

**MINUTES OF THE  
SANTA FÉ COUNTY  
COUNTY OPEN LAND TRAILS AND PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
(COLTPAC)  
January 11, 2017**

**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  
Rubén Cedeño  
Jeannie Dodson-Edgars  
Sue Murphy [telephonically]  
Ernesto Ortega  
Jean Pike, new member  
Linda Siegel, new member

**Members Absent**

None

**Staff Members Present**

Maria Lohmann, Open Space and Trails Planner  
Paul Olafson, Planning Projects Manager

**Others Present**

Cynthia Naja, Santo Domingo Tribe  
Trish Hogg  
Julia Bell  
Rachel Brown, Deputy County Attorney  
Claudia Horn, Consultant  
Carl Boaz, Stenographer

**3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**Member Ortega moved to approve the agenda as presented. Member Cedeño seconded the**

motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

**Member Conway moved to approve the agenda as presented. Member Parker seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.**

#### **4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

##### **A. December 7, 2016**

Member Cedeño requested a change of name. Ms. Naha is the correct spelling; not Naja on page 3, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph.

Member Murphy noted that Mr. Olson should be Mr. Olafson throughout the minutes and Member Kowalski's first name is Judi with an I.

**Member Betts moved to approve the December 7, 2016 minutes as amended. Member Dodson-Edgars seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.**

#### **5. ACTION ITEMS**

##### **A. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair**

Mr. Olafson clarified that officers for County boards and committees have a one-year term.

Chair Dannenberg asked for show of hands for those who would accept election as Chair or Vice Chair. Chair Dannenberg and Member Parker raised their hands.

**Member Ortega moved to elect Chair Dannenberg as Chair for 2017 and Member Parker as Vice Chair for 2017. Member Betts seconded the motion.**

**Mr. Olafson called for the vote which was unanimous by voice vote.**

#### **6. MATTERS OF PUBLIC CONCERN**

No matters of public concern were voiced.

#### **7. MATTERS FROM COUNTY STAFF**

##### **A. Review of Rolling Quorum**

Rachel Brown, Deputy County Attorney was present to clarify the issue of rolling quorum and answer questions from the Committee.

Member Cedeño had raised three questions: If there are only 2-3 members in the conversation, does it constitute a quorum? If they are sharing opinions and ideas and the discussions are made, alluding to a decision, is that a public meeting and a quorum?

Ms. Brown said the rules are in the Open Meetings Act say that anytime you develop policy or are making a decision, it must be done in a public meeting. With 9 members, any fewer than five present would not be a public meeting. Any time you interface with email or other types of communication, and explore the business of the Committee, you are doing so outside of public forum. While a couple of members may interface by email or phone, it is not encouraged because you don't know how broadly that will circulate - and if you forward the email to another member- it can become improper communication if enough members are eventually included in the messages. There is always a risk that others may join in the email conversation so it is not encouraged.

It is best to conduct all business at the COLTPAC meeting to ensure that making decisions and development of policy happens in the meeting. The public should be able to hear the process in making a decision.

COLTPAC can form committees for fact finding and developing materials to come to COLTPAC for a decision or evaluation. Information provided in a committee packet is public as well. Sending out packet material before a meeting is proper but feedback or discussions of the materials beforehand is not advisable. It is best if all packet material is distributed by the staff liaison for the committee.

In response to Member Betts, she said when a majority of the Committee is anticipated to meet somewhere or for an event, a notice of possible quorum should be published by the County. The notice should include that the Committee will not be conducting business at that time. When visiting an archeological site or other sensitive sites that should not be included in a public meeting if it is desired to keep the site protected – in these cases, the committee could send one or two representatives to bring back the information.

The Committee thanked Ms. Brown for coming and sharing her expertise.

Member Ortega - some people have joined us - Trish Hogg; Julia Bell -

## **8. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **A. Discussion of Thornton Ranch Open Space Master Plan**

At the previous meeting, the Committee made a list of large topic items in the plan to review and did not complete the discussion.

The Committee considered equestrian use of the backcountry trail at Thornton Ranch property in a lively discussion. Some members of the committee shared their concerns relating to trail impacts, weed vectors through horse manure, and potential for vandalism. Members of the public present supported equestrian use and gave their rationale for allowing it. The discussion included multiple opinions and thoughts on the potential positive and negative impacts of equestrian use of the trail.

Claudia Horn, the consultant for the master plan, described the vision for trail use on the 16 miles of trails at Thornton Ranch which includes regional connections and a small internal system. At a public meeting in October, equestrians asked for re-evaluating the hiker/biker only trails to allow equestrian use. The design of the trail has not changed and will require more monitoring of erosion and other impacts to allow for the expanded use. Comment was made that the trail route should reevaluate sight lines for greater safety of all users.

Mr. Olafson clarified that the trail route is not finalized. Some will be more technical and some more regional.

Several members felt the maximum trail width should be narrower. Member Dodson-Edgars proposed that narrower trails not be for equestrians or bikers and wider trails for multi-use by all. She expected people to make wise choices. Member Murphy said wider trails are more subject to erosion and unnecessary for equestrian use. Her experience was that "the more eyes you have out there - the more protection is given." She said the trail lay out pretty much excludes horses because it is only about an hour ride which might not be worth the time to trailer up the horse and drive out to the site.

Chair Dannenberg said the connection to the north to the Galisteo Basin Preserve can provide a much longer route. Maybe this is not the place where you would have a longer ride.

Mr. Olafson pointed out that ADA accessible trails need a wider surface. The interpretive loop will be ADA accessible. Member Murphy added that she strongly supports ADA access and access for everyone. Ms. Horn said if a regional trail is put in, that arguably could be seen as transportation corridor subject to AASHTO standards. The master plan provides maximum widths of trails, and in the short term, most trails would start as narrow, single track trails. User demand may prompt development of wider trails.

Mr. Olafson spoke to the desire for ensuring a more formal communication with tribal neighbors and partners. The BCC directed staff to determine the best way to achieve that communication before the master plan was brought forward for adoption by the Commissioners.

Ms. Lohmann and Ms. Baker are writing the management plan through January and will have specifics to discuss with the tribes. In February, they will meet with Commissioners and individual tribal organizations, and coordinate with BLM. A joint County/Tribal meeting will be held to review all the documents and discuss tribal concerns. This process is critical to the adoption of the plans and the management of the property.

The Committee should work with Ms. Horn to incorporate the public comments in the plan before we go to Commissioners. The tribal meeting is targeted for early April and hopefully a clearer schedule can be

outlined after the joint meeting.

Ms. Lohmann said all the documents together will comprehensively describe how the property will be managed and protected as the property is made accessible to the public. She anticipated the Master Plan would not change much, depending on outcome of the tribal meetings. The management plans describe monitoring, environmental management, partnering with tribal partners, how we control access and make sure we have interpretive rangers, etc.

Chair Dannenberg thought the process was not stalled but changing direction to ensure a lot of tribal input. It would be a great signal for us to nudge things forward to say the Master Plan is ready and here are our comments.

Member Ortega thanked Ms. Horn for a good plan. We can provide feedback to BCC through staff on what we think about the plan and they can look at more specifics with tribal consultations. So, we shouldn't be too concerned about the consultation. We should finish our review of the plan and see how best to report back to the BCC.

Some members of the Committee felt that there was good input from the public and were satisfied with what had been included in the plan.

Member Cedeño asked for this to be on the agenda net time.

**Member Cedeño moved to finish the discussion at the next meeting and make a decision. Member Parker seconded the motion.**

Ms. Lohmann said they will also revisit when all consultation and comments are addressed in the plan. It will change a little bit.

**The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.**

## **B. Strategic Management Plan Update**

### **9. MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE**

Chair Dannenberg asked to put the separate meeting to talk about how we work with BCC and our strategy on a specific date.

Member Murphy asked to add an outreach meeting to plan for presentations and determine priorities.

### **10. NEXT MEETING: February 1, 2017**

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 pm.

Approved by:

*[Signature]*  
Dave Dannenberg, Chair

Attest:

*[Signature]*  
Geraldine Salazar, County Clerk  
4-11-2017



Submitted by:

*[Signature]*  
Carl Boaz for Carl G. Boaz, Inc.

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COUNTY OF SANTA FE )  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO ) ss

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for  
Record On The 12TH Day Of April, 2017 at 09:35:04 AM  
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1822812  
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County



Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office  
Geraldine Salazar  
Deputy *[Signature]* County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM