

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

Thursday, June 21, 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 6:03 p.m. by Vice Chair Judy Kowalski 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

Judy Kowalski, Vice Chair
Melissa Houser
William Hutchinson
Michael Patrick
Jerry Rogers
Scott Stovall

Members Absent

Sam Pallin, Chair
Sandra Massengill
Matthew Montoya

Staff Members Present

Beth Mills
Colleen Baker

Others Present

Bill Baxter
Bill Johnson

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Rogers moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Hutchinson seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MAY 17, 2012

Mr. Rogers moved to approve the minutes of May 17, 2012 as presented. Mr. Patrick seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

5. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no matters from the public.

6. MATTERS FROM OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS STAFF

A. Updates for Ongoing Projects

Dr. Mills reported that Commissioner Mayfield was working with staff on Potrereros and creating a management plan for that property. Mark Hogan and Adam Leigland were also at the meeting on site.

\$260,000 would be earmarked in the new budget for the management plan for it. Ms. Baker had assessed what needed to get done and Dr. Mills was drafting the plan. She hoped to take it to the Chimayó Community meeting in early August as a parallel effort with the ongoing community plan the County is undertaking this year. She would bring the draft to COLTPAC beforehand. She was able to tap into work being done on contract with SHPO for the research that will provide the background for the historic district overlay as part of the community plan. She would collaborate with them on it.

They stopped on way back at the Bennett property in Santa Cruz and got tentative approval from Commissioner Mayfield on the County purchase (along with the New Mexico Land Conservancy), of an agricultural conservation easement for 17 acres of that property.

Mr. Hogan would take it to the BCC to ask permission to draft the conservation easement for that for \$70,000. She was gratified to have Commissioner Mayfield's support on it. It was just a stunning site right on the Santa Cruz River with several historic buildings on the property.

At Edgewood Open Space they were getting close to issuing a bid package so at the beginning of the fiscal year on July 1 they could submit that package and hope to be in construction by fall.

She had a request from Ms. Bette Booth, POSAC Chair, who just had a joint meeting with BTAC. They requested some communication and interaction with COLTPAC and suggested to use dates when POSAC or BTAC meet. They were both close to our meeting date. There might be a subgroup of people to do that.

Ms. Booth wanted better communication and collaboration and suggested a joint meeting date in August.

Vice Chair Kowalski thought it would be great. Ms. Houser agreed.

Mr. Rogers thought it was good but they should be careful to plan an agenda to share objectives and move toward them. Everyone should know why we were doing this.

Dr. Mills thought the proposed meeting date would be August 21, 3-5 pm or August 22 from 5-7. The COLTPAC meeting would be August 16th.

Ms. Houser preferred to have it at a separate time.

Vice Chair Kowalski agreed - with its own agenda.

Dr. Mills said that was possible if there wasn't much on the August 16 agenda.

Ms. Baker said they would need to find a suitable location for that many people. She asked if it would be to coordinate trails and trail heads.

Mr. Baxter said there was preliminary ground work to be done first. All of them came from different points of view, yet there was some commonality.

Dr. Mills suggested something less formal in July.

Mr. Rogers asked what "social" meant.

Ms. Baker said a social time with finger foods at 5 pm would allow them to get acquainted and then have a presentation from each group.

Mr. Rogers said maintenance and connectivity were big shared issues.

Dr. Mills said staff would talk with POSAC and BTAC and come up with some ideas and how it might be structured and see how they react to that. She would either send an email or bring it to the next COLTPAC meeting and discuss a structure and get reactions.

Vice Chair Kowalski suggested asking what their issues were if they didn't want a separate meeting.

Dr. Mills would let members know and see if we could come up with something that makes sense.

Dr. Mills reported regarding the Arroyo Hondo Trail that they had a pre-proposal meeting and the RFP had gone out for connecting NM599 station and SFCC. That was moving along.

Ms. Baker said South Meadows was also under contract and she got the schedule today.

The Arroyo Hondo Wetlands was awaiting a DOT permit to go forward with construction.

The Wayside Exhibits for Camino Real along the river were getting underway. For the greenway acquisition of ROW they were getting in touch with the owners.

San Isidro now had things in order for the second phase and construction in the fall.

Updates on funding were moving faster than staff could keep up with. No projects had been lost yet but the GO Bond was down to \$600,000. The area from Frenchy's to Siler Road was still in the bond list and remediation was on the bond list as well as the Rail Trail, Los Potrerros and two park projects - the soccer field in Pojoaque and funding for scoping and locating a site for a regional recreational project in northern

New Mexico.

She announced that in the new General Fund budget they were given some seasonal positions for maintenance and a volunteer coordinator starting January 1. Every Commissioner somehow stated they were worried about open space so Commissioner Holian had them put an amount in.

Dr. Mills said the organizational structure was a moving target. Mr. Hogan had turned it back more on course with us.

Ms. Baker said there was talk in the Department about splitting staff by function and not by area of expertise. They kept seeing proposals that would do away with the open space program. So there wouldn't be open space per se but just public works for the County.

Mr. Stovall asked what was driving it.

Ms. Baker said it was driven by efficiency. Sustainable Land Development was supposedly the emphasis for all county staff.

Mr. Stovall asked if there was a recreation department.

Ms. Baker said only in parks.

Dr. Mills said the good news was that Mr. Hogan really understood that breaking it up was a really bad idea and the program needed to be kept intact. He had been persuasive with Mr. Leigland on it. Mr. Leigland was considering things strictly from an organizational and budgetary perspective and Mr. Hogan had intercepted that notion and reminded him of the importance of the history and context of the Open Space Program.

Mr. Rogers said the reason for focusing on the Open Space and Trails Program was that you could get some idea from the name what it was about. Public Works didn't say much.

Dr. Mills said staff had been in touch with the New Mexico Community Foundation for separate funds for open space work and were working on where first contributions would come from.

Dr. Mills also heard that some Commissioners were still stuck on the idea that Open Space was sitting on lots of money. They asked why the properties were just sitting there being open space. So there was a misunderstanding and knowledge gap there.

Mr. Stovall countered that open space was the will of the people. That's why the County had the land.

Ms. Baker agreed and the bond had a mandate for the Program too.

Vice Chair Kowalski asked the staff to inform the committee what they could do to help.

Dr. Mills thought a letter to the Public Works Director might help.

Vice Chair Kowalski thought that could clear up the misconceptions people have.

Ms. Baker said they heard about roads all the time and roads had the largest share of the new bonds. These bonds kept the County's taxing constant.

Vice Chair Kowalski didn't think it should be long but should make the points that needed to be included. Maybe that could be on the next agenda.

B. Discussion of Resolution Sponsored by Commissioner Stefanics Requesting COLTPAC to Develop and Bring Forward a Volunteer Plan for County-owned Open Space and Trails.

Dr. Mills gave some background and shared the last draft of the resolution. It would come forward on Tuesday June 26. The Volunteer Coordinator would be located within the Roads Division. If the BCC passed the resolution then how the work got done to produce a volunteer program was fluid. She couldn't envision how it could happen without a staff resource but if they could work together on it, it might be a very positive thing.

Mr. Stovall noted that it recognized the open space and trails program also.

Mr. Rogers added that it would provide a chance to point out that lots of history was involved and much skill. No one could come off the street and do it. It required knowledge of several professional fields. Site Watch was a pretty good example.

Vice Chair Kowalski added that Commissioner Stefanics obviously supported the whole program.

Ms. Baker agreed. And having been a COLTPAC member, Commissioner Stefanics understood that the Program is understaffed.

Mr. Stovall asked if staff could speak to it if asked by the BCC.

Dr. Mills agreed and it would help if some members could be present on the 26th to support it. It would be early afternoon.

Mr. Hutchinson thought he could be present.

Mr. Patrick said he could make a case for a unique volunteer coordinator to manage the resources. It was a good opportunity to do something important.

Mr. Stovall would try to be there also.

Dr. Mills asked if the whole committee should work on it or a subcommittee.

Mr. Hutchinson favored having the whole committee work on it.

Ms. Baker thought they should start with a brainstorm by the whole committee and then have a few write it. Vice Chair Kowalski thought it was a consensus for the whole committee.

Mr. Rogers thought of the things that would cost money the BCC wouldn't want to spend money on.

Ms. Baker said Legal had approved the resolution for form and it was already in the packet for Tuesday's BCC meeting.

There was unanimous support for it.

7. ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items.

8. MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Vice Chair Kowalski asked about the ramada design for Edgewood open space.

Dr. Mills said the consultants did make the requested changes and provided a new layout. She and Ms. Baker were not wholly satisfied with them so they were meeting with them on Tuesday to go over all specifications and would make sure they have addressed them the way the Committee wanted.

Ms. Baker said that at midyear budget review they were told that if they didn't move the capital funds within the next six months they would lose it. So they were trying to get things out the door.

Mr. Baxter mentioned a meeting at Mt. Chal with lots of state personnel. A guy who tries to strip things from that area was there trying to do it right in front of them in an old pick up.

Ms. Baker met with some of them this past week for opening night at the visitors' center and they agreed to keep the conversation going. Rhonda King signed up as a volunteer.

Mr. Hutchinson said the Youth Conservation Corps did trail construction in summer and didn't know if any trails were identified yet but they could do some work if any were available.

Vice Chair Kowalski said that was in her department and run by Wendy Kent. She saw a solicitation recently.

Ms. Baker felt they needed a lot of management.

Ms. Baker had heard good reports about the Rail Trail but hadn't been out there. They were close to finishing segment 1.

Mr. Johnson asked if the existing surface was the permanent surface.

Ms. Baker agreed. The trailhead was a small one at the overlook that they moved a little further south to make it bigger.

Mr. Johnson asked if La Piedra Trail was now a connector.

Ms. Houser said it ended at a private property.

Dr. Mills said wayfinding signs would be completed out there by tomorrow.

Mr. Johnson advised not to take a bike on this trail. The loop was fine but the switchbacks were on an incredibly steep slope. He thought it was unusable.

Dr. Mills said they would continue to work on it. It still had some soft spots in the tread.

Mr. Johnson thought the switchbacks were even hard for hikers.

Mr. Hutchinson noted that DOT was moving on a preferred alternative on Highway 41 with six foot shoulders narrowing to 4' in the village itself. It might be an opportunity for connection to Thornton.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Approved by:



Sam Pallin, Chair

Submitted by:



Carl Boaz, Stenographer

COLTPAC MINUTES
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COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 24TH Day Of September, 2012 at 02:20:45 PM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # **1682424**
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Valerie Espinoza
Deputy _____ County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM

