

**MINUTES OF THE
SANTA FÉ COUNTY
COUNTY OPEN LAND TRAILS AND PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(COLTPAC)
April 4, 2018**

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
John Parker, Vice Chair
Greg Betts [telephonically]
Rubén Cedeño
Sandra Madrid Massengill
Sue Murphy [telephonically]
Jean Pike
Linda Siegel

Members Absent/Excused

Ernesto Ortega [excused]

Staff Members Present

Maria F. Lohmann, Open Space and Trails Planner
Paul Olafson, Planning Projects Manager
Chris Hyer, Santa Fe Economic Development

Others Present

Carl Boaz, Stenographer

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Dannenberg moved 7A between section 4 and 5 in the agenda.

Member Parker moved to approve the agenda as amended. Member Siegel seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - March 7, 2018

Member Siegel moved to approve the minutes of March 7, 2018 as presented. Member Pike seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

5. MATTERS OF PUBLIC CONCERN – None

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Brief Overview of the Santa Fe County Economic Development Plan's Goals and Policies related to Open Space and Trails (Caption changed)

Mr. Hyer provided his background. He worked for the City of Albuquerque and his wife got a job at LANL and they moved to Santa Fe. He is new in his position and has found many things that were not done.

The Economic Development Plan includes infrastructure, tourism, small business development, film, etc. He is revising the tourism part. He is also seeking grants. One through NMFA will allow him to hire and revise the plan. He sought input from other staff on the goals and most have been addressed or are being worked on.

The policy specific to open space is to improve wayfinding trails and networks. An interactive trail network app provides information on conditions, degree of difficulty, elevation, etc. that will be revised. It was designed two years ago, and it is behind in technology.

The County team includes the Growth Management Department, GIS and Open Space, and they are working together to meet the goals. His focus is Eco Tourism. He serves on LTAB and in the charter, a percentage of the revenue is for developing tour amenities.

Ms. Lohmann said they are coordinating with the Manager's office to develop a list of trail head improvements. The Santa Fe Signage Plan was developed and paid for through the General Fund and the E.D. funds pay for their installation.

Chair Dannenberg mentioned at the BCC meeting that not much has been done to promote open space for recreation in Santa Fe County. Tony Flores called him on it and pointed out the Santa Fe Lodger's Tax had paid for the promotion. But, he did not recall what was paid by the tax.

Mr. Olafson explained the tax has paid for the interactive trail map and the printing of the Dale Ball maps over the last few years. In addition, LTAB does not explicitly call for the promotion of open space and trails and they discussed looking at that and understands the Lodgers Tax amount has been increased.

Ms. Lohmann added the Lodgers' Tax paid for the Adventure Tourism videos.

Mr. Olafson indicated the Lodger's Tax is spread over a number of areas. He asked members once members review the plan, to let Ms. Lohmann know if that was what they want for Eco Tourism. He wants to discuss that with the BCC at their retreat.

In response to Member Cedeño, Mr. Hyer said his top priorities are the Santa Fe Ski Basin and trails around it like the Dale Ball System, infrastructure (especially broadband) and how to improve the quality of life and small business start-ups. He wants to improve the app and outdoor spaces.

In response to Chair Dannenberg, someone else from the Planning Department will attend the outdoor conference in Las Cruces. Lisa Katonak, in the County Manager's office is working on promotion of it.

Member Parker pointed out that even if a business is not associated with the outdoor industry, small businesses are more easily attracted to the area with a recognized outdoor base and attracts young people.

Chair Dannenberg agreed, and it attracts high-paying jobs, technology, finance and clean industry.

Mr. Hyer noted that the older version of the presentation data around salaries shows that the counties with vibrant open space programs have high median incomes.

Ms. Lohmann said they want to include that in the strategic plan and expand on that in the various plans and priorities and how to implement the goals from the economic development update.

Chair Dannenberg thanked Mr. Hyer for his presentation.

6. ACTION ITEMS

A. Recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners regarding the Rail Trail Management Plan

Ms. Lohmann said few comments were received on the Rail Trail and are included in the packet. Some resulted in a few changes. The Rail Trail Plan is complete, and she asked COLTPAC to recommend the Plan to the BCC.

Member Siegel asked about the Spur Trail.

Ms. Lohmann explained they are working on the connector to ensure side paths are available and making the accommodations.

Member Parker said he just hired a goat herder for control of vegetation. The creation of the trail had disturbed an area perfect for colonization by noxious weeds. That should be addressed if not already.

Ms. Lohmann noted controlling the weeds was in the appendix and task table and Peggy could help schedule the crews to specifically control the weeds.

Chair Dannenberg noted two items precipitated recently - one by a ride down the trail and the second in the note Ms. Lohmann sent. The emergency response protocol / emergency access should go to the top of the list.

Ms. Lohmann agreed. Safety is the priority and a concern. She related an accident of a couple biking on the Rail Trail and the wife had an accident. The husband had to leave to get help and Good Samaritans helped the wife. We need to find a way to patrol the trail and provide markers for emergency response.

Chair Dannenberg noted in the RSA (Road Safety Audit) improvements, Avenida Vista Grande needs a crossing at the trail to road intersections. It should be moved from the mid-long-term and put into the short-term section.

Ms. Lohmann said it could be put in the RSA now but implemented in 3 to 5 years when they receive funding.

Member Parker moved to recommend approval of the Rail Trail Management Plan to the BCC with the changes noted in the short-term section regarding safety. Member Cedeño seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

B. Review and discussion of OSTP Strategic Plan

Ms. Lohmann said the Draft 2018 OSTP was reviewed last month and she filled in missing pieces. Comments on sections 1 and 2 could be discussed now or emailed within the next month. In Section 3, Member Cedeño asked for more explanation of the page 16 diagram. She has provided more information on how everyone would work and coordinate together. She clarified the difference between Cerrillos Hills, the open space and Cerrillos Park, a small pocket park near the fire station. There were concerns about the classification (page 20-21). The original classes made sense to her, but she looked again at the trails, which might need more distinction between the types of trails. She is still working on Parks.

On page 24 (V. Measuring Success) members thought more detailed steps were needed. So she asked the Committee to discuss the spreadsheet on page 26 and areas that will need action before there could be a metric. The 3 goals, stewardship, management and access were lumped together into short, mid and long-term goals.

Stewardship needs action steps; choosing social media platforms, Twitter, Facebook etc.; what goal they want to achieve with a social media presence and if there is a cost-benefit. Trail counters is an example – the action is to install trail counters to measure how many people are using the trail. They have had trail counters for years, but they have never been installed and that is the short-term goal. The mid-term goal is to use the trail counters.

Member Pike suggested that should be framed as stewardship - cultivating volunteers and partnerships. The entire open space program is a stewardship program and she would like it framed that way. She pointed out management is not a goal, but a vehicle toward a goal. She wanted goals like those that she took off the web site of the Open Space Institute, a nonprofit in NYC. The goals were land for healthy watersheds, land for climate protection, land for habitat, land for recreation, land for vibrant/healthy communities. We should state positive goals for open space and discuss the projects and how they would achieve and work toward those goals within each project.

The project phases are: research and planning, implementation, follow-up and monitoring in terms of diagrams. She found Ms. Lohmann's diagram (page 16) too complicated.

Ms. Lohmann explained the diagram was staff's function. Her goal was also to ensure everything is consistent, but she was not sure the Committee was ready for the type of goals mentioned by Member Pike. She had simplified it to these three goals and wanted to focus the mission: management, stewardship, and access.

Chair Dannenberg agreed with Member Pike that in a hierarchy of goals, everything feeds off conservation/stewardship. Conservation and different silos, recreation, watershed, etc. each feed the other pieces of the plan. Management is the tool to get those things done and conservation feeds recreation. Those are the two big silos and everything else falls under that.

Member Pike read from a mission statement in NYC nonprofit; *"Santa Fe County Open Space protects scenic, natural and cultural landscapes to provide public enjoyment, conserve habitat and working lands and sustain communities"*. She said, "That is a positive sentence."

Member Murphy said it is semantics. They could clarify the words, but the overall goal is to conserve the beautiful places and include biology, erosion control, active/passive use and cultural and natural resources.

Member Pike stressed the language should be clear and positive.

Member Murphy agreed. The more they use clear descriptive language, the clearer the program and on the page on vision and mission it would make sense. It is semantics and can be clearer.

Chair Dannenberg suggested to wordsmith and simplify the mission statement.

Member Pike explained she was trying to establish clear, simply stated goals and vision and break the document down and could get more detailed as they go.

Chair Dannenberg asked if regarding the purpose of the document, this would be a business as usual management plan.

Ms. Lohmann noted that the first paragraph states that momentum is building.

Member Parker thought if clear metrics are adopted from other places they could be valuable for benchmarking the program and the comparison could be a powerful argument for management.

Mr. Olafson agreed it was a good idea if they could find things to compare and it could be added in the action steps.

Member Cedeño pointed out all of the metrics are numerical and that might not be enough for comparison. They should also look at aesthetics and why people would go – the qualitative as well as quantitative. Conservation is an end result not the beginning and the metric should be how that moves

them to conservation and should be aligned with the goal.

Chair Dannenberg saw the need for a working session for goals. They could articulate high level goals and describe them and include measurements of success.

Member Pike said many are place that match the big goals in terms of watershed restoration and access, but they need to understand how that feeds into what they want to achieve.

Chair Dannenberg suggested a needs assessment would tell them which goals are more important to do now and what could be done later.

Ms. Lohmann said the needs assessment is in the Table of Contents, but she could not understand what that included.

Chair Dannenberg said Larimore County structured their master plan around the needs assessment and two major goals; conservation and recreation. Those were broken into sub goals. For example, land conservation has to protect lakes, rivers, streams, natural resources, land for outdoor recreational opportunities and items on agricultural and historic sites. For Santa Fe County, it might be easier to do a needs assessment by having one-on-one conversations with experts in the area.

At Mr. Olafson's suggestion, Chair Dannenberg read under conservation, sub topics: to protect lakes, rivers, streams, protect natural resources, wildlife habitat and rare species, conserve lands for outdoor recreation, green ways, trails, working farms and ranches, conserve lands near neighborhoods and schools and open lands near cities and towns.

Members discussed the concept with some thinking it sounded more like desires, a priority list or a feasibility study. Short term would be priority one, mid-term is priority two, etc.

Ms. Lohmann pointed out on page 46 at the end of the strategic plan, she included a "policy and strategy" but that could be changed to goals.

Chair Dannenberg was struck by the approach, it was not scattered, but a recognition of issues around conservation/recreation they had prioritized. He thought experts in the community could be surveyed on specific areas to develop a prioritization chart.

Mr. Olafson hoped to do that through targeted meetings with groups, whether the Forest Service or Fat Tire, etc.

Ms. Lohmann said because that would differ, depending on the area, she put the landscape manager units and Thornton Ranch on page 30 together. She grouped them and talked about why but the opportunities for the project were not included. It was saying the same thing but in a different way.

Member Madrid Massengill noted they been working on the plan for a long time and had a lot of meetings with input from different areas. Every group wants to do it all and they are not focused and staying within the confines of the County – and they do not have the money.

Ms. Lohmann clarified she had tried to make the landscape management units priorities and the Committee wanted her to include all of it. They are still working on the part for the priority list – the action plan and it is complicated.

Member Parker suggested it could be a separate strategic plan derived from an action plan.

Mr. Olafson said the intent is for the action plan to be a flexible tool within the overall framework and the strategy is what they are aiming for and why.

Ms. Lohmann thanked the Committee for the good feedback and asked them to continue to make suggestions. It is difficult to focus on certain priorities needed at some point and keep them in the updated version. It became too complicated and might be better to say this is our vision for the next five years at the outset.

Mr. Olafson confirmed they wanted more clarity at the front end of what the plan is and is not, to help navigate through the plan.

Member Cedeño's concern was that the plan sounded subjective. He asked about the data used to determine feasibility and the basis for priority. He explained one item could be the budget - what they have now that substantiates why they are doing what they do and that should be highlighted. It should incorporate budget rationale but also customer needs.

Ms. Lohmann said the plan should demonstrate that they could do things people want but there may be other things that come first and give a reason why. She recalled the work session and has had a full calendar and everyone's schedule would need to be considered.

Chair Dannenberg suggested a subcommittee tackle some of the questions discussed that could be used as preparatory material for a session in late May or June.

Ms. Lohmann explained the timeline was to wrap up the discussion goals this month and look at the strategic action plan next month, and a public review in June and COLTPAC approval in July.

Member Siegel thought that might be too soon.

Chair Dannenberg thought the only goal in question was whether management should be a strategy.

Member Murphy favored an independent working committee who brought information back. That would streamline the process and help Ms. Lohmann and Mr. Olafson.

Member Cedeño suggested doing one or the other. Bring in the data - the budget and any policies from BCC that may impact them and some of the trends.

The Committee discussed the working sub group.

Mr. Olafson agreed it would be a special meeting and people could come if they could and send comments by email. Most important was to get the ideas and let the member's weigh in. It is difficult when they say, *"You really need to define your overarching goals"*.

Ms. Lohmann asked to be included in the conversation to guide them but would only be available on Tuesday, April 17th.

Mr. Olafson suggested they meet in the morning and he would send an invitation to everyone. Members should spend time looking at the plan beforehand and on the 17th they would review it together. He asked for specific items to review and his agenda would touch on those.

The Committee briefly shared ideas on the special meeting topics and style.

Ms. Lohmann suggested the document be close to final when presented to the public.

Member Pike will send an email with link to a possible partnership organization – Southern Rockies Landscape Cooperative.

8. MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Chair Dannenberg reported on the March 27 presentation with the BCC. He and Ms. Lohmann and Mr. Olafson did a joint presentation and Member Parker was also there. The presentation flowed well and was positive and held the Commissioners' attention. There was about two hours of discussion in a short time, but there was no feedback from the BCC. They did accomplish some of their goals and introduced the management plan but probably did not reach County management with their message.

