have a smaller window with more to review sooner. She asked members to email ideas to her.

Member Ortega thanked Ms. Pierson for the good job she is doing. Chair Dannenberg agreed.

Ms. Lohmann excused Ms. Pierson.

B. Presentation on Agriculture Implementation Plan

Mr. Griego and Ms. Ortigoza were at the meeting for this presentation. Ms. Halpin is the new planner for Open Space.

Ms. Ortigoza said the County has a rich history of agriculture development. The Food Policy Committee has been working on it for some time. Early this year, we passed a resolution to direct staff to the implementation plan which is based on Chapter 4 of the SGMP - ranching and agricultural element. She distilled it into some focus areas and a tangible plan to have people engage in the policy

One of the focus areas is the Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program. The Agricultural plan is largely focused on education and public information to introduce the program with an outreach component.

Another focus is on establishing a clearing house web site to connect agricultural land owners who might not be farming with those who don't have capital to purchase land so it would match them up. She recently met with the person who heads the NM Land Grant Program to hear about the challenges, etc. and promote it through our County program. The listing would include land available, equipment, etc.

Ms. Ortigoza said the agriculture part of the Strategic Plan includes restorative grazing, enhancing environment through species selection, notifying people of the options available, a local food. campaign, a creation of an agricultural inventory. We don't know how much crops are being produced. We have the buy local food campaign and if we don't have the supply, it won't work. She plans to do a matrix for tracking. This is intended to be action oriented.

Mr. Griego said it is a short range action plan to be completed by May and looking at implementing it then.

Ms. Ortigoza said they might have some level of demonstration or education - experiential with children. Community gardens have their place. Open space can address the feasibility. A well thought out plan could increase ecological resources here.

The Committee briefly discussed the issues in small local farming and how they could help in this effort.

C. Presentation on Transfer of Development Rights Plan

Mr. Griego described the TDR program to preserve the land and increase produce on the lands. The goals and policies were set up in SGMP. He briefly explained how the TDR program works. Owners have a right to develop their property but they can transfer the right to an owner in another location. They are sold

to developers. Where there are higher developments the receiving areas are designated and a specific density for the TDRs. He noted that there are TDR programs across the country. Some are more successful than others. We have focus groups with farmers and with other stakeholders for input to make it a successful program. It needs to be understandable and easy to use.

Mr. Griego went through the process for sending areas and for receiving areas. Owning water rights doubles the TDRs for the owner. It goes through a qualification process with the owner and provides a qualification to use on the TDR exchange. The developer goes to the exchange to find development rights that will qualify for them to use. It is strictly a market-based program. It is an information exchange. The mechanism for setting up the TDR bank has not been set up yet. The TDR certificate is expended through the development plan and extinguishes that certificate. The owner of a TDR property can still use the property for agriculture and they keep their water rights to cultivate the property.

Ms. Ortigoza said currently there is a cost involved in the transfer. We want to eliminate that cost so it is more attractive to the land owner and hopefully make it simpler.

Mr. Griego said they will find ways to prioritize the properties. They are getting feedback on it now. When the program is initiated, they will indicate what feedback they are getting. And with consultants, they will get it worked out.

Member Kowalski asked if after selling them, they can never get them back.

Mr. Griego agreed. So we want to make sure that is what they want before doing it.

Member Conoway excused herself and left at 7:53 p.m.

D. Discussion on Outreach and Public Events

Chair Dannenberg said the Outreach Subcommittee met yesterday and came up with some things to tackle it in the short term and a few longer term things to propose for the 2017 plan.

One short term thing was brought up by Member Betts to do presentations to civic organizations - taking presentation material and for ten minutes tell them what the open space program is all about and what we plan to do. The Subcommittee can do some development on the material but hoped Staff have some material done already.

Ms. Lohmann said there is no material like that. There are projects and upcoming meetings.

Member Kowalski suggested using the presentation Ms. Lohmann gives to new members. That is an excellent overview of the program.

Member Parker thought it would be good to have pictures also because lot of people don't know about the properties. Then we could create a presentation the Committee could use. It is usually not that hard to

find those opportunities.

Chair Dannenberg agreed and we have some connections already.

Mr. Griego said this could be supported in the open space plan too. Letting the public know where we are going could be very valuable and we could devote some time to providing material to the members for it.

Chair Dannenberg said the other thing they discussed was having a set of events like the Committee did last year. - National Trail Day or Dale Ball Day. We could volunteer to have a member show up as a COLTPAC representative in the networking opportunity. The Dale Ball Day is starting to be organized.

Member Parker thought last year was a success and these efforts have some return on our investment. Because Ms. Lohmann needs to focus on some other things, the Subcommittee can tackle it.

Chair Dannenberg said the Subcommittee then talked about a placeholder of website enhancements. That is a critical piece for information delivery out there. It just has to have the location of trails and open spaces. It would not be a huge project.

Member Kowalski suggested maybe contracting out for open space web site.

Mr. Griego pointed out that there are some constraints on the County web site.

Chair Dannenberg said it could be linked but separate so you don't have to worry about legacy problems.

Chair Dannenberg said the final thing is that we should consider some level of involvement for Trail Day in 2017.

E. Discussion regarding next meeting date

Ms. Lohmann would like to cancel the April meeting and focus on a major May meeting. She explained that Staff is working on developing something for COLTPAC to review. She put a deadline of end of April for the Open Space Plan to review in May.

Member Kowalski asked if Ms. Lohmann could provide the information for the presentation beforehand so members could be working on it next month.

Ms. Lohmann agreed to do that. She will send a draft with the goals, which are already outlined, in order to develop strategy and action steps to accomplished those goals over the next 5 years.

Mr. Griego added that they are looking to prioritize the Open Space Plan and need to complete it.

Ms. Lohmann said May 4th is the meeting date and she will get the draft to members on April 25.

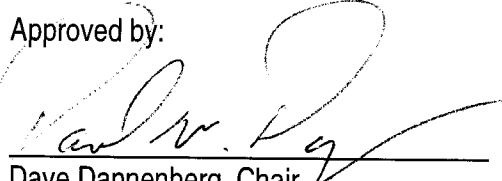
10. ADJOURNMENT


Member Ortega moved to adjourn the meeting. Member Parker seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

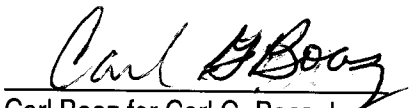


Approved by:


Dave Dannenberg, Chair


Geraldine Salazar, County Clerk


Submitted by:


Carl Boaz for Carl G. Boaz, Inc.

COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

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I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 29TH Day Of June, 2016 at 02:28:02 PM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1797714
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Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Geraldine Salazar
Deputy  County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM

