

**MINUTES OF THE
SANTA FÉ COUNTY
COUNTY OPEN LAND TRAILS AND PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(COLTPAC)
February 1, 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
Sue Murphy [telephonically]
Jean Pike
Linda Siegel

Members Absent

Jeannie Dodson-Edgars [excused]
Ernesto Ortega [excused]

Staff Members Present

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

Others Present

Carl Boaz, Stenographer

Those present introduced themselves for the Committee.

Tom Wright, owner of Santa Fe Livery located across from the San Marcos Café.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Dannenberg proposed to move item 7 after item 8.

Member Betts moved to approve the agenda as amended with item 7 heard after item 8. Member Parker seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. January 11, 2017

Member Parker and Member Murphy asked for more detail in the discussion on equestrians in Thornton Ranch area. Chair Dannenberg agreed with Member Parker and would defer the minutes to the next meeting. Ms. Lohmann agreed to make a summary of that discussion. Mr. Boaz would provide a recording.

The minutes were postponed to the next meeting.

5. MATTERS OF PUBLIC CONCERN

Tom Wright, owner of Santa Fe Livery, said he would like the open space at Thornton Ranch to be open for all who respect the open space. He understood the Galisteo Basin policy and was aware of the troubles experienced with bikes and horses, but felt this is a good opportunity for tourists to ride horses in the area. He stated that guests come through all the time who want to ride their horses. He stated that he advocated for the horse community and for all who want to use trails. He clarified that he was not advocating multi-use trails for all trails but was in favor of equestrian use of the trails at Thornton Ranch.

6. MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Chair Dannenberg recalled action items from the last meeting and asked for an update from Ms. Lohmann and Rachel Brown to let the Committee know about public meetings for outreach without public notice.

Ms. Lohmann said Committee members can attend and act as individuals. Mr. Olafson said Ms. Brown sent him a draft to that effect and said that when a possible quorum of the committee may be present at a meeting or gathering, a simple posting of the meeting at the County Building at least 72 hours in advance was adequate notice.

Chair Dannenberg said the other item was for Member Ortega to help him add to the draft recommendation letter which was at the back of the packet.

Chair Dannenberg also said that he and staff met with Commissioner Hamilton last week and went through the open space program - how it started and where it is going. She was enthusiastic and supportive. Mr. Olafson agreed and said the Commissioner Hamilton is very supportive of open space and trails.

Chair Dannenberg recalled that two requests for field trips came up. One was for Thornton Ranch. He and Member Parker and Member Ortega have been there but most members had not. Member Pike said she has been there. Ms. Lohmann said she could arrange a field trip in the March time frame.

Chair Dannenberg's other field trip suggestion was to look at the Madrid property and include looking at

erosion and other issues.

Member Betts said he and Ms. Lohmann visited with the Civitans. Twenty people were there, including kids and visitors. They received good feedback on the trail system and a follow-up thank you from the Chair.

Chair Dannenberg said Member Murphy has taken on the coordination of the outreach and has done four of them, including the Santa Fe Conservation Trust and NM Land Conservancy. Member Betts described the presentation format and said he has one presentation scheduled in April at the Garden Club.

Member Pike asked to what extent she could talk with neighbors about open space, particularly the Madrid properties and how they can become involved. Ms. Lohmann said she could do that and that lots of people in Madrid already know about the plan and soon it will be out for review and feedback. Mr. Olafson added that they have an internal email list and have one for Madrid and they would broadcast it out to that area. Member Pike added that there are lots who don't live in Madrid but are in that watershed and affected by floods there.

8. MATTERS FROM COUNTY STAFF

Ms. Lohmann targets a study session for February 15 for a 3-hour meeting in the afternoon. Mr. Olafson said it would give time for ideas to bring to the regular meetings as a brainstorming work session.

Chair Dannenberg suggested 4:30 to 7:30 which was okay for both Member Pike and Member Siegel. He suggested an email for the final decision on date and time in about five days.

Mr. Olafson said they could also use this time for ideas to bring to the regular meeting as more of a brainstorming work session to get the results.

Ms. Lohmann has begun putting the COLTPAC calendar together. In March, the management plans for Madrid, Lamy and Ortiz Mountains are planned to be reviewed with committee recommendations in April.

Chair Dannenberg asked for study session discussion on what COLTPAC would like as focus in the coming year. The Committee agreed.

Member Siegel asked if the BCC has a time set for approvals. Ms. Lohmann explained that BCC review is scheduled after COLTPAC review.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Discussion of Thornton Ranch Open Space Master Plan

Chair Dannenberg reported that since the last meeting, the County Manager's Office has helped propose a process to aid Commissioners' review of the Thornton Ranch plans.

Ms. Lohmann gave a general sense of what the Committee would be able to do to move it forward with time frames.

Mr. Olafson described the area for the new members and the work that has taken place on the plan and that the draft management plan is now being developed. He explained the concerns regarding consultation with the tribes. Staff presented to the BCC on Jan 31 a draft plan for the County to coordinate with tribal leaders. He stated the goal is for honest communication and to ensure all parties have the same information so that final plans can be brought to the BCC in July.

Ms. Lohmann in February and March, there will be individual meetings with tribes and the Commissioners on the process and joint meeting(s) in April. In May, the public input process will open and staff plans to bring the package back to COLTPAC then BCC will review in July.

Mr. Olafson said staff have created one packet with the Thornton Ranch Master Plan and Management Plan, Petroglyph Hill Management Plan and the Galisteo Basin Interpretative Plan to show the whole thing in one package. Then there will be a one-on-one meeting with tribal leaders and staff to review the plans. Then, there is a planned big meeting in April with County and Tribal leaders. He asked the Committee not to make a recommendation yet until those meetings and discussions are completed.

Member Parker said that means not wrapping it up now. The way Member Ortega and Chair Dannenberg crafted this leaves a lot open. Ms. Lohmann said the challenge to making a final recommendation now is that we will meet with tribes and Commissioners and want to include the results of these discussions in the final package of plans.

Member Murphy asked if the document includes all the comments that came out of the public meeting at the Galisteo Basin. Ms. Lohmann said they will be included in the public review draft in April. It is a matrix of all those comments and how they were addressed in the plan and it is still being compiled. Member Pike asked if the Committee could finish its preliminary recommendations now and do the final in July.

Chair Dannenberg said we need some set of formal recommendations to Ms. Lohmann and Ms. Horn. Member Pike agreed, with the caveat that COLTPAC is going to review them again. Chair Dannenberg agreed and proposed to push the decision for the Master Plan later down the schedule when the entire package has been presented.

Member Cedeño asked how wedded they are to "recommendations" rather than "observations." Ms. Lohmann said they reformatted the letter to be public comments instead of recommendations.

Chair Dannenberg recalled last time the Committee wanted a stronger statement. Member Cedeño pointed out that it doesn't stop us from doing that. Mr. Olafson said Staff may just rephrase some things but try to keep the same points. In July, they will come back with recommendations for the BCC to either accept or reject.

Member Pike wanted to talk about equestrian use and multi-use trails. Member Parker agreed. Member Pike said the entire Galisteo Basin has been degraded over time and is fragile and we are stewards for it

for a long future and also need to respect the equestrian heritage. It is different now than what the Spanish saw for the first time. Climate change and higher temperatures will cause more erosion and hooves are a factor. The current trail plan is excellent because it lays out the equestrian trails on the ridge that hook up with the regional trail system. She thought horses should not be allowed on the back-country area with the steep areas and arroyos that are close to sensitive areas. She noted that they do bring hay in from out of state - much of it from Colorado. She noted problems with Round Up in the hay and that gardeners can't use the manure for compost for at least 18 months because nothing will grow. She didn't see how management plans could govern that and it is difficult to get hay without Round Up in it. Trail width was not an issue. A narrow trail disturbs less. And horses passing each other won't stay in a 12" trail. The current equestrian trail is in the best location.

Ms. Lohmann thought she was looking at a previous version of because the back-country trail is multi-use. Member Pike said it should not be. Member Betts agreed with Member Pike. He looked at the topological map and saw that the slopes are really problematic. The 3½ mile trail that allows continuous use is appropriate but is a good delineation for horse use and mixed use.

Ms. Lohmann pointed out the trail map on page 41. Member Murphy said a 3½-mile trail is not even handed. Horses might step off the trail but it is a technical trail. It is not the horses only that do damage but other users too. Ms. Lohmann said the northernmost trail, is the back-country trail. It is the most challenging for slopes, terrain and erosion. It is the longest single section so it is significant. Member Pike agreed the area is eroded.

Mr. Wright said he came with some experience in developing trails - part of the Cedar Lake area in Oklahoma through mountains and hills. You do have to maintain them. Water is what erodes trails - so water bars are needed and they must be maintained. He understood that Round Up disappears in 3 hours and by the sun. A Santa Fean helped develop the Round Up market and knew it has a bad reputation.

Member Pike said the gardeners who use it have plants that are not growing. Member Betts thought it would be better to be more restrictive in the beginning and expand it later if there is adequate maintenance. But he would not like to see trails open to everything and then restrict it. Member Parker agreed.

Chair Dannenberg said the trail plan is not a Master Plan. The trails still must be designed. It is unwritten policy that County trails are multi-use with few exceptions. The responsibility is on trail planners. Member Pike thought there should be a list of the factors for design. Chair Dannenberg said there is not a standard for that but Member Parker thought there was a set.

Mr. Olafson suggested that the Committee's recommendations carefully examine what would be a reason for not having it open to horses use. Chair Dannenberg said everyone is encouraging multi-use unless there is a compelling reason not to have multi-use. Member Pike was surprised to see that because there are compelling reasons not to do that.

Member Cedeño said the data must make that decision. Member Parker agreed. We have a map and know the topography. Ms. Lohmann said the back-country trail is open for all uses. Member Parker said that is a problem. Chair Dannenberg thought the Master Plan shouldn't be calling out specific trail designs.

Member Parker agreed but they should have as many uses as are possible if it is defensible.

Chair Dannenberg pointed out that the Committee members haven't walked it. There are no soils' analysis. And the Committee doesn't have data on Round Up or soil studies. Ms. Lohmann said the consultants have walked all the routes to develop the design. The Committee can get clarification on standards for multi-use. If the design doesn't meet those, they would determine use. Member Cedeño said they must come up with data for why it is to be restricted. Member Parker remembered that Claudia Horn told the Committee how they based their decision.

Member Betts said in reading this document and then the red line, it would seem the onus is on the consultant to show why it should be restricted.

Member Cedeño said if water causes the damage, that is separate from hooves and tires. The trails have been identified but not the design.

Mr. Olafson, Ms. Lohmann and Chair Dannenberg will try rephrasing that these are proposed alignments and uses.

Chair Dannenberg thought it should come to a vote. Some members may like to have really segregated trails and some favor having all as multi-use trails. Member Cedeño thought the data should dictate that.

Member Murphy said the Committee is not encouraging destruction of the land. Her goal would be the most possible uses out there - not limited use. So, the trails would be designed for multi-use unless there is a compelling reason not to. She would like to see trails built for all since it is taxpayer dollars. She didn't think it should be voted on now and that the recommendations need to be reworked. The Committee understood that email cannot be used for the decision after Rachel Brown's presentation. Chair Dannenberg said the Committee must finalize it now.

Member Betts asked what the four maintenance staff could handle and that a potential problem could be created in opening trails to all when they are not patrolled and not maintained. Sustainability of the trail is a criterion and the funds to maintain them.

Member Parker said it requires vision to see that it is appropriately designed without adverse impacts and resourced. The current language is not strong enough on that point.

Mr. Olafson said they were not voting as much as making suggestions for the consultants to consider. Chair Dannenberg wanted to make sure it is not two opposing philosophies - opening trails to all possible users and identifying reasons why they might not be multi-use versus, "we don't want to go there. We just want to go ahead and segregate trails now." Member Cedeño didn't want to go that way and said we don't need to if everyone would agree that the consultants must use the data to determine the trail use. Member Pike recalled that Ms. Horn said the soil composition on the back country trail dictated the use separation.

Ms. Lohmann said we need to submit our comments about what is not in the plan that still needs to be included. Chair Dannenberg thought the open questions on the northernmost trail would be answered if the

comments are submitted.

Member Parker said all other County trails have been multi-purpose. Everyone understands that. But Thornton Ranch has unique features. Part of that was underscored by participation of the tribal community. Preservation is a big issue here and recreational use is only allowed as long as it doesn't conflict with preservation. Fundamentally, it comes down to preservation being really emphasized in this plan. Yet, he understood what Member Murphy is saying. If only 3 miles is allowed for horses, why bother? Member Cedeño asked what Member Parker would recommend, based on his previous comment. Member Parker agreed they should be multi-use "unless such uses conflict with preservation."

Chair Dannenberg said we should not take out "during the process of trail design." A key point to make is that the trails are not yet designed. Member Cedeño felt that as long as it does not adversely affect preservation is a key data point. He asked Mr. Olafson if there have been horses on the rail trail piece that just opened. Ms. Lohmann said that is a much different trail than what is proposed here. The Rail Trail is wide, stabilized, very different. She thought there was not much data on its use. Member Parker advocated to keep language about no adverse effects on preservation so those could be explored more deeply in the management plan.

Chair Dannenberg pointed out that trails will be a critical point in tribal consultations. Member Cedeño noted they have already agreed to not have trails near archaeological sites. Chair Dannenberg agreed but the trail locations are not set in stone yet. COLTPAC needs to make a philosophical statement about how we feel, and move on. Member Pike added that the more specific our comments can be, the better it will be. The trails are not evident in the plan she was looking at and that made it more difficult for her.

Chair Dannenberg moved on to impact of dogs. At the last meeting, the impact of dogs wasn't proven out with the answers we got. Wildlife impact was mentioned and a statement that dog waste was hazardous waste. We are leaning toward dog use as we are leaning toward multi-use, unless someone can say that it is not a good idea.

Member Betts said what was missing was distinction between dogs allowed and leashed dogs allowed since they would be under control. The County says dogs must be on the leash and under control. Member Cedeño pointed out that some people come in with dogs on the leash but don't keep them on the leash and we can't monitor the whole area but still need to have them leashed. At the Cerrillos Hills park, they have part-time rangers but they could not do the whole park. Without monitoring, restrictions cannot be very useful.

Member Parker thought we could have proscriptions. But there is no policing on these County properties. That is why he had issues with restricting equestrian use. With a sign, most people will be compliant. However, that kind of specificity might better be in the management plan. He has dogs, too. Bag dispensers could be provided. Member Murphy agreed. It is a good idea. Without the signs and the bag dispensers, people are less likely to pick it up. Member Betts asked, if a dog is off-leash who an observer would call for enforcement. Ms. Lohmann said it would be the County Sheriff.

Ms. Lohmann said that safety was at the top of her list because of the changes stated. Member Murphy

said the second sentence was taken out. Ms. Lohmann explained that they put the second sentence into the first sentence. Chair Dannenberg said that brings it out as a front and center issue. The Committee accepted the Safety sentence.

Member Murphy asked if the Committee could look at this again on the 15th with these changes. Chair Dannenberg said they could but it would be already rolled in. Mr. Olafson agreed. And there is no reason why COLTPAC cannot clarify points at the end. Member Murphy liked Member Cedeño's statement earlier that it is comments and not recommendations.

Member Pike asked if the Committee wants to reiterate ongoing maintenance. Member Parker said it is in there on the second page - second paragraph down. Chair Dannenberg thought we brought out site protection but not ongoing maintenance. Ms. Lohmann said the Committee will have a chance to review that in the management plan. Member Parker liked where it was, under cultural resource protection. Member Pike said there is research on manure and herbicides to consider.

Mr. Olafson asked if there is something we haven't addressed. Member Pike suggested support for regional trail systems. Member Parker said that was in there. Member Betts would like to emphasize potential connector trails in there. Member Pike suggested development of the regional trails system.

Mr. Olafson said Staff will go ahead and submit this and incorporate the feedback on the Master Plan. Then we can do another review for further input at a future date. Chair Dannenberg said it will be as input to the Thornton Ranch Master Plan and a process to provide further input in June or July.

Chair Dannenberg thought the Committee should vote to submit this. Member Parker noted that we've made notes on the screen and the staff will modify it for Chair Dannenberg's signature. Ms. Lohmann said it is not even for Chair Dannenberg's signature. "Mr. Olafson and I will make a good effort to make this as minimally revised so consultants can incorporate it."

Member Siegel moved to direct Staff to take comments and make the changes and distribute them to the members. Member Murphy seconded the motion which passed by voice vote with all voting in favor except Member Pike and Member Betts, who abstained. (5-0-2)

9. ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items.

10. NEXT MEETING: March 1, 2017

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Approved by:

Dave Dannenberg, Chair

Attest:

Geraldine Salazar, County Clerk

Submitted by:

4-11-2017

Carl Boaz for Carl G. Boaz, Inc.

COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

COLTPAC MINUTES
PAGES: 9

[Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 12TH Day Of April, 2017 at 09:35:05 AM
and Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1822813
of The Records Of Santa Fe County



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