

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

Thursday, December 13, 2012

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 Sam Pallin at the Santa Fé County Community Projects Conference Room, 901 West Alameda, Santa Fé, New Mexico.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll Call indicated the presence of a quorum as follows:

Members Present

Sam Pallin
Judy Kowalski, Vice Chair
Melissa Houser
William Hutchinson
Sandra Massengill
Jerry Rogers
Scott Stovall

Members Absent

Matthew Montoya
Michael Patrick [excused]

Staff Members Present

Colleen Baker
Beth Mills

Others Present

Bill Johnson
Bill Baxter
Brent Bonwell

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Dr. Mills asked if they should discuss the volunteer coordinator before approving the recommendation. Chair Pallin agreed.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 15, 2012

Ms. Houser moved to approve the November 15, 2012 minutes as presented. Ms. Kowalski seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

SEC CLERK RECORDED 04/09/2013

5. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no matters from the public.

6. MATTERS FROM OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS STAFF

A. Representation for January joint meeting with POSAC and BTAC

Dr. Mills said Ms. Kowalski suggested waiting on this until January with the new committee.

B. Update on Glorieta Baptist Center ROW easement

Dr. Mills met with Charlie and last week went out to try to collect data on a possible easement and ROW but they were unable to enter. There were new big signs saying by horse or bike was off limits and "Respect our Privacy." So they turned around and left. But after that attempted visit they discussed an opportunity to put together a PSA to have the Santa Fé Conservation Trust contact the Glorieta Center to pursue talks on an easement and get the ball rolling. When she ran it by purchasing and Commissioner Holian they thought it would be fine to have the Trust do the up-front work and if the Center was cooperative the Trust would continue being the liaison to coordinate the work to get an easement and do the leg work on it.

Chair Pallin thought it was great that they were willing to help out. He asked if they knew why the new signs were put up.

Ms. Houser said a lot of people were going out there. The Trust had gotten a lot of calls from people who couldn't get in there.

Dr. Mills thought it was sad but they needed to make these first steps.

C. January 29, 2013 Meeting: Retiring Members and New Appointments.

Dr. Mills asked outgoing members, if able, to come to the BCC meeting on January 29th. She wanted to recognize COLTPAC members and express appreciation from staff and they would be appointing new members hopefully at that meeting.

She was also hoping to have the Committee make the recommendation about the volunteer position at that meeting.

Mr. Rogers said it would provide a good opportunity to comment on it and point out it was not a substitute for staff and they needed to start maintaining these county open spaces and trails.

Chair Pallin said he had two calls from people who presumably were going to apply for the position.

Dr. Mills said she got materials from three people in his area of the county. She asked them for a letter of interest and a brief resume. She said they would have a good selection committee. They would also have appointments to the Committee from all districts except District 4 which was represented by Michael Patrick.

Mr. Rogers asked what the time of the BCC would happen.

Dr. Mills said it would start at 2:00 and she would send an update with the details.

Mr. Rogers thought they should use it to make a pitch and should plan that out beforehand.

Chair Pallin agreed and suggested Mr. Rogers email what he would like to say.

Dr. Mills said the contract for Edgewood was let and they would have groundbreaking sometime in January. They might need picks instead of shovels.

8. MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE

A. Subcommittee report on volunteer program

Chair Pallin asked if everyone had seen the document. He thought it was elaborate and inclusive.

Ms. Kowalski thought it was interesting having the discussion with Commissioner Stefanics earlier in the day. This document was a good overview of the Committee's basic recommendation and they might want to add to it based on that discussion. The subcommittee made five recommendations on page 2 and elaborated on them. They definitely needed a fulltime coordinator. The policies for the program should be identified at the very beginning. The coordinator could get into hot water by engaging volunteers before knowing the expectations and have training for them. There were a lot of great examples so they were not starting from scratch.

Ms. Houser thought risk management was major.

Chair Pallin said they needed a standard brochure on it.

Ms. Kowalski said grass roots by working with existing volunteers was their third recommendation. It was to identify similar organizations and start with them and take advantage of their policies and possible insurance. It would develop training programs for new volunteers; and then recognize the importance of good recordkeeping to show the value of the volunteer contributions which could add up to millions of dollars and provide them with recognition.

After they spoke with Commissioner Stefanics, Ms. Kowalski said she had such a focus on opening the properties and what the volunteers could do to help with that. So they might discuss how volunteers could

make them more accessible to the public. The list was not on the website so people had some erroneous conceptions of it.

The other thing that was interesting was on what volunteers could do and what they could not do. She thought they sort of addressed that.

Ms. Baker said they could get some trail maintenance and construction and tours and they didn't have the capital money for that.

Ms. Kowalski said they could add a section here on what the volunteers could do based on our research. And they could say what staff explicitly had to do.

Chair Pallin said they could have a statement that volunteers were not intended to replace staff.

Ms. Kowalski said they could give examples of roles for volunteers. This was a special place and required special knowledge.

Dr. Mills said once the discussion was final, they should have a motion to request the addendum and say what it was so they would know what was going into it.

Mr. Stovall thought it could be amended in the future too.

Chair Pallin asked what the deadline was.

Ms. Kowalski was anxious to get something and would hate to wait until January.

Chair Pallin said once it was finalized, she could circulate it to all members. They could have a motion in general terms and part of it should definitely be distinguishing between staff responsibilities and a volunteer's responsibilities.

Mr. Stovall asked if it referenced adopt a trail.

Ms. Kowalski said they did adopt a site. She said they could add typical jobs for volunteers and identified some of them.

Ms. Baker wasn't sure about volunteers doing routine maintenance.

Ms. Houser thought cleaning could be janitorial activities.

Ms. Baker didn't want to use that term with Commissioners.

Chair Pallin and Mr. Stovall thought the motion should be more general but address the difference between staff and volunteers.

Ms. Baker said Commissioner Stefanics needed to see something on the type of work they could do

and what they couldn't do.

The Committee mentioned several other tasks for Ms. Kowalski to include in the list.

Ms. Kowalski noticed on the list county properties that it said they were open to the public and asked if those that said reserved were not.

Ms. Baker agreed. There were several.

Dr. Mills said for those, the neighbors were the best watchers.

Ms. Houser noted the County Plan talked about open space being part of their landscape. Scenic view didn't mean having people on it. They could point to those parts of the County Plan and keep it beautiful.

Ms. Baker explained to Mr. Stovall about the meeting with Commissioner Stefanics with the subcommittee that happened today to find out where she was coming from. Her major concern was opening these properties to the public.

Chair Pallin said they should refer to this list but also make comments that the reserved spaces were not really appropriate for public access.

Ms. Baker said Lamy was one that was not accessible. It was 91 acres and hugely significant in the Galisteo Basin. A 50 acre parcel next to it was where the County might one day do interpretation.

Dr. Mills said they had only done tours with archaeologists out there. But they could have regular tours.

Ms. Kowalski thought volunteers could help open more of them to the public as docents.

Ms. Kowalski asked if those reserved properties were all intended to become open to public at some point.

Ms. Baker said Peñasco Blanco and La Cieneguilla were in question. It had been difficult to work with the neighborhood on the public access issue.

Ms. Kowalski said there was not enough information on the list to help anyone know the plans for the future.

Ms. Houser asked if there was confusion about what open space was in each district.

Dr. Mills said she had sorted it by district and there were questions about it that proved staff's designations were accurate.

Ms. Baker added that there were only trails in Commissioner Stefanic's district.

Mr. Stovall moved for approval of the subcommittee plan as amended per the discussion and

SEE CLERK RECORDED BY 03/25/13

that the document by the subcommittee and the listing as notated be attached. Ms. Houser seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

7. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of Recommendation for the Volunteer Program to the BCC (January 29, 2013)

Mr. Rogers commented that as we distinguished staff roles from volunteer roles they needed to think deeply. Obviously law enforcement was not a volunteer role but there was a need within staff that would only grow for a core of genuine expertise - people who really know the fundamentals of some portion of the responsibility. Natural resources and cultural resources needed a real expert who could tell the volunteers and other staff why one thing was okay and why something else wasn't. So they needed a corps of real expertise.

Ms. Baker appreciated that. They had been arguing for that seemingly in vain for some time. They needed someone with expertise to tell maintenance staff what to do and what not to do. They would vie for some general fund resources but given current staffing, they didn't even have a supervisor or any trails expert or riparian expert. She and Dr. Mills had pieces of expertise. Volunteers needed to be given direction and they didn't have all that expertise now.

Mr. Stovall thanked the committee for a great job pulling it together. Going forward he hoped staff didn't lose sight of the target. Open space meant accessing more parcels in the County - combining preservation. He hoped in the future that this division didn't lose sight of that. Preservation areas also defined the county where there was not a hope on every square mile. That was a reason why people moved to Santa Fé and that was slowly deteriorating.

Ms. Baker said his voice and others were important.

Ms. Houser agreed and they needed to be louder than the naysayers because they were all calling.

Ms. Massengill asked if the County web site described all the open spaces.

Ms. Baker said it didn't. Staff had to beg for permission to even access the web site. There was not a web person; just a PIO.

Dr. Mills said she did postings on their page but really needed the ability to rethink what should be on the web and get it right. They wouldn't let staff do anything different from the terrible template they set up and they couldn't access Facebook.

Ms. Houser said the County had a Facebook page.

Dr. Mills agreed but staff cannot access it.

Ms. Houser thought County Open Space should have its own Facebook page. She offered to build it for

staff. She set up the Folk Art Museum's page and didn't mind doing that.

Ms. Kowalski thought maybe they needed to do another white paper on the value of marketing.

Mr. Stovall asked if they had a brochure. Ms. Baker said no.

Chair Pallin suggested they could also do a weekly column or radio show.

Ms. Massengill wondered if there would ever be an opportunity to do an article in New Mexico Magazine or segment to showcase on television.

Chair Pallin said that could easily be a volunteer's responsibilities. It could highlight one property each month.

Ms. Kowalski agreed to add that to the list of possible volunteer tasks.

Mr. Stovall asked what the status on being a stand-alone division was.

Ms. Baker said Mr. Hogan was encouraging staff to be optimistic about it.

Chair Pallin said the mission had changed as COLTPAC was not acquisition focused and got parks added but the Committee didn't ask for the change in mission.

Ms. Baker said the change came from within and staff chose to add parks.

Mr. Rogers congratulated Chair Pallin for outstanding duties as chair.

Chair Pallin said he had learned a lot from all the members.

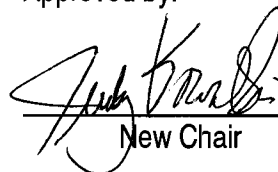
Dr. Mills and Ms. Baker thanked everyone for their service on the COLTPAC and said they needed the continuing members as well. She told those going off that they were always welcome to attend.

Dr. Mills asked if she could keep them on the email list and they all agreed.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Having completed the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Approved by:


New Chair

Submitted by:

Carl Boaz

Carl Boaz, Stenographer

SFC CLERK RECORDED 04/09/2013

COUNTY OF SANTA FE) COLTPAC MINUTES
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss PAGES: 8

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 9TH Day Of April, 2013 at 10:58:53 AM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # **1701938**
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Deputy *Marcos* Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Geraldine Salazar
County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM

