

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

June 4, 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 Santa Fé County Attorney's Conference Room, County Administration Building, Santa Fé, New Mexico.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll Call indicated the presence of a quorum as follows:

Members Present

Judy Kowalski, Chair
William Baker
Devin Bent, PhD
Patricia Conoway
Almudena Ortíz Cué
Dave Dannenberg
Ernesto Ortega
Zach Taylor, Vice-Chair

Members Absent

One vacancy

Staff Members Present

Lisa Roach, Open Space and Trails Planner

Others Present

Bill Baxter
Sarah Wood, NM State Parks

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

May 7, 2014

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Mr. Dannenberg asked for a clarification on page 11 where he had asked if the offer would be refused because of that process and Mr. Baxter agreed because of the time involved.

Mr. Baxter clarified that it was the amount of time to make that application to donate and the money that it would cost. The owner could donate it to the County but the current process to be undertaken would take time and money.

Ms. Roach suggested it should say, "The lengthy application process was a deterrent."

Ms. Conway moved to approve the minutes of May 7, 2014 as amended. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

5. ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A Discussion of the Draft Cerrillos Hills State Park Management Plan

Mr. Taylor said they had some discussion at the last meeting.

Ms. Roach agreed and the Parks Planner from NM State Parks facilitated the discussion and the action items in the plan. Park Manager Sarah Wood gave a nice presentation last week to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC), and it was well received. Ms. Roach had the impression that the BCC would be open to hearing from COLTPAC if the Committee had comments.

The public review process began Monday, going through July with a public meeting on July 1 at the visitor's center. Once the review period was over, the State Parks would create the final draft plan.

If COLTPAC wanted to make recommendation to BCC it would have to happen within the next month and submit that to the Commissioners in July or August.

Chair Kowalski added that it had to go through another review in a department. She said the cost estimate in there was only for the presentation to the BCC because the plan might change before reviews were completed. So she asked the Committee not to pay too much attention to estimated costs. However, one thing they presented to BCC was that the State Parks would like some financial support since it this Park was on County property. The amounts were rather modest.

Ms. Roach said page 30 of current version differed slightly from the one in the packet.

Chair Kowalski explained that some things needed to be combined and others didn't need to be in the plan. But the way it worked was that on page 25 was the beginning of recommendations and on page 30 they had little arrows.

Ms. Ortíz Cué said she was impressed with it.

Chair Kowalski said this was the model State Parks followed on all of the management plans.

Mr. Baxter thought it was really great, given its brevity.

Ms. Sarah Wood, Park Manager at Cerrillos Hills State Park arrived.

Chair Kowalski explained that the recommendations were not in priority order. Every action that all agreed to, they listed and then would prioritize them to determine those that were fiscally sustainable.

Mr. Ortega said the action plan was going back to the mission statement regarding education facilities and opportunities. The action plan focused on recreation. There was reference to interpretive exhibits and education regarding access to the sites. He suggested some education be included in the action plan.

Ms. Conoway agreed.

Ms. Wood said they did weekly educational programs at the Park. This was primarily an interpretive park. They were always working through with transportation of students on field trips. Mr. Baxter had been working with her on refreshing the interpretive signs that were falling apart. So it was in the management plan.

Mr. Ortega agreed it was in the management plan but it needed to be clear in the action plan. It was called recreational instead of educational.

Dr. Bent thought that was more a question of headings. Pages 26 and 27 showed it under recreation.

Ms. Conoway said she lived there and there were always calendars of events posted.

Chair Kowalski thought maybe it should have its own heading.

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Mr. Ortega added that given the focus on education, in the election there might be some dollars coming for it.

Mr. Taylor suggested that the shade structure might become an outdoor classroom. That would change the effect of that area and the importance of it. It might be situated differently so it was more than just a heading.

Chair Kowalski agreed.

Mr. Baxter asked if Ms. Wood was aware that when it was a county park it had an amphitheater planned.

Ms. Wood said she was aware of that planned outdoor amphitheater and that might be included. There was a lack of shade out there. The kids were totally fine with sitting on the ground but they didn't have shade and it was a health issue too. So it could serve both purposes.

Ms. Roach asked if the action plan items were just for capital funding so educational programming wouldn't fall under that.

Chair Kowalski agreed. These were things the Parks had to budget capital for.

Ms. Wood said they could do a lot of things with a few thousand dollars.

Chair Kowalski said this one was a little different and they should think about that for this park.

Chair Kowalski said- one thing in the plan was getting public input and approval on the proposals so they weren't just spending money as they wanted.

Mr. Ortega said it wasn't all educational. For example, the swing and the mining equipment.

Chair Kowalski agreed the headings needed to be adjusted.

Ms. Wood appreciated the comments from the Committee.

Chair Kowalski asked what would be more appropriate.

Mr. Taylor suggested maybe pervious pavement, organic materials, etc.

Mr. Dannenberg recalled Chaco Canyon had latilla structures for shade.

Mr. Taylor said impervious surfaces were not organic.

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Ms. Wood pointed out that they always planned for long term use and enduring the elements. They might have some leeway on it. There was a lot of wood in the park and it requires a lot of maintenance - restaining, sanding once a year, so there were maintenance issues.

Ms. Roach said there were other more sustainable materials that could be considered.

Chair Kowalski said it was difficult when they had to achieve ADA compliance without use of concrete. State Parks architects were really into sustainability. It was really more the push back from demands of public use and they dealt with that all the time. Sometimes the materials were more expensive and they had to make their money go far.

Mr. Baxter said some people would also raise historic issues.

Ms. Wood said they tried to put it in correct, historic perspective. She thanked everyone for those comments.

Mr. Ortega suggested that the mission statement be specific to Cerrillos Hills rather than generic to all parks. It should talk about the mining history and the Indian history associated with Cerrillos Hills. That would support the management plan.

Mr. Dannenberg thought the management plan was excellent. He went there last week. He loved the survey and the data they were asking of their customers. He felt they needed to expand the trails piece out a little in the plan for developing trails.

Ms. Wood explained they were planning on doing another plan for trails. She could put in a little bit more but they needed clearance for where we put them. Some were very hilly. We didn't want to create more erosion.

Mr. Dannenberg asked if there was a way to present the trails portion with more emphasis.

Ms. Wood agreed. She just didn't want to put too much detail in there.

Chair Kowalski thought it was an excellent suggestion. That should be made stronger and it should be a comment from COLTPAC.

Ms. Ortíz Cué said it was acknowledged as an important piece.

Mr. Baxter said from square one they had a very good survey of the archaeology sites there and there were a lot of them. They could not put trails through them so some trails were blocked off to go around them.

Chair Kowalski asked if everyone agreed with the emphasis on trails and there was general agreement.

Dr. Bent said the Committee needed to give a very strong statement of support. It was kind of like a model for us.

Mr. Taylor agreed. He thought Mr. Baxter's comments about plaza and visitor center were good but then he saw there would be a fence around it.

Ms. Wood said it never had a fence until 2000. As the Park evolved more open drinking started to occur and they wanted to discourage that. The visitor center is state park property but it is right in the center of the town. It was an evolving thing. They get vandalism at visitor centers periodically. The fence was not tall.

Ms. Roach asked if there was any intention to create a true plaza space with the property that could be utilized by the public.

Ms. Wood said it was used and eventually could be part of the rental program. That was the second biggest priority from their analysis. So she was looking to the designers to come up with something nice. She acknowledged that it did lend itself to other uses.

Mr. Baxter said the plaza was not there originally but developed and it was state land and should simplify things.

Ms. Roach added that the community still seems to feel some ownership there.

Ms. Wood reminded them that anything they put there, they were liable for.

Chair Kowalski thought if State Parks ever had money to develop it they would do it with input from the public. It should have a lot of public input because there were conflicting interests there.

She added that there were a lot of foundations there so building there needed to take into account those things beneath the surface, some of which went a full story deep. There were a lot of different things that could be done.

Mr. Baxter talked about hiding merchandise when prohibition was in effect.

Chair Kowalski said they uncovered an arched brick structure there that was parallel with First Street. There was all kinds of things under there. You could dig down and hit a concrete structure.

She thought they could put something in the recommendations about how important it was to involve the community.

Ms. Wood agreed that would help.

Mr. Taylor suggested using volunteers for the trails.

Mr. Dannenberg asked if there was a regulated concession option.

Ms. Wood said they would have a legal agreement and pay a percentage of revenues.

Ms. Ortíz Cué noted that was on page 31. State parks would receive 7% of concession revenues.

Ms. Wood said they would anticipate about \$2,000 annually. It was put on the market last summer (She was talking about Broken Saddle).

Chair Kowalski thought it wouldn't hurt to include how concessions were managed.

Ms. Wood agreed. She pointed out that their base of operations was not on park land.

Mr. Dannenberg asked how long the contract term was.

Ms. Wood said it was a five year contract and they were now in the 4th year.

Mr. Dannenberg recalled reading about concessions at the Grand Canyon that were 50 years long and they expired.

Mr. Ortega agreed.

Ms. Wood said they issued an RFP for concessions using an email blast and put all the information in it that she could.

Chair Kowalski asked if she should draft these recommendations or if Ms. Roach wanted to do it.

Ms. Roach volunteered to do it if it pleased the Committee. She was taking notes and would compile the recommendations to review. So at the next meeting it would be an action item for recommendation to the BCC.

Mr. Taylor suggested they could do it as a friendly amendment to work with COLTPAC.

Chair Kowalski agreed.

Mr. Baker thought it would be awkward to amend the draft plan during a public

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comment period.

Chair Kowalski agreed.

Ms. Roach suggested that the recommendation could read, "COLTPAC has reviewed the plan and it is an excellent document and the Committee offers the following with these proposed amendments..."

Mr. Ortega said they might say, "Endorse it with the following suggestions."

Chair Kowalski said the town had to approve it, too.

Ms. Roach reminded them that COLTPAC wasn't approving the plan but recommending it to BCC for approval.

Chair Kowalski thought all the comments were excellent. Ms. Wood agreed they were very helpful.

Mr. Baxter said it was kind of a self-made county park and there was some concern about what the State would do. Ms. Wood did a great job. She had more than exceeded the positive expectations of the local community.

Ms. Roach suggested the State Park could also be a good model for regional county parks as we were just beginning to look at a management plan, for instance, at Thornton Ranch.

Chair Kowalski added that Ms. Wood was a great role model for managers. That would be good for the BCC to get as well.

Mr. Ortega said, having worked with the state a few years that he was dealing with a job description for a monument manager that was identical across the board. So he worked to customize them to the site.

B. Discussion of the Santa Fé County Open Space, Trails and Parks Vision / Mission

Ms. Roach recalled the work from last meeting on the vision statement and it had been modified. We discussed the Program's vision statement - what it was, why it existed and what its purpose was. The homework was to respond to why you were here and how this conversation related to our overall mission.

Mr. Taylor said once the Committee saw this longer vision they should then put the objectives under it. We could throw it out and members give their answers and put them up on the wall. There was some detail work to do on the vision statement.

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Ms. Roach said they hadn't quite finished because they had such a short window of time at the last meeting. She would like to continue thinking about this. In her mind, the vision (the first sentence) was pretty solid. That was still a relevant vision. And if the Committee wanted to improve it at all, she wrote some words on the right and they could word smith it a little.

Ms. Roach explained to Dr. Bent that it was modified from the last meeting and why.

Dr. Bent asked if they dropped parks.

Ms. Roach said it was something they could add.

Chair Kowalski thought they should have a separate vision for parks.

Ms. Ortíz Cué agreed on what was crossed out. It was specific and very global. She was not sure about "network."

Ms. Roach said to her, network connoted connectivity. They were talking about conservation, recreation and transportation interconnectedness.

Ms. Ortíz Cué said connectivity spoke to her.

Chair Kowalski thought they should respond to the questions first by going around the room.

Mr. Baker felt they should have one document and not split out parks. The major things should be spelled out.

Ms. Ortíz Cué asked what the difference was.

Ms. Roach described open space as passive recreation and parks as active recreation use.

Dr. Bent said parks were a good thing. He remembered them as places where families picnic and play.

Ms. Roach said also there was a spectrum of maintenance and use. The program had been tasked with including parks. So she had been going through the inventory and separating open space from parks and recreation facilities.

Mr. Baxter said some of the inventory was for public use but they had several that existed to preserve something and were not for public use. Not all of it would be a bicycle use or horseback trekking from A to B.

Chair Kowalski said she was more into open space. She was here for keeping wide open spaces. To her, that was why COLTPAC was created to have a sense of place. It wasn't for developed property. They still had spaces that didn't appear to be developed and she didn't want every square inch developed so that future generations would never see what an open space was.

Ms. Ortíz Cué agreed with that. If it was going to be used, it should be in italics.

Chair Kowalski had observed over the years that the program had struggled and had to fight for resources beyond purchases. She had a fear that the properties would not be taken care of the way they should - that they would be neglected.

Ms. Roach heard from the BCC that they were very interested in getting a management framework to continue the efforts beyond acquisition.

Dr. Bent said it was a reality when the sustainable growth management plan was created and have enough water. People needed some place to go and do things. When the city annexed county land, it was five dwellings per acre. So he would like to see creation of trails and parks in urbanized areas.

The other thing for him was to be a continually self-evaluating organization as COLTPAC helped guide the future. He loved open space too.

Mr. Dannenberg said he liked open spaces too. He was into wonderful trails and there was some of that here. He would like to see Santa Fé as a place where there were fantastic trails.

Ms. Roach thought outdoor recreation did cover trails. In New Mexico, outdoor recreation is a \$6 billion industry, which has been named as a key growth industry in the County's Economic Development Plan.

Mr. Dannenberg said he was very much a nuts and bolts person. He would like to see the Committee be a working organization with fantastic staff to set some real goals - an organization that gets to measurable, trackable goals, both short term and long term.

Mr. Ortega said he was here because of his career in public lands - not just open spaces and natural resources but also cultural resources. He wanted to be sharing that concern that he had for this immense history and archeological record here and throughout New Mexico. Sharing information and education was a big part of his background.

Dr. Bent said he recently read about a new committee for cultural things.

Ms. Roach said that group would be focused on arts, culture and cultural tourism. It emerged out of the Economic Development plan so it was more focused on the arts and

heritage tourism.

Ms. Ortíz Cué agreed with Mr. Ortega. She wanted to get to know about New Mexico with an inside perspective. She was new to the State so it was a learning experience. Her most pressing reason for being on the Committee was that she saw a lot of legislation or rules surrounding usage of the land and most of them were out of fear of being sued and not based on education or knowing about animal (pet) behavior or finding the best use of the trails and removing that fear. Influencing legislation that was not based on being sued was her intent.

Ms. Conway endorsed open space preservation. She was told she was the only equestrian on this Committee. She had two horses and could ride all over. But 20 years ago there were many more. Access to public land was important. She never thought she could have a horse until she moved to New Mexico. The ignorance about tourism in New Mexico was amazing. People would ask her if they needed a passport. As a marketing person and was into big skies and open space and not seeing another human being nearby. She said the tourism folks were doing a very crappy job. New Mexico as a vacation place was so great. They needed a sense of pride. There were incredible things she could show those who visit here.

Ms. Roach asked if it was about a sense of ownership. Ms. Conway agreed.

Mr. Baxter noted that part of the history of this Committee had been to provide different kinds of open space for different reasons and multiple uses.

Mr. Baker said he was here because a lot of people in the southern part of the county were expecting him to make a difference. His challenge included an effort to improve access to BLM land. We have open space and BLM did not allow public access to their land. There was no process for prioritizing trails and he saw COLTPAC as the group to take that on.

There was no park of any size within 15 miles of where he lived. The southern part of the County was so challenging. Every large land owner said they would not allow access to any open space next to their land.

Ms. Roach asked if he would also say equitable distribution. Mr. Baker agreed. Right now they have nothing. There was no place for people to go. COLTPAC needed to take ownership of open space and trails and prioritize what needed to be done.

Ms. Conway said they should have measurable and achievable goals.

Dr. Bent agreed and in the north they had a similar problem. The reservations' land was increasing fenced There was a lot of similarity of North and South and were very challenging.

Mr. Taylor agreed with open space. He moved here for the open space and trails. His goal was to preserve open space but also to access it. The solitude piece was key. He also felt responsible to his district. He would also like to see the process work more efficiently with public access - better outreach as part of what we have to do - outreach in terms of education.

Chair Kowalski asked if the responsibility was ways to engage people. Mr. Taylor agreed.

Ms. Conway said it was to keep it very interconnected.

Dr. Bent said it was building support because another bond issue was not impossible.

Ms. Ortíz Cué heard there was nothing for teenagers to do here. So finding things for them to do was important.

Mr. Taylor said he met with the Volunteer Coordinator and she was interested in providing volunteer experiences for youth.

Ms. Roach agreed that could be such a formative experience.

Ms. Roach shared an object she got at the National Recreational Conference that had a light, a carabineer and a compass. This represented a movement called "Play to Policy" which advocated for increased outdoor experiences for youth. It was a very powerful discussion with some exciting programs.

Mr. Taylor said he had done surveys with his students and almost always there was a student who wanted to go where there was space.

Ms. Conway said education should be a big part of what we do.

The Commission discussed engaging youth.

Mr. Baker mentioned transportation to Cerrillos Hills State Park.

Chair Kowalski said there was money for that. They could partner with Environmental Education Association of New Mexico.

Mr. Dannenberg wondered if the Santa Fé Rail trail was a city trail or a county trail.

Ms. Roach responded that it crossed jurisdictional boundaries.

Chair Kowalski commented that this was the most cohesive and impassioned discussion COLTPAC had ever had. If we could harness this passion we have, we

could really do some great things.

Mr. Taylor summarized that access was big as well as preservation or conservation.

Ms. Ortíz Cué emphasized accountability with measurable and achievable goals - ownership. Also it was prioritization - knowing what to do first.

Ms. Roach added multiple uses of open space and trails.

Mr. Taylor added better quality of service.

Ms. Conoway wanted COLTPAC to establish itself to be the best - reach for the stars - a vision to be the best.

Ms. Ortíz Cué said cultural resources goes with preservation. It was specific service to the community; a sense of place, identity and ownership; equitable service. Diversity of use goes with access.

Mr. Taylor said they could add more later.

Ms. Roach agreed to put it together and distribute it. Anything they missed could be added. We need to take a step back from word smithing. She would look for similarities and put it in bullet format.

Dr. Bent didn't see pueblos in the list of partners.

Ms. Roach said this would put the Committee in a really great position when they went forward with the public outreach for the Open Space, Trails and Parks Plan.

Mr. Baker asked if they would have an inventory report in July. Ms. Roach agreed.

7. MATTERS FROM COUNTY STAFF

A. Project Updates

This matter was not considered.

8. MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE

There were no further matters from the Committee.

9. MATTERS OF PUBLIC CONCERN

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There were no matters of public concern.

10. NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, July 2, 2014

11. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Approved by:



Judy Kowalski, Chair


Attest:



Geraldine Salazar, County Clerk

10-3-2014

Submitted by:



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



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COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

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I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
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Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Deputy  Geraldine Salazar
County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM