

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

Tuesday, June 28, 2011

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 Fe County Edgewood Fire Station, 25 East Frontage Road, Edgewood, New Mexico.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll Call indicated the presence of a quorum as follows:

Members Present

Sam Pallin, Chair
William Hutchinson
Judy Kowalski, Vice Chair
Eliza Kretzmann
Matthew Montoya
Jerry Rogers

Members Absent

Sandra Massengill
Michael Patrick
Scott Stovall

Staff Members Present

Beth Mills
Colleen Baker

Others Present

Mayor Robert Stearley, Edgewood
Diane Stearley, Edgewood
Karen Mahalick, Edgewood Town Administrator
Bill Baxter, Former member
Sarah Boaz, Stenographer

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Rogers moved to approve the agenda. Vice Chair Kowalski seconded the motion, and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM May 19, 2011

Mr. Rogers moved to approve the May 19, 2011 minutes. Mr. Hutchinson 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 THE COMMITTEE

Vice Chair Kowalski wanted to follow up on a previous discussion regarding obtaining more information about the open space users.

The Committee discussed the best way to obtain that information, including using an anonymous box on site. They decided they would first need to decide what information should be collected. They decided they would come to the next meeting with some basic questions that might be put on a proposed brochure questionnaire. They also discussed where they would post the questionnaire, and discussed putting it on their website as well.

Mr. Montoya talked about including information on maintenance and safety as well as information on the County's other properties.

Ms. Baker talked some about fire precautions they had taken, including closing certain trail heads that went onto Forest Service property. She said the information about closures would probably be posted on the website by the following day. The next step would be to get out and talk to people, which they did not have enough staff for.

7. MATTERS FROM OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS STAFF

A. LEE BROWN REQUEST FOR PRELIMINARY PROPERTY EVALUATION

Ms. Mills presented the Committee with information on an offer she had been approached with recently. It was a property close to the Arroyo Hondo Open Space. They discussed the property location and size. They came to a general consensus that they were not interested in the property.

The Committee discussed the difficulty they would have connecting the land to other spaces, and maintaining it, as there did not seem to be any community support.

Ms. Baker said staff was looking into a few other properties and briefly discussed these with the Committee. The committee talked about what they were financially able to do. Ms. Mills and Ms. Baker discussed their progress on a resolution in support of funding for maintenance.

8. ACTION ITEMS

A. RECOMMENDATION ON MASTER PLAN FOR EDGEWOOD OPEN SPACE

Mr. Kenneth Francis from Surrounding Studio presented the master plan for the Edgewood Open Space. He explained the location of the site, and discussed the process that had led them to the current project proposal. He explained the entries into the open space. They would have it as an equestrian trailhead, but also have it open to other types of users.

He discussed watershed issues in terms of users, and described how they had allocated the area to equestrian and non-equestrian users. He also discussed the landscape and its potential for use.

He described their plan for bringing potable water into the area for users and the work they had done regarding permaculture and land stewardship. He discussed their plans to provide lighting for safety and wayfinding and discussed the amenities and various elements they were working on. He also discussed accessibility, and what they were doing in terms of signage.

He showed and discussed the master plan, including trails, parking, campsites, etc. He discussed the potential event usage, and how it might factor in to their plan. He discussed the construction of trails, and the trail geometry, and the materials they were planning to use. He said there was also the possibility of including a dog run.

Chair Pallin and Mr. Francis discussed alternative materials for the proposed trails, including woodchips.

Mr. Bill Baxter asked about location, and how close they were to finalizing the project.

Mr. Francis said they still had to do construction documents, but they ought to start sometime between September and November.

Mr. Francis and the Committee discussed how they would address the maintenance issues. A few members discussed having a host on-site, and who they might ask to be the host.

Mr. Hutchinson asked about noise pollution from the nearby highway, and possible noise abatement.

Mr. Francis said it had been brought up, and they were looking at it. He said they would need a berm, or something similar. The usage made it so that they couldn't put the main structures on the quiet part of the area, but said it was an issue they were looking into. Mr. Francis also explained the accessibility aspects of the proposal.

Chair Pallin said that with their budget, they could not put up enough corrals for all their intended users, but suggested Mr. Francis's plan could include putting up a pair of sturdy poles with rings on top, so that a cable could be put between them for horses. He and Mr. Francis discussed the pros and cons of the proposed hitches.

Vice Chair Kowalski asked what the potential user groups were.

Mr. Francis discussed the fact that there was not much horse-friendly camping in the area. He said there was a potential for expansion if they had a large number of users. He discussed how their new master plan lent itself to expansion.

The Committee then discussed site management, and discussed stewardship groups.

Mr. Francis said they had intended the site to be for day and overnight users, and discussed the areas intended for each. He also discussed possible future connections.

The Committee discussed with him the current options for crossing the interstate in that area.

Ms. Mills reminded the newer Committee members about the origins of the project. She discussed the connections to Wildlife West, and the Forest Service. She explained the emphasis was on permaculture, and how to emphasize that to members of the public who used the site.

Mr. Francis and the Committee discussed how the land had been used for dry bean farming in the past.

The Committee discussed how to maintain and police the property.

Edgewood Mayor Robert Stearley arrived at this time, and joined in the discussion.

The Committee, Mayor Stearley, and Ms. Mahalick discussed having local sheriff's deputies and police drive through the areas that were easily accessible.

Mayor Stearley also offered his opinion on the difficulty of purchasing right-of-way on Horton to create a trail.

Ms. Baker said staff's biggest concern was that they had two people for maintenance for the entire Santa Fe County. Everyone discussed the possibilities for maintenance. There was some talk about postponing construction of the site if they were not sure they could maintain it.

They discussed possible income from the site, and Mr. Francis explained how the cost of maintenance had been factored into their master plan. He also discussed involving an expert in the field, and the insight she might provide into their project. They discussed starting with a small site so that the town of Edgewood might be able to share some of the burden in maintenance.

Mrs. Stearley discussed the large number of equestrian users that travelled through Edgewood on a daily basis, as well as the ones who lived in the area. She thought that because of the large numbers the site might actually be too small to begin with. She thought it was a great project. She assured the Committee that they had a fantastic community of volunteers, especially equestrian users. She said she thought there would be a large number of locals who would also volunteer to help maintain the site.

Mr. Baxter asked if there was any issue with them building on the site, especially if there was such a large need for equestrian space in the area. He expressed concern that it might be seen as competition to any potential commercial opportunities.

Chair Pallin said there wasn't any potential commercial competition there.

Vice Chair Kowalski asked if a feasibility study had been done as part of the master plan.

Mr. Francis said they had not done a true feasibility study, but that they had been looking into it.

The Committee discussed the benefits of doing a feasibility study, and whether it was possible to do at that point. They discussed doing the project in phases, to help with costs.

Mr. Francis explained how they would estimate costs.

They discussed removing the overnight area, but then discussed how that would take away some revenue. They discussed how that would affect the maintenance issue. The Committee also discussed how the area might boost the local economy.

Vice Chair Kowalski said she felt a feasibility study would be helpful, and would love to know how similar operations worked.

Chair Pallin asked for a motion. He said all the Committee was there to consider and approve the plan as preliminary so that Mr. Francis and his associates could continue.

The Committee expressed approval for the plan. They agreed it was a great design, and appreciated the work that Mr. Francis and his associates had put into it. They again expressed their apprehension regarding maintenance, but staff said they would look into that issue.

Mr. Francis explained how they got their cost estimates, and said they would look at the first phase budget and edit the plan to meet the budget.

The Committee expressed gratitude to the people of Edgewood, and thanked them for all their input and for staying for the meeting.

Ms. Mahalick and Mayor Stearley and his wife expressed their gratitude for the hard work of the Committee and Mr. Francis's company

9. ADJOURN

Ms. Kretzmann moved to adjourn the meeting and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

The meeting was concluded at 8:05 p.m.

Approved by:

Sam Pallin
Sam Pallin, Chair

Submitted by:

Carl Boaz, Stenographer



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 25TH Day Of August, 2011 at 11:42:47 AM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1643489
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Deputy Marcella [Signature] Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Valerie Espinoza
County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM

SFC CLERK RECORDED 08/25/2011