

SANTA FE COUNTY
SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

October 21, 2009

This special presentations meeting of the Santa Fe Board of County Commissioners was called to order at approximately 10:10 a.m. by Vice Chair Harry Montoya, in the Santa Fe County Commission Chambers, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance and State Pledge, roll was called by County Clerk Valerie Espinoza and indicated the presence of a quorum as follows:

Members Present:

Commissioner Harry Montoya, Vice Chair
Commissioner Kathleen Holian
Commissioner Liz Stefanics
Commissioner Virginia Vigil

Members absent:

Commissioner Mike Anaya, Chair

V. INVOCATION

An invocation was given by Gigi Gonzales.

VI. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Items VII G and B were tabled and VII. O was moved to be heard following F.

Upon motion by Commissioner Vigil and second by Commissioner Holian, the agenda was unanimously approved as modified.

VII. PRESENTATIONS

A. Honoring our Living Treasures

Commissioner Vigil said she was honored to have the privilege of reading biographical information about each of the Living Treasures.

1. Amarante Romero

Commissioner Vigil said Amarante Romero has ranched cattle, farmed in Agua Fria, sold wood brought in from the mountains, owned a gas station and grocery store – where he generously extended credits to his neighbors, and provided water to other village members. Politicians frequented the Romero store as a place to campaign. In fact, Governor Bruce King used Mr. Romero as an interpreter. He loves the land and knows the true value of water. His goal was always to protect groundwater and develop solutions for water use. For 35 years he worked with the City and County to develop codes and he helped draft the family transfer ordinance, the first affordable housing program.

Mr. Romero was presented the certificate of a Santa Fe County Living Treasure.

He received a standing ovation and photos were taken with the Commission and his extended Agua Fria Village family.

Mr. Romero addressed those present thanking the Commission for the presentation and particularly expressed his thanks to Commissioner Vigil. Mr. Romero said he did volunteer work for Santa Fe County for 35 years and was proud of his work for the community – Santa Fe County.

2. Jack Loeffler

Commissioner Vigil said Jack Loeffler is incredibly impressive. He is a man of a life time of adventures. A jazz musician, professional jazz and classical music recorder, environmental activist, a folklorist, a practical anthropologist, sound engineer, and radio producer to mention a few of his passions.

Mr. Loeffler has interviewed and recorded writers, visual artists, traditional indigenous people, musicians and ordinary people who live in every region of the state. As a master artist in ethnomusicology, Mr. Loeffler has set extremely high standards for sound quality and editing. Through his artistic recordings, he has exposed the world to traditional Hispano and Native American music and culture.

Mr. Loeffler received a standing ovation and was recognized as a Living Treasure.

Mr. Loeffler said it is an unanticipated honor and he recalled David Noble back in 1973 when they met with the Santa Fe Planning Commission and stated the Santa Fe Canyon Association. He thanked everyone and said it has been wonderful to lead his life in this fantastic tapestry of life this region offers. He said it was an honor to record narratives and music which serve to preserve the rich tradition of this region.

3. Zenia Victor and Gaylon Duke

Commissioner Vigil said Zenia Victor and Gaylon Duke are known as the “Dynamite Duo.” These two individuals have contributed to the community as teachers, foster parents, counselors, mentors, guides, administrators, healers, peacemakers, and visionaries. They are quiet community builders working to break down barriers. They believe once a young person is exposed to cultures other than their own their life will be changed for the better. They are seasoned travelers and a decade ago they combined their love of youth and travel to create the Bali Art Project. They provide youth five weeks to study the culture and Balinese way of life. These students learn and gain a new appreciation of the world teaching them core values.

A certificate was presented to Zenia Victor and Gaylon Duke.

Mr. Duke said he was appreciative of the award and the one of the great things he has found has been the other people they have spent time with. He said he was honored to be a part of the Living Treasure program.

B. Recognition of Tamara Lichtenstein for Outstanding Community Service

Commissioner Vigil said a statue should be erected to honor Tamara Lichtenstein’s impeccable, honorable and distinguished service to the Village of Agua Fria. She has lived in Santa Fe County since 1988 and in the village since 1991 and is one of the founding members and village association. Tamara’s husband, artist Michael Burke, has an art studio in the village where they live with their daughter. Ms. Lichtenstein has presided over many village meetings and maintains the Village’s institutional memory. Ms. Lichtenstein is recognized for the value, quality, commitment and dedication that she has given to the community.

Commissioner Vigil read the certificate of outstanding community services.

Ms. Lichtenstein was presented the plaque, received a standing ovation and photographs were taken.

Ms. Lichtenstein thanked the Commission for the honor and said she appreciates what the Commissioners do for the County; they are the unsung heroes.

D. Retirement Recognition for Samuel Serna for 18 years of dedicated service

County Clerk Valerie Espinoza said Sam Serna worked in the Clerk's Office for a few short months but was a fast learner and never hesitated to help. He also worked at Espinoza Motor Company. Mr. Serna has worked at the County for 18 years, in the Land Use Department, Assessor's Office and the Clerk's Office. He has demonstrated a solid work ethic and his kind ways will be missed by all.

A plaque was presented to Mr. Serna in recognition of his years of service.

Mr. Serna thanked the people of Santa Fe County. He said he had wonderful friends in the County and it has been a family to him. He mentioned he worked with Frederico Vigil on the murals and was proud of his ancestry as a New Mexican.

Commissioner Montoya thanked Mr. Serna for his contributions to County.

E. Retirement Recognition for David Bibb II for dedicated service to the Santa Fe County Sheriff's Department

Sheriff Solano said he was honored to be part of this presentation on Mr. Bibb's service not only to Santa Fe County but also to the country. Deputy Bibb retired from the County and he now serves in the National Guard. Sheriff Solano thanked him for his service to the county and the country.

A plaque in recognition of his service was given. Photos were taken and standing ovation.

Deputy Bibb thanked the Santa Fe County Sheriff's Department for the opportunity to serve on the team. He said being a deputy sheriff in this county has been a highlight of his career. He thanked everyone for the opportunity to be affiliated with Santa Fe County.

F. Retirement recognition for Isabel Naranjo for 20 years and 7 months of dedicated service to the Human Resources Department

Bernadette Salazar, Director HR Department, said Ms. Naranjo was not present today and she said she started as a secretary and has worked for the Benefits Division and helped the employees. Her award will be presented later.

G. Presentation by Vicki Pozzebon, Executive Director for Santa Fe Alliance to Discuss the Food and Fuels Project

Commissioner Holian said Santa Fe County was very fortunate to have Vicki Pozzebon educating the community on what it means to buy local: that a dollar spent in the community is more likely to stay in the community and be spent again. The motto of the Alliance is to “buy, eat and hire local.” Commissioner Holian said she was pleased to announce that the County was partnering with the Alliance on projects.

Vicki Pozzebon said it was an honor to be here and the program has had great success. She provided a history of the Alliance which grew out of a roundtable of volunteer activists wanting to make an impact in the community in 2002. Since the initial meeting the Alliance has grown into a series of programs stemming from the Buy Local campaign. They publish a Buy Local Guide that features 600 businesses and non-profits who are members of the Alliance.

She said the Alliance’s Farm-to-Restaurant project, which started very small now includes 30 restaurants and is part of the Food and Fuels Project. The Alliance encourages local restaurants to buy local produce and for residents to eat at local restaurants. The program provides important business development through networking of regional farmers and all members of the Alliance. The Alliance has provided workshops on how to be a good citizen investing the people and how to market in this new economy. Currently they are working with legislators in hopes of closing corporate tax loopholes and providing more funds for education and health care.

Ms. Pozzebon said the Food and Fuels Project reaches into rural communities and connects the rural economy to urban economies. There are several leaders and she thanked Santa Fe County’s generous funding which helped them to leverage additional funds from the USDA. She also mentioned support from the Santa Fe Foundation.

Ms. Pozzebon said the Alliance believes that localizing the economy is the right thing to be doing right now.

Commissioner Stefanics thanked her for the presentation and asked if there was a connection with the City/County Food Policy Council and mentioned the always present need for food donations.

Commissioner Holian thanked Ms. Pozzebon for her tremendous contribution to the community and announced she would allocate an additional \$5,000 from her community

funds to the Food and Fuels program.

In response to a question posed by Commissioner Holian, Ms. Pozzebon said they are expanding green jobs training and connecting food and renewable energy to the youth of the community.

Commissioner Vigil asked that the Alliance interface with the Local Food Policy Commission and encouraged collaborative efforts.

Commissioner Montoya thanked her for her work.

H. Hat's Off Award to the Public Works Department

Commissioner Holian said Public Works is the face of the County to the community. She said she has received positive feedback from her constituents regarding the County roads and in particular the Sloman Land Bridge.

Robert Martinez, Public Works Director, said the crossing that existed prior to this project was a concrete low-water crossing with extensive erosion on the downstream side. Residents would need to wait for hours for the runoff to recede in order to return to their homes or to go into town. This is the only access that residents have to their homes and they were always fearful of emergency services not being able to respond to their loved ones when the arroyo was flowing.

The project started on October 21, 2008 and was completed on June 12, 2009. Public Works hired Southwest Designs, LLC to design the all-weather crossing using pre-engineered multi-plate culverts. These multi-plate culverts came in about 200 sections that had to be assembled like a puzzle. The total cost of this project, not including labor and equipment was about \$330,000. The cost to build this project by a contractor would have easily been double that amount. What makes this even more remarkable is that the crews built this structure while simultaneously maintaining the numerous miles of roads that Public Works is responsible for.

Mr. Martinez said he was proud of his team and this project makes an enormous impact in the Piñon Hills Subdivision. He identified the crews as follows:

<u>ROAD MAINTENANCE:</u>	<u>ROAD PROJECTS:</u>	<u>TRAFFIC ENGINEERING:</u>
Bernie Archuleta	Daniel Acosta	Dennis Gallegos
Chris Benavides	Andrew Armijo	Jeremy Martinez
Richard Chang	Curtis Belcher	Jesse Martinez
Andres Garcia	Adolph Campos	Ramon Romero
Leonard Hutches	Stacy Garcia	Alan Vigil

Julian Lopez	Diego Gonzales
James Martinez	Jonathan Gonzales
Lloyd Martinez	Johnny Gonzales
Jared Rivera	Larry Gonzales
Steve Rivera	Seferino Houston
Marcial Rodriguez	Chris Sena
James Salazar	
Ramon Trujillo	
Tony Trujillo	
Rick Varela	

A plaque was presented to Robert Martinez and members of the crew came forward for congratulations and photographs.

Commissioner Montoya said the bridge is a wonderful work of art and thanked them.

Commissioner Vigil recognized Santa Fe County Public Works as unsung heroes of the County.

I. Presentation and Report from the City/County Food Policy Council

Kathryn Mortimer, Chair of the Food Policy Council said the Council has been meeting since March. The council is composed of two County and two City representatives, four County appointments and five City appointments. The appointees all have food-related expertise. She introduced present council members.

Ms. Mortimer said the City and County passed a resolution to improve the availability of food to people in need and work to reduce poverty. The Council has developed a mission to create and maintain a regional food system for all people. The Council is working on a vision, strategy and priorities. Recently the Council forwarded a letter to Representative Ben Lujan regarding HR 1869 and the White House Conference on Food and Nutrition.

Commissioner Holian asked whether linking local farmers with local institutions has been considered – nursing homes, hospitals, schools etc. Ms. Mortimer said the Council has a Procurement Subcommittee that is exploring that issue and has been working with senior centers.

Commissioner Holian asked about food storage in the event of an emergency. Ms. Mortimer said that has been discussed with Sherry Hooper from the Angel Depot. The challenge is to assess what type of storage is available and the necessary volume and type of

storage. She said a list of dry and canned goods people should have in their homes has been developed and through the Council outreach campaigns they will educate and disseminate that information to the community.

Commissioner Holian thanked her and said the topic is relevant to the resilience of the community.

Commissioner Vigil advised Ms. Mortimer to connect with the Homeland Security planner and Martin Vigil.

Commissioner Vigil said she was pleased Ms. Mortimer was chairing the committee and mentioned Ms. Mortimer's strong background in sustainability.

Commissioner Stefanics asked whether any partners have been identified that are not at the table. Ms. Mortimer said at this point everyone they have contacted to participate has been receptive. She mentioned that the membership includes people with access to many organizations.

Commissioner Stefanics recalled that a few years ago there were a lot of State initiatives to reduce hunger. Churches were particularly active in this cause and have a large audience. She encouraged the Council to reach out to partners that would strengthen the cause.

J. Southwest NAHRO Commissioner of the Year Recognition

Dodi Salazar said National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials is a leading housing and community development advocate for the provision of adequate and affordable housing and strong, viable communities for all Americans – particularly those with low and moderate incomes. The members administer HUD programs such as Public Housing, Section 8, CDBG and HOME.

Ms. Salazar said Virginia Vigil was named the New Mexico Chapter NAHRO Commission of the Year. Commissioner Vigil was presented her award in June 2009 at the annual NAHRO conference in St. Louis, Missouri. Ms. Salazar said she was honored to present the award to Commissioner Vigil.

Commissioner Vigil received a standing ovation and photos were taken.

Commissioner Vigil thanked NAHRO for the tremendous honor they bestowed upon her. She said she ran on an affordable housing platform and continues to work on it. She acknowledged the work Ms. Salazar and her staff do for the community and mentioned the

efforts to better coordinate with the City in developing resources. She recognized the focus the Santa Fe County Commission has on providing affordable housing to the residents.

Commissioner Montoya congratulated Commissioner Vigil on her award and said it was well deserved for her ongoing efforts in promotion affordable housing.

K. Southwest NAHRO Award Presented to Deputy Michael Martinez

Ms. Salazar said the Southwest Regional Council NAHRO, which includes seven states, has an outstanding awards program. She said she was very proud that Santa Fe County's Housing Authority received three awards.

Karen Wilson, Housing Specialists Supervisor, said Deputy Michael Martinez fit the criteria for this award for meritorious accomplishment and contributions to the security and improvements of conditions for public housing. Deputy Martinez moved into the Santa Cruz site in January 2008 and since that time vandalism and graffiti have decreased and speed limit signs are posted in the area that he diligently enforces.

Ms. Wilson said Deputy Martinez has established good rapport with the adults and youth at the site and is respected and trusted.

Deputy Michael Martinez was presented an award and photos were taken.

Deputy Martinez thanked Housing Authority for the nomination which resulted in the award. He thanked the Sheriff's Department for their support and positive role model and noted that rather than going in with force, he worked on helping the community develop pride. Deputy Martinez acknowledged the tremendous support he receives from the Housing Authority.

L. Southwest NAHRO Award presented to Brenda Sandoval – Special Achievement by a graduate of the Family Self-Sufficiency Program

Valerie Huerta-Giron, Family Self-Sufficiency Program Coordinator, said the Santa Fe County Housing Authority strives to offer many opportunities to its residents. Since its inception of the FSS program has graduated over 30 participants. She described the five-year program and the goal setting mechanism.

Ms. Huerta-Giron said she nominated Brenda Sandoval because of her tremendous success on many levels. Ms. Sandoval completed a five-year program in two and a half years. She is a single parent of two young children, receives no child support, is involved in her son's PTA, has graduated college, and in March 2009 graduated from the FSS program

and used the \$3,475 that she earned from the program as a down payment on her first home. Ms. Huerta-Giron said Ms. Sandoval surpassed all expectations overcoming many obstacles, and she presented her the award.

Brenda Sandoval with her two children accepted the award, and received a standing ovation. Also present with Ms. Sandoval were her parents and many friends.

Ms. Sandoval thanked the Housing Authority and said without the support system she has her accomplishment would not have happened. She said she wanted to be an example to those parents that say, "I can't make it through school, that can't graduate, that can't get a good job, can't do community service...because I've done it and I want to be an example to every single person that falls that they can get up and still manage to achieve all their goals in life."

M. Southwest NAHRO Award presented to the Santa Fe County Housing Authority Community Garden

Ms. Salazar said the Housing Authority submitted this nomination because the community garden provided a sense of pride to the community residents. This award is for the Camino de Jacobo Resident Council who started a community garden. The residents did all the prep work in planning for the garden, worked evenings and weekends, used rainwater and obtained donations for the plants, seeds and tools. She said the garden was very successful and expanded to vegetable cooking courses.

Ms. Salazar presented the award to resident community leader Michelle Hoffman. Photos were taken.

Ms. Hoffman displayed some of the garden's produce and thanked the Commission for the recognition. She said the garden is located on a plot of land that had never been tilled until this garden started less than two years ago. Ms. Hoffman said she understood the residents of Santa Cruz have been influenced and want to start a garden.

Commissioner Holian said she was really pleased with the program and thanked Ms. Hoffman for her work. Commissioner Holian said community gardens are great for bringing people together and she hoped the landscaping contract will extend the concept to the entire site.

N. Recognition of the Individuals who participated on the Camino de Jacobo Mural Project

Ms. Salazar said the mural project was an enormous undertaking with a 900-foot long wall. The mural took several hundred man-hours to complete. Once completed the mural the was dedicated to County Manager Roman Abeyta who lived at Camino de Jacobo as a child and Commissioner Vigil who helped fund the project and in whose district it resides.

A slide show of the mural creation was shown. Ms. Salazar identified the collaborators on the project as follows: Teen Court, Alice Sealey, Jennifer Romero, Melody Perez; Fine Arts for Children, Julia Bergen and Anna Marie Tuteria Manriquez; the Boys and Girls Club, Al Padilla, Chris Cavazo, Brian Chavez and the children of the program; and Housing Authority staff. Ms. Salazar said without her dedicated staff none of these extra projects would happen. Lead artists Gary Meyers, Carlos Cervantes, Damien Romero, and Pablo Alcona. The Teen Court participants included Melvin Alexandra, Angel Baca, Melody Chavez, Jacob Cohen, Kendall Courier, Robert Duran, Pedro Garcia, Johnny Glaze, Chanel Herrera, Jason Lopez, Miguel Mercado, Brianna Montoya, Gabby Montoya Segura, Eric Rodriguez, Crystal Sarmiento, Emily Souder, Kimberly Terronez, and Daniel Vargas.

Also recognized were Camino de Jacobo housing residents Angela Montoya, Zachary Montoya, Shaun Ang, Franky Ang, Laura Curtis, Courtney Roberts, Abby Roberts, Susie Romero, Ebony Martinez, Carlotta Alcazar, Angelica Alcazar, Ralph Alcazar, Joyce Gomez, Grant Bishop, Brenda Saez, Michelle Hoffman, Robert Dalton and A. Amaya. She gave special thanks to Robert Dalton who cooked for the barbeque.

Ms. Salazar said this was a huge project and could not have been accomplished without the tremendous contributions of all those people she mentioned. She invited the participants of the project to come forward and photos were taken.

A Teen Court representative thanked the Commission for their continued support. A representative from Fine Arts for Children and Teens thanked her artists and the Commission for their support.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was declared adjourned before noon.

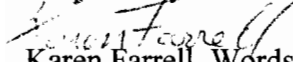
Approved by:

Board of County Commissioners
Harry Montoya, Vice Chair

ATTEST TO:

VALERIE ESPINOZA
SANTA FE COUNTY CLERK

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