

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

**June 3, 2015**

S F C C L E R K R E C O R D E D 0 9 / 1 5 / 2 0 1 5

**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 Vice-Chair Zach Taylor 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**

Zach Taylor, Vice-Chair  
William Baker  
Devin Bent  
Patricia Conoway  
Almudena Ortíz Cué  
Judy Kowalski  
Ernesto Ortega  
John Parker

**Members Absent**

Dave Dannenberg, Chair [excused]

**Staff Members Present**

Maria Lohmann, Open Space and Trails Planner

**Others Present**

John Barney, invited guest  
Margaret Sears, interested citizen  
Bill Johnson, former member

**3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Dr. Bent asked for time to present the Community Farm Proposal under Matters from the Committee.

The amendment was accepted by unanimous show of hands.

Ms. Lohmann asked to add the Maps Sub-Committee report under Matters from the Committee.

**By consensus, the agenda was adopted as amended.**

Vice-Chair Taylor asked the visitors to introduce themselves which they did.

#### **4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – May 19, 2015**

Dr. Bent said that to say the Community Farm project fizzled out was not accurate. It is not dead in the water but the process has slowed down. He asked that the minutes be amended to delete “fizzled out” and insert “slowed down.”

**Ms. Conoway moved to approve the minutes of May 19, 2015 as amended. Mr. Parker seconded the motion and it passed with all voting in favor except Ms. Kowalski who abstained.**

#### **5. MATTERS OF PUBLIC CONCERN**

Ms. Margaret Sears said she was concerned about the destruction of trails between Santa Fé and Eldorado. Specifically, she said there is an overreach to “gentrify” the trail. It was a great trail and little needed to be done to it. It was good as a dirt trail and only two places were difficult, both near the trestle. People who travel it, especially the bikers, have been great. Some don’t know the rules of the road. I’ve hiked it for 30 years and made good friends who are also concerned about the recent changes. The bikers are now taking their half out of the middle. She didn’t like the size of the pebbles either. It is too much, in general. In the past the bikers would slow down or go to the side or call out their presence behind pedestrians. She just didn’t hike it any more, even though the trail is just five minutes from her house.

Ms. Lohmann explained to her that there are federal regulations to comply with since it is by the railroad tracks. Even though it is not technically an active line, Santa Fé Southern does use it once in a while.

Mr. Parker added that the trail was in violation for years but it wasn’t a designed trail. Once the County improves it, they have to comply with those regulations like line of sight. He commuted on it with his bicycle for many years but the line of sight wasn’t good. There were changes in alignment that had to be made including moving it further from the tracks.

Vice-Chair Taylor asked if signs to bikers could make that better.

Ms. Lohmann said it is at the top of Carol Branch's list for next year and she is making signs and laminating them and putting them up.

Dr. Bent agreed that line of sight is a problem. He asked if they could put a dotted line down the center.

Mr. Parker said no because it is gravel.

Ms. Kowalski agreed that education is needed.

Vice-Chair Taylor suggested that the "adopt a trail" program might help.

Ms. Lohmann said the entire Rail Trail was adopted by Steve Griego but possibly they could break it into sections.

Mr. Johnson said Mr. Griego put in some speed bumps that cause problems for some.

Ms. Lohmann, in response to Ms. Ortíz Cué, said adoption means having a sponsor who works with Carol Branch on maintenance. Steve is more proactive. Where Steve has been working, a lot the trail was damaged by the rains last year and he improved that section. The County doesn't have the money so trail stewards do the work. He is communicating with Carol Branch on it.

Vice-Chair Taylor wondered if Ms. Sears could adopt part of the trail close to her house, perhaps which would help.

Mr. Parker said that Steve was trying to have a more natural track and just told him that those who didn't like the improved trail could just ride on the other side. So Steve didn't take it on himself.

Ms. Lohmann said there is no timetable for signage. There are lots of needs to accomplish so it probably won't happen this summer.

Mr. Parker said although it is not a panacea but signs and education and patrols are needed as important tools.

Ms. Sears said she appreciated the time. By and large, she didn't like the Rail Trail not but she likes the other county trails, particularly Galisteo and Arroyo Hondo.

Vice-Chair Taylor thanked her for attending.

## **6. MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE**

## **A. BCC Presentation Update**

Ms. Lohmann and Dave Dannenberg presented to the BCC recently and Mr. Dannenberg gave an update on the Committee priorities of Thornton Ranch, Romero Park, Management Plans and the Refresh of the 2000 Plan. There was great discussion. Commissioner Anaya is interested in more land acquisition and the refresh of the old plan. It was all positive.

Mr. Ortega also made a presentation regarding trying to get the NPS building as a national monument. That was constructed by CCC boys in 1937. NPS doesn't have enough money to maintain it properly so he presented that need to the BCC. He got a memorial at the Legislature and a Resolution at City Council and intends to get it on the National Register of Historic Places. The Department of Interior requires local support for a monument so he presented to prove local support.

Ms. Lohmann said Open Space will probably get \$6 million out of the bond. The other project is big infrastructure improvements of properties like Thornton Ranch and Romero Park, Phase 2.

Mr. Barney said Los Alamos allocations for open space is higher per capita than anywhere else in the state.

Ms. Kowalski asked to hear from Mr. Barney next.

## **7. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **A. Presentation and discussion - Bernalillo County Open Space Planning Process - John Barney**

Mr. Barney introduced himself as Parks & Open Space Planning Manager for Bernalillo County and showed a Power Point which is similar to what he will be presenting to BCC as their Master Plan.

Mr. Barney shared many slides that presented data from their planning and analysis work for the County. He explained that Bernalillo County is divided into nine neighborhood community center areas each of which will have its own separate Master Plan and, when completed, would be merged into one overall 15-year (from 2015-2030) Master Plan for the County.

His presentation provided flow charts on the process used for their planning work. Some highlights included incarceration of 3% of the population and those expenses rob other departments of sufficient funding such as provision of senior meal centers and community health programs. He noted that most facilities for the County are clustered in

the South Valley, the North Valley and the East Mountain areas. But rapid growth on the far west side is spurring the need for more services and facilities in that area. He said the County would be investing \$37 million in this plan.

Ms. Conoway asked if the \$37 million was for 15 years.

Mr. Barney said it was for six years through three bond issues. Their goal is to have 20 acres per thousand people for parks and open space.

Ms. Lohmann said Santa Fe County has four growth management areas (not 9) and the GIS inventory puts the four into three. The County can use this as a model for its plans. We do use NPRA standards and they don't always work for rural counties.

Ms. Kowalski said the trend is that swimming pools are closing over the years because they are hard to maintain, because of chemistry, and safety. The next step for any plan is to locate funding for the cost of services.

Mr. Barney agreed that is the next step they are working on and they need a separate tax for some of it.

#### **B. Discussion of Scope of Santa Fe County Open Space and Trails Plan Update**

This item was not discussed.

### **6. MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE (continued)**

#### **B. Maps Subcommittee**

Dr. Bent said that COLTPAC needs to view the map as in process. The original maps in 2000 had resources we don't have today. It is very important to update the map and establish our ownership of it. When SLDC goes into effect, any trail not on the map needs to come to us. And a major developer could obliterate it unless we have a trail there and they have to follow that plan.

He said on a recent Monday night where the new community plans were presented, he saw the Pojoaque plan and the trail they had for there was not on the map. He looked at all the plans from La Cienega northward and most of them have no trails on the maps. We need to work with communities more and get the trails they want.

Mr. Baker provided a handout for the southern part of the County. He said Edgewood is the fastest growing area in New Mexico and the proposed map goes from Galisteo to Moriarty and needs to connect with Edgewood.

Ms. Lohmann laid out the Proposed Trail Corridors of Santa Fé County on the table. She said the official open space and trails map is from the County Growth Management Plan in 2013.

Mr. Baker said the growth area is along Highway 344 and connects to Turquoise Trail. In 2009, the San Pedro Mountains were closed to the public and now BLM has decided it should be open.

Edgewood's first priority is to connect with the San Pedro Mountains and eventually to Lamy and Galisteo. So we need to grab the elements from the 2000 Plan and add in the San Pedro Mountain trails.

There is no service to the southern part of the County. One was proposed in 2000 and nothing was ever done with it.

Dr. Bent said there was a plan to run that trail the whole length of the County.

Mr. Baker agreed. The 2000 plan was very appropriate.

Mr. Parker said there is a group studying the 295 corridor. It is just a corridor plan though. If we include Galisteo Basin trails we should probably include Eldorado trails also and might want to engage with ECIA. None of the newer trails are on the map like La Tierra and all that has been going on in Santa Fe.

Ms. Kowalski agreed that all trails should be on the map even if they are not County trails. For the SLDC part there are glaring omissions.

Vice-Chair Taylor asked if the Committee could come up with three or four priorities from those glaring omissions.

Ms. Lohmann listed three of them.

Mr. Parker said the members need to work with the Committee now to redefine some objectives over a longer term.

### **C. Community Farm Issue**

This item was not considered because of the lateness of the hour.

## **8. MATTERS FROM COUNTY STAFF**

### **A. Open Space Staff Updates**

Ms. Lohmann reported on her meeting with the Ecotone team who were awarded the contract for management plans. They have a great team that includes Corner Store, River Source, Dr. Rich Sharder, and two women from Surroundings - Sandra and Faye. She said they will make a presentation to COLTPAC at the July meeting. So they will rely on the Committee's input as well.

Ms. Lohmann said a consultant has been selected on the Petroglyph Hill Planning RFP. It is Conservation By Design from Silver City. The contract will be signed this week. They have lots of experience and by far the best proposal.

She announced that Santa Fé Botanical Garden has pulled out of Ortiz Mountains and she hoped for a transitional plan by the end of June. So she is meeting with them and their docents to see how everyone can be involved for the basic operations and then work on the access issue.

Ms. Conoway said to deny access is a very big deal.

Ms. Lohmann said the deal is that Santa Fé Botanical Gardens had concerns with the access easement. There is a legal easement but it is not a public access easement by the County or its representative. So no you couldn't go there by yourself and have to be escorted and that will still be the case. The mining company goes out regularly because they don't want people wandering around their property.

Ms. Conoway said some people sneak in there to mine gold.

Ms. Lohmann said that at this point, the County will do what Botanical Gardens was doing in leading hikes. The hike is a little more than 4 miles. In the meantime, the County will analyze alternative access points. It will be a challenge. One of them to investigate is called the Ball Ranch (from the Ball Jars family).

Ms. Lohmann said she was going to help COLTPAC identify the properties she has identified as part of them. She agreed to send that ahead of time to the members.

Ms. Lohmann invited the members to the sign unveiling that Carol Branch mounted at La Piedra Peak on Friday, June 5 at 11:00 with lunch at the Sierra del Norte trailhead. She mentioned that La Piedra is a little steep.

Mr. Johnson clarified that the signage is not at the hardest part.

## **B. Revisit focus group topics and potential stakeholders**

This item was not considered because the scheduled meeting time had been used up.

**C. GIS Resources Inventory mapping tool demonstration**

This item was not considered because the scheduled meeting time had been used up.

**9. ACTION ITEMS**

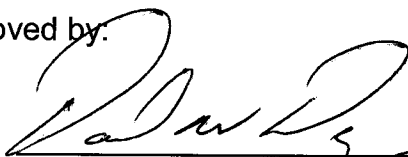
There were no action items.

**10. NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, July 1, 2015**

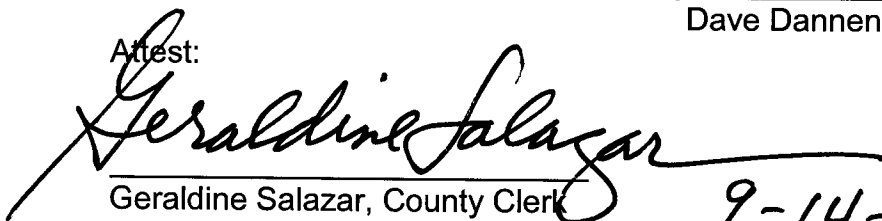
**11. Adjournment**

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

Approved by:

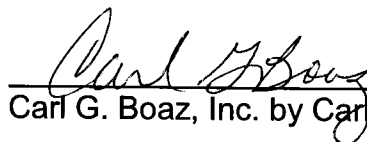
  
Dave Dannenberg, Chair

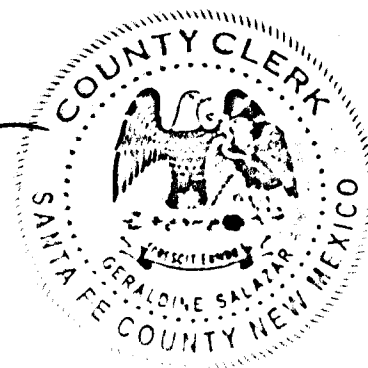
Attest:

  
Geraldine Salazar, County Clerk

9-14-2015

Submitted by:

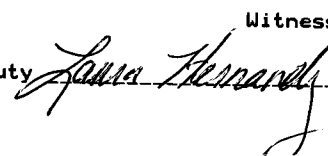
  
Carl G. Boaz, Inc. by Carl G. Boaz



COUNTY OF SANTA FE )  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO ) ss

COLTPAC MINUTES  
PAGES: 8

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for  
Record On The 15TH Day Of September, 2015 at 09:01:25 AM  
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1774545  
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

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