After the presentation their sub-committee met and developed a list of items to review to move forward with for the Committee.

- 1- Continue individual meetings with Commissioners to get feedback with focus on the short-term issues that might be important to the Commissioners. And emphasize the quality of life and conservation. The purpose is to develop a relationship with Commissioners and enlist them as advocates for their cause. This would just be a conversation with the Commissioners.
- 2- Katherine Miller was not in attendance and they should meet with her to catch her up on what was presented to the BCC.
- 3- The presentation sub-committee suggested a short introduction that outlines the entire program as part of the public meetings for the S&P. That was a reaction to their experiences with past County public meetings. They thought spending 10 minutes up front doing a higher-level presentation is a great way to communicate the larger vision up front.

The Committee approved the 3 key areas of recommendations by consensus.

Chair Dannenberg said they had discussed a meeting with Mike and Colleen Kelly.

Ms. Lohmann indicated she was working on that and has communicated with Mr. Kelly on schedules.

Member Cedeño asked if the Committee would continue to discuss their goals, their role and vision as COLTPAC. They started a discussion six months ago on how they would function as a group and what they wanted to accomplish and how they would like to be seen by the BCC.

Ms. Lohmann explained that was folded into the plan and if not clear they should work on that. There is a section about the role of COLTPAC and how they would work with staff.

Member Cedeño recalled six months ago they discussed utilizing the expertise of the Committee. He asked if they would still do committees and the function part of the group. Meeting with the Commissioners was one piece, but what about a plan to build a relationship as a group and how they would operate.

Ms. Lohmann thought that was included in the document.

Member Cedeño explained there are new members. How will we utilize their expertise and collectively utilize experiences in their relationship with the County Commissioners? That was the objective when they started the discussion.

Chair Dannenberg noted the group touched on some of that in the February meeting and there is a page in the Strategic Management Plan that talks about the evolutionary role of COLTPAC.

Ms. Lohmann said all members funnel their expertise and thoughts into how they operate as a group.

Member Cedeño explained he is looking for a common understanding of who they are as a group and what they stand for and how they use each other's expertise. Skills assessment, not teambuilding necessarily.

Member Parker recalled the meeting and that a lot of notes were taken. He thought they had agreed to revisit some things.

Chair Dannenberg offered to get the notes from Mr. Olafson.

Ms. Lohmann agreed those questions should be answered but she thought the plan answered them.

9. MATTERS FROM COUNTY STAFF

Ms. Lohmann reported the discussion Chair Dannenberg and Member Parker had with Ted Harrison with Commonweal. Mr. Harrison is in negotiations with the bank and there is no update, but she hoped to have an outcome in the next month. They are talking about potential roles the County could play. The County is unsure what COLTPAC'S role would be and until negotiations are finalized they could not mobilize around anything.

The Committee discussed the proper protocol for communications with BCC and the need for caution when speaking on behalf of the County.

Ms. Lohmann explained the Staff communicate with the County Manager's office and give a heads up on issues and action the Committee would take. The Committee could indicate that not having a consistent message could be a concern, but they could not tell Commissioners what to say about COLTPAC.

She will be spending time at Thornton Ranch and working with the crew on site watches, fence line and control. She will meet with BLM about new trail system connections - the baseline behind-the-scene things.

Member Pike asked if the Master Plan was for 20 years

Ms. Lohmann said projects are programmed for 20 years out because of the budget and other constraints but that needs to be looked at annually.

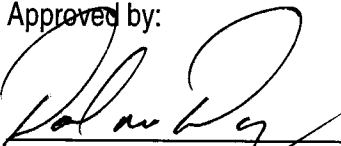
Mr. Olafson said he met with managers regarding the Las Vegas Highway application and has communicated with Rancho Viejo to establish another meeting.

10. NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, MAY 2, 2018

11. ADJOURNMENT

Member Siegel moved to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. and the motion passed unanimously.


Approved by:


Dave Dannenberg, Chair

Attest:


Geraldine Salazar, County Clerk

Submitted by:


Carl Boaz for Carl G. Boaz, Inc.

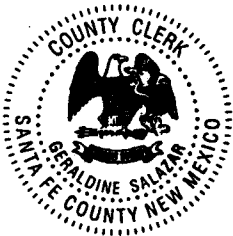


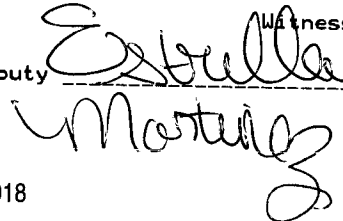
SFC CLERK RECORDED 09/10/2018

COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

COLTPAC MINUTES
PAGES: 10

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 10TH Day Of September, 2018 at 08:21:21 AM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1867014
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Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Geraldine Salazar
Deputy  County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM