

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

January 13, 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 6:06 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
Greg Betts
Ruben Cedeño
Patricia Conoway
Judy Kowalski
Ernesto Ortega
John Parker

Members Absent

(Two vacancies)

Staff Members Present

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

Others Present

Tim Rogers, Santa Fé Conservation Trust Trails Manager
Tim Fowler, Fat Tire Society Past President
Bill Johnson, Former member
Carl Boaz, Stenographer

Those present introduced themselves to the group.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Member Cedeño asked for a historical briefing and the relationship with The Board of County Commissioners and what is envisioned for the future.

Chair Dannenberg agreed and asked if it could be added between the B and C.

Ms. Lohmann agreed.

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

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 2, 2015

Member Kowalski asked to include appreciation for the hard work of Staff to make the River Trail a reality. She asked that it be added on page 3 at end of 7a.

Member Conway asked for an amendment on page 5, the PR discussion. She said she didn't think PR is in the Colt PAC arena. She asked that it say, "We don't need a PR plan and it isn't our job but just to do PR ad hoc. Member Kowalski and I are working on PR for the River Trail."

Member Kowalski asked what happens to these minutes.

Ms. Lohmann said they are recorded and put on the web site.

Member Kowalski said the minutes need to have all of the key points included.

Chair Dannenberg said these minutes are more fragmented than capturing the thoughts, particularly in Section 7. He asked for a change at the top of page 5 where it should say to delete the Map subcommittee (not OSTP) and keep the Outreach Subcommittee. And on page 6, he asked to strike the 5th paragraph.

Under bullet C of that same page, it should say past bond elections instead of past votes.

He asked what the Committee's conclusion was about the subcommittees at the last meeting.

Member Betts said he didn't see the outcome in the minutes.

Ms. Lohmann said they were going to keep the present subcommittees and Member Parker would help Member Ortega head the Thornton Ranch subcommittee.

Member Ortega said the other members would help out when called upon.

Member Parker agreed. The whole conclusion was that everything is ad hoc. Perhaps we could say with ad hoc membership or in an ad hoc manner. That was the conclusion from the last meeting.

Chair Dannenberg understood that the Outreach Subcommittee is a formal subcommittee, the Map Subcommittee is on hold. Member Ortega and Member Parker are the point people for the Thornton Ranch Subcommittee.

Member Ortega moved to approve the December 2015 minutes as amended. Member Kowalski seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

5. MATTERS OF PUBLIC CONCERN

There were no matters of public concern.

6. MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE

A. Future Agenda Topics

Chair Dannenberg told the new members that we have a running list of topics.

Ms. Lohmann said Erin Wurzgozer has been tasked with working on an agriculture implementation plan and it was approved at the meeting yesterday. She wants to be on a future agenda.

7. MATTERS FROM COUNTY STAFF

There were no matters from County Staff.

8. ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items.

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Presentation and Discussion on Grand Unified Trails System (GUTS)

Mr. Tim Rogers and Mr. Tim Fowler were in attendance to make the presentation. Mr. Rogers thanked the Committee for having them.

He brought copies of the trails maps for Foothills and briefly described the map.

He explained that GUTS is the acronym for Grand Unified trail system and is the effort of community based user groups working with private and public agencies for making connections in a coordinated manner. He displayed the GUTS statement on the monitor.

Mr. Fowler said GUTS is needed because we have a lot of great trails that are not connected. There are many different land managers among the City, County, nonprofits and private landowners. And there are logical spaces where a trail could go.

Mr. Rogers said the effort was born from the natural beauty, the desire to improve public health, to improve access, and take advantage of historic and cultural resources as well as involvement with the USFS, NPS, and others. The system includes sharing of history.

Mr. Fowler said there are over a hundred miles of existing trails. Filling the existing gaps won't be a quick effort.

Mr. Rogers said they are talking about a big loop connecting the systems and looking for opportunities to improve connectivity. It might not be a 100% complete loop because of private land, etc. Many groups working on it are volunteer organizations who are working with land owners, to bring what is necessary for trail building. Soft surface trails can be built by volunteers.

Member Kowalski asked if they have identified the routes.

Mr. Fowler said they are early in that process.

Mr. Rogers explained their first phase is getting folks to sign the partnership agreement. They stepped back from the maps but are ready to go back to looking at the maps again soon. They have started breaking it into smaller areas. They have a dozen organizations who signed the partnership agreement. The map shows them. He identified some of the groups. Some of them who have not been involved in the past like Santa Fe Community College (SFCC) who will be great partners on a specific connection. They have relationships with Santa Fe Tourism, Economic Development and the Chamber of Commerce.

Chair Dannenberg asked how they are going to set priorities.

Mr. Rogers said they will be pretty opportunistic with it. There are 85 trail segments that have transportation value.

Member Conway asked what the top five connections would be.

Mr. Fowler said that as a new organization they are going after what is achievable first. The gaps are bigger than existing trails. So the focus is on what is buildable and achievable. They are in the process of formalizing the criteria but will keep doing what can be done.

Member Cedeño asked if they have started a feasibility study.

Mr. Fowler said they are organizing in order to do that and have meaningful comparisons. Ease of project completion is a factor and they will ask if that location pushes back a more important connector.

Mr. Johnson said the Committee had a trails subcommittee in 2006 to formalize what trails criteria should be for planning.

Mr. Olafson asked if they are perhaps asking COLTPAC to become a partner in the effort and help find resources for it.

Mr. Rogers agreed. It is a partnership. Funding is limited, but both of the model projects don't require much funding - just permissions. Funds might be needed for the survey but the actual work can be done by the partners. That was a big question when coming to City Council. They wondered where the money would come from. Land acquisition could be a big piece of it. SFCT works for conservation easements. Ideally and work with land owners to do it.

Member Cedeño asked about the legality issues and easements involved.

Mr. Rogers said both model projects (the connector between the Cerro Gordo parking lot and the Dale Ball trails and also the connector from the Spur Trail to the Santa Fe Community College Fitness Center) are publicly owned right-of-way easements. With Dale Ball, it is City land that has been managed by their Water Division and once they take out the old filter plant it will just be city open space. Those things take time more than money so we have to have patience. Some of those things are already in place. He showed the proposed alignment of the trail from SFCC Fitness Center to the Spur Trail. The SFCC Board approved the concept so the trail can be built. The Master's Program students do volunteer work for the County and we need to make sure the easement incorporates the trail.

Member Parker noted they will be "sustainable and natural surface" but some of

them are big interconnections and should be more than natural surface trails and wider. The major hard surface trails need to be part of the GUTS system too.

Mr. Rogers said the volunteers can build a soft surface trail but if it is something that rises above that, the partners can point that out and they will be sensitive on what they are connecting. If it is part of the transportation system, the Mayor's Committee on Disabilities will speak up on it. If it needs to be ADA, that is not something they could build but could build an interim dirt trail investments are available.

Mr. Fowler said they hope to avoid that happening so we would not put a connector there if we know of the plans for a paved trail.

Mr. Rogers said one of their concerns is about equity for the south side. Also, no one has thought about how to connect the west side with the Arroyo Hondo trail.

Chair Dannenberg asked about having a loop.

Mr. Rogers said they are talking about a loop but that is not the entire objective. But this is a great opportunity to bring the entities together with private land owners and work together.

Chair Dannenberg asked what they would like for COLTPAC do in the longer term and short term.

Mr. Rogers said some partners signed right away and others are taking more time. The City has done a resolution of support which they will use to enlist the County partnership.

Ms. Lohmann said that should start with COLTPAC as advisors to the Board of County Commissioners so if the Committee wants to write a letter of support for the resolution, Mr. Olafson started a draft letter.

Mr. Olafson said it simply indicates that COLTPAC recommends support of the resolution which is a planning collaborative process.

Ms. Lohmann suggested they could have it as an action item for next meeting.

Member Betts asked if there is a website for more information.

Mr. Rogers agreed and handed out his card with the website: Www.sfct.org

COLTPAC History.

Ms. Lohmann said COLTPAC was formed around 2000 to guide the open space and trails plan and guide acquisition of lands using bond money. The role has changed a little over the years from guidance and acquisition and now is helping to plan for the future of the program (including acquisitions). The role is that COLTPAC advises the Board of County Commissioners in the way we just heard. We work on supporting initiatives. The Commission can also write a letter to the Board of County Commissioners as COLTPAC. And staff will include it in the Commissioners' packet.

Member Cedeño asked if that was done through the Chair or as a group.

Chair Dannenberg said the Chair does make presentations at BCC meetings after consensus of the Committee. He and other members stressed the importance of consensus as opposed to individuals communicating with Commissioners on their own.

Member Cedeño asked what the Committee's role is for acquisitions.

Ms. Lohmann said COLTPAC reviews an application and staff reviews it and then the COLTPAC evaluates whether it is worth acquiring and then advises the BCC if it meets the criteria to be considered and they will eventually vote whether to spend the money.

Member Kowalski added that there is a format for evaluation.

B. Open Space, Trails and Parks Plan Update

Chair Dannenberg noted that the County has acquired a lot of properties as open space and lots of them are fenced off and inaccessible. So the Committee is working on the Open Space, Trails and Parks Plan.

Ms. Lohmann provided a handout outlining and the process of the Open Space and Parks Plan Update. She explained her handout and said how she is getting the plan completed. On the back is the time line which is much tighter now. What we are creating is what we decided to call an implementation plan and want it to be used to help figure out what our goals are for the program with overall goals and action strategies under them. There will be regular planned updates but they can be updated easily and quickly as we need to.

Chair Dannenberg asked if the 4-year plan fits into the county process.

Mr. Olafson agreed. It is standard process.

Ms. Lohmann clarified that points 1, 2, and 3 are the work she need to do with analysis and trends. But 4 and 5 are where the Committee will focus a lot of effort. The

2000 goals are included in this as part of the SGMP framework so that it will fit with SGMP. The plan needs to be strategic. We don't need to look at all of the parcels in the County but focus on the 46 open spaces and parks for the strategic opportunities.

Parks are part of it, although they are a little different. There will be a park analysis going on through Public Works and most will probably be equipment and service rather than overarching goals. She pointed out that the policies are shown on the big sheet shaded in green. She briefly listed the goals we would like to achieve. A lot of the goals are already in the SGMP. She is trying to standardize all of the plans for the County.

Member Parker asked if the outreach goal is to promote stewardship.

Ms. Lohmann agreed. The official map has no strategies and it might be because we have already done that. This is to help the members understand. The management plan is blank because she is still working on what should go in there.

She now needs help from COLTPAC with that extra level of review. She explained for the new members that the Committee came up with 5 focus groups some time ago. We might have those focus groups take a look at these goals rather than the topics that were chosen then. She was hoping to get goals out of the focus groups.

Mr. Olafson said Staff is starting with the basis of the 2000 plan. The landscape has changed and this SGMP was updated last October. So it is the vehicle for updating the 2000 plan and taking that straw man as the diving board for strategies. So the main goal is to provide the documentation to show where we are and the sections 1, 2, and 3. And ask what the Committee thinks about it - to massage it and build upon it. That includes community outreach, meeting with the constituents - the bike people, the horse people. Take the ideas and go through it and address it as we move forward.

Member Ortega added that the Committee had a goal to make it more concise because it is voluminous and very detailed and people get lost in that verbiage.

Member Kowalski said a motivation for updating was to get more public support for open space. There was a disconnect when we shifted from acquiring lands. So the plan and getting public input is to remind the public of the importance of maintaining these lands.

Ms. Lohmann identified the potential stakeholders for those groups and brought the list with her. She passed it around for members possibly to think of new people.

Member Kowalski asked Ms. Lohmann to refresh their memory on the focus group names.

Ms. Lohmann listed them and explained those are the topics we would organize the

first public discussions around and pose questions like what would function better. She pointed out where they would fit in the SGMP.

The Committee briefly discussed how the focus group process would function.

Ms. Lohmann said she has money budgeted for a facilitator but has not selected one.

Chair Dannenberg asked if having the focus groups in March is realistic.

Ms. Lohmann said she might need to move it later.

Member Kowalski didn't think March is a good time for the general public. If they started now, she thought April would work.

C. Future Open Space Capital Planning

Mr. Olafson handed out a draft for discussion only. He noted the County has a bonding capacity of about \$35 million for roads, fire stations, facilities, water, sewer and parks and open space. For the open space part, they are to talk about how to use \$5 million to \$7 million from that budget. Between now and April we will begin the process. If we are building a sewer line and road, maybe that is also a trail project so the projects need to be coordinated.

Mr. Olafson went through the proposed timeline which included finding the specific projects in July. The bonds would be partially sold in March 2017 and more later.

He went through the parameters for project selection and then named other possible funding sources. He also explained that O & M has to be included in all capital outlay. He showed a spreadsheet of open space and trails capital projects summary over several years. He mentioned the Transfer of Development Rights Bank for the County with an estimated \$1 million and described how it would work. It is very new thing to preserve important lands. The County would put the money in to kick start that bank.

Member Conoway asked if Mt. Chal has been acquired.

Mr. Olafson said not yet but it is in the pipeline.

Member Kowalski asked if the Committee is going to talk about the strategic plan in February.

Ms. Lohmann agreed.

10. NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, February 3, 2016

11. ADJOURNMENT

Member Parker moved to adjourn the meeting. Member Conway seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Approved by:

Dave Dannenberg
Dave Dannenberg, Chair

Attest:

Geraldine Salazar
Geraldine Salazar, County Clerk *5-16-2016*

Submitted by:

Carl Boaz
Carl Boaz for Carl G. Boaz, Inc.



COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

COLTPAC MINUTES
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I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for Record On The 16TH Day Of May, 2016 at 12:19:01 PM and Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1793572 of The Records Of Santa Fe County



Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Geraldine Salazar

Deputy *Ann Howard* County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM