

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

December 3, 2014

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 Judy Kowalski 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

Judy Kowalski, Chair
Zach Taylor, Vice Chair
William Baker
Devin Bent
Patricia Conoway
Dave Dannenberg
John Parker

Members Absent

Ernesto Ortega [excused]
Almudena Ortíz Cué [excused]

Staff Members Present

Maria Lohmann, Open Space and Trails Planner
Erik Aaboe, Assistant County Manager
Carol Branch, Volunteer Coordinator
Erin Ortigoza, Community Planner

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Baker asked to amend the agenda and add, under Discussion his report on Bernalillo County's Open Space Plan as presented yesterday.

Dr. Bent moved to approve the agenda as amended. Ms. Conoway seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – November 5, 2014

Mr. Baker requested a correction on page 6, sixth paragraph where it should say "10-12" not "10-20."

There were no other changes to the November minutes.

Ms. Conway moved to approve the November 5, 2014 minutes as amended. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

5. MATTERS OF PUBLIC CONCERN

There were no matters of public concern.

6. MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE

A. Discussion of open space publicity options and examples, Zach Taylor

Mr. Taylor said this is Ms. Conway's area of expertise. He thought about publicity in terms of what COLTPAC wants to happen and we've discussed it for months. He quoted from the Vision and asked, "To that end or to those ends, how can we boost up the knowledge of things like connecting people to the land? How can publicity do that? Some sort of action needs to be involved."

He read from the list and asked if the Committee is doing these things.

He said part of his story was growing up here in the outdoors and not ever knowing the things we deal with on this Committee. Arroyo Hondo is right in his back yard and he was a little disappointed he didn't get more outreach from the County. He asked the members, when they heard "Santa Fé trails" what they thought of. He listed several but noted that Arroyo Hondo usually would be mentioned only among those who live near there. He thought the Committee could do a better job.

Mr. Baker noted that Albuquerque has a wonderful web site but also a physical site where people can pick up maps, etc. He was not sure who managed that. Also, they have lots of different themes in their open spaces and work hard to distribute the information.

Mr. Taylor pulled up the County website and searched for trails. He found some under "Properties."

Ms. Conway said she sure wouldn't search for "trails" under "properties."

Mr. Taylor went to the Marin County Trails website to compare and then to the Boulder County website. He pointed out that this is what visitors would look for

Ms. Lohmann shared the West Virginia site with their maps as an example.

Dr. Bent said they have all the trails, not just county trails. They have forest service trails, etc.

Mr. Parker pointed out that unless a person used it a lot, they might not know they can click on those things. A lot of money is spent on GUI things and he felt the expense was not always justified by the level of use. A simple list of hyperlinks may work just as well for information on the trails.

Ms. Lohmann said Utah has an interactive map but West Virginia is so easy that she could set it up. But she didn't have all the data to do it.

Mr. Dannenberg said she could walk the trails with GIS.

Ms. Lohmann agreed and added that they also have the GPS data from Fat Tire Society. But even with those tons of data we don't know what the officially sanctioned trails are.

Mr. Aaboe said the County could collect the digital routes that are accessible but he asked how the County would present something comprehensive enough for a user to find out which were county-sanctioned routes. He said they just need to make sure that the maps that are downloadable are all official trails.

Ms. Lohmann replied that she didn't have that capacity. She noted that the County has someone doing it now but they are just going off of our own system. The County doesn't have Forest Service trails in the database.

Mr. Aaboe asked if the County has reached out to the Forest Service to get their digital data to combine with ours.

Ms. Lohmann said they are working on it for what they think needs to be on the pop ups.

Mr. Dannenberg asked if that meant every trail in the County.

Ms. Lohmann agreed.

Mr. Parker commented that it will take some time. He didn't understand the ownership of them all. At least for now, it should have those that are on the County Open Space listing.

Mr. Dannenberg said there is value in having it all in one place. City websites often talk about how many miles of trails they have.

Ms. Lohmann said she was not a website developer so she would like to find a web site we like and mimic it.

Mr. Taylor said there are several simple things the Committee can do. He suggested having radio spots - a PSA to run periodically about the trails and direct the public to the website for trail details. We should have an annual event for county open spaces to have face-to-face with those who are interested.

Mr. Parker suggested having it on National Trails Day.

Chair Kowalski said there will be one at Cerrillos Hills this year.

Mr. Aaboe said eblasts come from Cerrillos Hills.

Mr. Taylor suggested getting all the links for events. He told how his school has students going on trails every week and they could be sharing how the trails work as part of the outreach. He proposed having a presence at mountain balloon events. They are sponsored by the Nature Conservancy.

Ms. Conway said there is a booklet at REI to take with you when hiking.

Mr. Aaboe said while he was shopping at REI, the clerk was describing to a family the Dale Ball Trails and he saw they had no maps. If the County could provide copies of the current maps, it would help.

Mr. Baker pointed out that many rural people don't have a way to download maps from the internet because they don't have enough internet speed.

Ms. Lohmann observed that the City has taken the lead because most of the trails are in the city. She said Santa Fé County has 43 miles of trails.

Ms. Branch noted that 30% of Dale Ball is in the County and Forest Service land.

Mr. Parker said the popular thing now is self-guided and guides by apps. Most are geared toward roads. But for Santa Fé the trails are accessible from downtown. Education is also part of the publicity. To have teachers that lean toward the outdoors helps stimulate interest.

Mr. Taylor agreed.

Mr. Dannenberg pointed to the advocacy groups including the Sierra Club and Fat

Tire Society as well as the Santa Fé Trails Alliance.

Ms. Lohmann liked the Trails Alliance web site.

Mr. Parker mentioned a trail map given out at the Bike and Brew event.

Mr. Aaboe said they should also provide links to the other sites.

Ms. Lohmann said the County has all mapping capability in GIS and she was being trained in GIS so it is possible. So the mapping should be easy to do but the County has no web site developer except for one on call. She sends a Word document to the PIO who makes it happen.

Mr. Aaboe clarified that the PIO is the County webmaster. We either need to produce maps or print out some. We could also work on economic development.

Mr. Taylor had a couple of other ideas. He suggested using Facebook.

Ms. Lohmann said there is one official County Facebook page. We can put up things on it but cannot have a separate page for trails and open spaces. We can put up hashtags. She said she was not a big Facebook user.

Ms. Lohmann talked about story maps to tell stories about Santa Fé County open spaces. We would post it on our web site as a better way to look at the County open space properties. The West Virginia map is just for trails. It is different. There are 46 open spaces. The story maps would direct newcomers.

Mr. Aaboe added that the County has the technology to put it together. Ms. Lohmann agreed.

Mr. Aaboe reasoned that it would be relatively low effort way to get that navigation.

Ms. Lohmann thought that might be that first page.

Mr. Dannenberg asked if she had data on visitors. He asked how many hits we get.

Ms. Lohmann said the County has the license and the technology.

Ms. Conway said it is organic and speaking as a marketing person the County has to have a full marketing plan but people who love the outdoors are a special segment of society. She didn't think radio spots were important. She thought lots of people would use the internet site.

Mr. Parker was skeptical and thought the internet was oversold.

Ms. Conway agreed that it needs to be simple and user friendly.

Mr. Dannenberg said this is paid for and easy to set up. He thought the Committee should go ahead with it.

Ms. Lohmann said she could put together a demo for the next meeting. The Committee agreed.

Mr. Aaboe added that the County is going to let a couple of contracts for it.

Mr. Dannenberg pointed out that the Public Land Information Center on Highway 14 at Dinosaur Trail has lots of books, maps, brochures.

7. MATTERS FROM COUNTY STAFF

Ms. Branch gave an update to the Committee. She said she had a volunteer who was a sports writer and wanted him to do an article on the master's program and the partnership. "Adopt an Open Space" has about 8 major trails. Six are already adopted. She showed the signs to be used for the program. She has ten signs made and 7 are spoken for. The Trails Stewards are very busy.

She shared some of her visits with crews at work on the trails and how she enjoys the outings out there - trails like Talaya. She was usually out on four different trails every week. All major trails are being worked on every week. The Trails Alliance and Fat Tire Society are her leaders. They usually go out the week before with flagging so we are ready for the students. The Trails Alliance has about 10 retired leaders and they use YouthWorks and others. Dale Ball Trails have three major trailheads - all within the City.

She showed the trailhead sign which needs to be updated (map). It is not very user-friendly. She applied for a grant and got some funds but not what she requested. She has enough for one trailhead sign. It will follow the City's sign at La Tierra for which they spent a lot of money. It will have an actual bulletin board.

Mr. Parker thought it should have a warning to trail users to lock things in their trunk. There are lots of break-ins at Sierra del Norte.

Mr. Dannenberg asked if she puts the County Open Space branding on it. Ms. Branch agreed.

Mr. Aaboe said the City is working on signage for their trail systems. They shared preliminary engineering to get feedback. It is a great branding with different colors for different routes. He suggested to modularize the maps so they could update the kiosks as the connections are made rather than putting up something that gets out of date in

six months.

Ms. Branch said they are trying to tap into LTAB for signage funding.

Chair Kowalski thanked her for her report.

Mr. Aaboe described the DOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and their Recreation Trails Program. They have calls for projects out. County Planning put a few proposals in. It is two-step process beginning with a 1-page feasibility form that meets all the criteria. Those deadlines are past. Planning put in for pedestrian trail in Chimayó and one in Galisteo that are consistent with their plans. Requests came from Planning that are tied to community planning.

Colleen Baker put in for segments 4 and 5 of the Rail Trail; the initial segment for Arroyo Hondo Trail 9 from Rabbit Road by Richards Avenue down to the train station through the SFCC District. It is already designed so she is requesting \$1.3 million from the state.

He said he put in one for trail maintenance equipment - a Bobcat to do things with soft surface trails. There will be an MPO review for the initial screening. It is a relatively large pot of money now. So the feasibility projects have been submitted and there is an interview to do that weeds out of those that don't qualify. The County will know which ones passed by next week.

Ms. Lohmann reported that the Management Planning RFPs are being formatted at Procurement.

Mr. Aaboe clarified it is one RFP and three plans. We hope to get one contractor for all of them.

Dr. Bent asked why the County maintenance staff were cutting weeds at Pojoaque High School.

Ms. Lohmann thought their work was really at the Pojoaque ball fields.

Mr. Aaboe said the County owns those fields.

8. ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items.

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Short discussion of Open Space Planner work plan.

Ms. Lohmann said she identified things she thought COLTPAC could help with. These are tasks and not long-term goals. She hoped to get to LRP Goals out of strategic plan soon. She said the Strategic Plan will be a huge deal whenever we get there. It might not be as fast as the Committee wants.

Mr. Aaboe said Sept-Oct 2015 is the deadline. We have to do 13 community plans by then.

Ms. Lohmann said they would have meetings in 13 community locales between February and April.

Dr. Bent said he would be at the Pojoaque meeting.

Mr. Taylor asked what the strategic plan would look like.

Ms. Lohmann said it would expand the chapter in SGMP for trails and open space and parks. It is an update of the plan from 2000 and will fit into the SGMP.

Chair Kowalski asked if it would be strengths/weaknesses or a list of what needs to be developed.

Ms. Lohmann said it would cover specific management of the properties: "This is what we want to do for the future and this is how we plan to get there."

Mr. Aaboe said it would include requirements for developers - what is required for the development. There will be requirements in the sustainable land development code but also expansion in the strategic plan that fits with this.

Ms. Ortigoza said there are ways of referencing back to SGMP for the strategic plan - even the agriculture part.

Chair Kowalski thought it should be more specific and not just for development.

Mr. Aaboe agreed. The strategic plan is separate and apart from developments.

Ms. Lohmann added that an outline has been put together.

Chair Kowalski observed that it doesn't seem like the County is ready for the Committee's help in that.

Ms. Lohmann said it is becoming clearer and she intends to keep strategic plan on the list.

Dr. Bent asked if the focus groups are being put off.

Ms. Lohmann said she still wanted to do them but wouldn't promise anything. She does have more people. Mr. Parker gave her some today. She said she would start making things happen in January.

Chair Kowalski noted we do have some volunteers for the visit to Petroglyph Hill.

Ms. Lohmann agreed. It is this Saturday at 10:00. Ms. Conoway, Mr. Parker and Mr. Dannenberg are coming too.

B. Bernalillo County Strategic Plan

Mr. Baker explained that he went to a 2-hour meeting yesterday on the Bernalillo County Strategic Plan. They emphasized recreation big time. The strategic plan is a 15 year plan with a revisit every 5 years.

Bernalillo County wrote their vision and outlined the plan and gathered the inventory all in phase 1. In phase 2, they divided the County into nine areas and went out with meetings to get priorities. They also looked at demographics of the population to determine what is needed. They have completed that phase and the County is integrating it. They are also working on an implementation plan along with funding requirements and will present it as a package to the Board of County Commissioners. They expect approval this summer to execute the plan.

They have six funding sources including a mil levy so they have lots of money. He thought Ms. Lohmann should look at the model. They don't have a COLTPAC so the open space staff started this.

They have lots of resources and their staff has been pressured by Commissioners to open up spaces that are not open to the public now. He believed COLTPAC could profit from looking at what they are doing.

Ms. Lohmann said she got a phone call voice mail from the intern in the Open Space Department asking what Santa Fé County has done. So she agreed to call her back.

Mr. Baker said they had lots of charts and did a very nice job of organizing the information they collected on those nine areas.

Mr. Dannenberg asked if they already have funding.

Mr. Baker said they have six sources for funding. The mil levy gives them \$2.8 million each year. They have a community that is incredibly supportive of what they are doing.

Mr. Aaboe reminded the Committee that Bernalillo County has 580,000 people in the county.

Mr. Baker said Albuquerque owns a lot of open space and a lot of it is not in the city and some not even in the county.

Chair Kowalski thought it was interesting that they separated parks from recreation.

Mr. Aaboe said it sounds like the issues are the same. We have these properties and now need to figure out what to do with them.

Chair Kowalski asked if it would be useful to invite a person from their staff to come to present to us. Mr. Baker agreed.

Dr. Bent agreed also and suggested maybe somebody from economic development could be invited too.

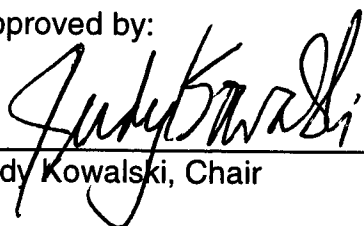
Ms. Lohmann said she would ask but cautioned that the January agenda was getting filled up fast. The officer elections need to be on the January agenda too. She said she would keep it all on her list for future meetings.

10. NEXT MEETING: January 7, 2015

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Approved by:



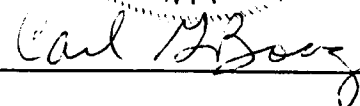
Judy Kowalski, Chair

Attest:



Geraldine Salazar, County Clerk

Submitted by



Carl Booz

4-2-2015

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

COUNTY OF SANTA FE) COLTPAC MINUTES
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss PAGES: 11

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 2ND Day Of April, 2015 at 02:27:14 PM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1761120
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Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Geraldine Salazar
Deputy  County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM



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