

**MINUTES OF THE
SANTA FÉ COUNTY
COUNTY OPEN LAND TRAILS AND PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(COLTPAC)
September 6, 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 Cedeño 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
Ernesto Ortega
Jean Pike

Members Absent

Linda Siegel [excused]

Staff Members Present

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

Others Present

Jessie Lawrence, Rancho Viejo
Carl Boaz, Stenographer

Ms. Lohmann announced that Jeannie has resigned because she is moving away from Santa Fe. The vacancy will be announced that we are looking for another member.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Dannenberg said a clerical error omitted the priorities discussion and added it as 6A.

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 - August 2, 2017

Member Ortega moved to approve the minutes of August 2, 2017 as presented. Member Cedeño seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

5. MATTERS OF PUBLIC CONCERN

Chair Dannenberg reported a public comment by phone with a gentleman named Lotrell Bullard, from Austin Texas concerned that dog leash laws be enforced in the county.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Priorities Discussion

Chair Dannenberg said this is in preparation for a BCC presentation and suggested 6:35 to end the discussion. He handed out a brief outline with bullet points and said he and Staff and Member Parker would draft the presentation.

Member Pike had a couple of things on open space that might have changed since the last presentation. One was for concerns with climate change and how we can be specific about mitigating the effects of climate change. The County might have to hire an eco-systems engineer.

Member Cedeño asked for a brief description of the items on the list.

Chair Dannenberg reviewed them:

1. Committee progress.
2. How the Open Space, Trails and Parks program has changed and how County management should respond. There are several management plans and some queued up for short term activity. He viewed the Open Space program as a trajectory with increasing slope of expenses. When management plans are in place, how to rein in the property with budgeted resources.
3. Urgent projects - some were listed.
4. Regional trails and Mr. Olafson's partnerships priority.

Member Betts asked about partnerships more specifically. Ms. Lohmann said more monitoring is needed and suggested they partner with Audubon for bird counts, for instance. Member Betts felt they must be tied to objectives or management plans at specific locations so it is not just Audubon picking a location of their choice.

5. COLTPAC's role moving forward, i.e. change in charter, etc. and continued advocacy for open space and parks.

The new priority Member Pike brought up should be added and a larger role in recommendations and guidance on stewardship and state and federal issues and encourage BCC to make resolutions on them.

Member Cedeño said that puts us in an advocacy role and wondered if that fits with our current resolution. Said not directly but he put it in because of the change in budget responsibility. With meeting just once a month it is hard to include that. Member Parker cautioned that it infers micro management. It is okay with the broader scale items but not line by line, which is not helpful to County. Member Murphy said that is interfering.

Mr. Olafson said COLTPAC has never looked at the annual budget since 2002 to consider daily operations but has made recommendations on capital expenditures. The Committee identifies the vision and makes recommendations in light of the vision.

Member Parker thought an annual report would be good. We don't have to write a very studious response to it but to identify our concerns at this table.

Member Ortega said the vision comes through the five-year and ten-year management plans and identifying staffing roles and maintenance, etc. as input.

Member Pike asked if they could have a semi-annual budget review and a discussion of how the projects are tracking. That is what we are talking about in these plans.

The Committee discussed what should be included in their work and how best to communicate it. They decided it would be best to leave it broad.

Mr. Olafson emphasized that the Committee is to advise BCC on open space and trails and how that would happen.

Chair Dannenberg reminded the Committee that any revisions to the resolution would require requesting and getting approval by the BCC.

Chair Dannenberg said the presentation should be drafted by the next meeting.

B. Thornton Ranch Open Space Planning Process Overview

Ms. Lohmann received comments mostly about text changes and clarification questions. She will not make changes to the documents until she has everyone's comments and thoughts. For now, she wanted to hear how the members about the document and have time for discussion. She is still planning to bring them to BCC on October 17 and haven't received many public comments except "good job." So at the October meeting, we will make a recommendation to BCC.

Member Betts had questions about law enforcement; Member Murphy about erosion control, Chair Dannenberg about Dogs.

Member Pike wanted emphasis on preservation - trying to keep things from changing on Thornton Ranch - ecological monitoring. It is already degraded with overgrazing and arroyos and she would like to see more emphasis on restoration. She understood the preservation of archaeological resources but asked

what we are doing on the trails,

Ms. Lohmann said it includes interpretive programming and signage.

Member Betts pointed out this is the first management plan that calls for a law enforcement officer. Will this peace officer be limited only to Thornton Ranch or also for other properties?

Ms. Lohmann didn't said ideally just for Thornton Ranch but that is a harder sell. It was recommended because of the cultural resources - more like the Cerrillos Hills Park Ranger. It would be more interpretive programming than just carrying a gun - encouraging folks to respect the resources. She asked if she needed to discuss more on why we need law enforcement. Several members agreed.

Chair Dannenberg thought park ranger was appropriate. Member Betts thought the Sheriff's Office has some responsibility but they already are working as peace officers. A specialist in interpretation and law enforcement is needed and should be clarified what the ranger is trying to accomplish and not relief for sheriff's workload.

Mr. Olafson said they would recommend funding that position but not drill down on the specific duties. Ms. Lohmann would say it is both interpretive and enforcement and working with Sheriff.

Ms. Lohmann agreed to add language on erosion in the monitoring section for land restoration and regeneration as a focus and the onus not just on human impact but climate change also.

The Committee discussed allowing dogs and supported limiting them to the interpretation areas on leashes; posting signage about dogs at the entrance and providing disposal bags/containers for their owners. By consensus, the Committee agreed to those specifics.

Interpretative signage will be used at the beginning and the option of docents is left open. They haven't figured out co-management yet.

- Recreational Balance vs. respect for Resources - Chair Dannenberg felt recreation was almost excluded and it needs better balance in the Master Plan. Mr. Olafson said that is a transfer to the management plan.
- Threshold - Ms. Lohmann said the intent is when you park your car, you cross over a Threshold and put signs at a place for entrance trail with interpretation to explain why no dogs or you should not get off the trail or don't pick up anything - sets the stage for respect of the property. She said there will be bathrooms but not right at the entrance.
- Process around monitoring - Member Pike wanted more specific on the assessments and monitoring. Mr. Olafson said the annual review will include assessment and ongoing monitoring.
- Special Use Permits - is to restrict film making from the uses. The intent was to not let people drive their trucks through, etc. They need to outline a process for someone filming a documentary.

- Connectors with Galisteo Basin - Regional trail connections are proposed and when ready to develop them, to negotiate with new owners if there are any.

Ms. Lohmann said the time line for all review to be finished is the 17th and welcomed more before then.

B. Discussion and Ranking of potential property acquisition, Rancho Viejo Area 5 and 6

Ms. Jessie Lawrence was present to represent the property owner for the property at I-25 and Old Las Vegas Corridor which the Committee visited on August 18 and to answer the Committee's questions. She said this property has never been on the market and never been fenced. The owner is okay with limitations imposed but would prefer that be at the discretion of the County and not the owner. They are donating the property through the open space program but they don't want to make the statement that it is only for open space. There were trespassers about twenty years ago but none recently.

Member Parker asked if an Environmental Assessment was needed. There was an old filling station across the way and gas can move underground. Ms. Lawrence was not aware of any Environmental Assessment. It has been vacant for a long time. Ms. Lohmann said that will be a County responsibility if we move forward. Mr. Olafson said it should be discussed prior to a BCC recommendation. There could be some cost and we don't have an account for that. If the County accepts it, the County accepts management of it but that role is very limited until something bad happens.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION (as needed)

A. Discussion of the Purchase, Acquisition or Disposal of Real Property or Water Rights, as allowed by Section 10-15-1(H) (8) NMSA 1978, and pertaining to Rancho Viejo Area 5 and 6

The discussion took place in closed session and is not a part of these minutes.

8. ACTION ITEMS

A. Recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners regarding property acquisition

The Committee discussed the results of their evaluation and concluded that this property doesn't have a great deal of natural resources but the price is low and maintenance is low and it is just that corridor.

Ms. Lohmann said invitations were sent to neighborhood organizations to attend and present any concerns and no one came.

Member Betts suggested it could be acquired as a land bank that could be sold later. Other members were not sure about that use and they discussed the pros and cons. And the possibility of using a small portion for possibly a water dispenser or some other public use.

Member Murphy moved to accept the donation without conditions. Member Parker seconded the motion and five members voted in favor.

Member Murphy then moved to accept the donation with potential unspecified conditions. Member Parker seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

9. MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Member Murphy announced a horse ride/bike ride on September 23rd at La Tierra Trail with free barbecue afterwards.

10. MATTERS FROM COUNTY STAFF

There were no matters from County Staff.

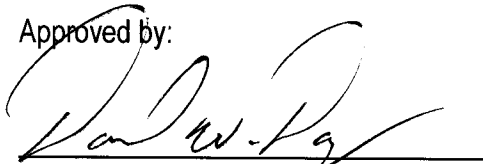
11. NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, October 4, 2017

12. ADJOURNMENT

Member Murphy moved to adjourn the meeting. Member Ortega seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

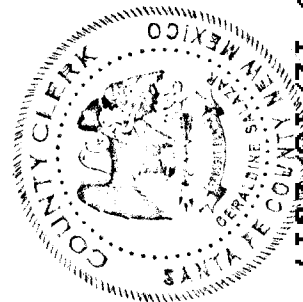
The meeting was adjourned at 8:15.

Approved by:

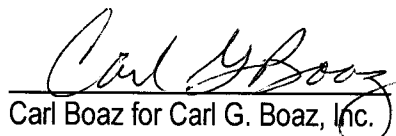

Dave Dannenberg, Chair

Attest:


Geraldine Salazar, County Clerk




Submitted by:


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 18TH Day Of December, 2017 at 02:08:20 PM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1844022
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

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

