

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

Thursday, August 18, 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 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, Chair
Judy Kowalski, Vice Chair
William Hutchinson
Eliza Kretzmann
Sandra Massengill
Matthew Montoya
Michael Patrick
Jerry Rogers

Members Absent

Scott Stovall



Staff Members Present

Beth Mills
Colleen Baker
Dave Padilla
Mark Hogan

COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

COLTPAC MINUTES
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I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
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Deputy Marcella [Signature])
Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Valerie Espinoza
County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Dr. Mills requested an addition to talk about reorganization of her department. The new Director might arrive later.

The agenda was approved as amended by unanimous voice vote.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JULY 21, 2011

SFC CLERK RECORDED 01/23/2012

Ms. Kowalski had a question about the last sentence in the middle of page 7.

Dr. Mills said it probably should read, "It was a question whether the county had the confidence to take on that liability."

Ms. Massengill moved to approve the minutes of July 21, 2011 as amended. Ms. Kowalski seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

5. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC

A. José Villegas about children's cemetery at La Cieneguilla

Dr. Mills introduced Mr. Villegas who wanted to discuss an issue he had been involved with for a long time. She welcomed Mr. Villegas.

Mr. Villegas introduced himself as a property owner and resident of La Cieneguilla. He wanted to share an interest he was pushing in the community for a children's cemetery. He was a chaplain with law enforcement and with the FBI for the state. He responded to incidents involving death. He had a bad experience not long ago with a 2 year old boy named Valentin. It was a child abuse case where mom and boy friend were arrested and taken to detention. The child died and when it came to funeral services the family didn't want to claim him. So he was asked what should be done. Mr. Villegas told them he would take the baby and pay for the funeral and bury him.

For three weeks they worked on arrangements and needed to find a place to put the baby to rest. He started wondering if this happened elsewhere and found it had. There were unclaimed dead babies in other places. He found the dad in Las Cruces who didn't know his baby was dead. CYFD was involved as well as Governor Martínez. The bottom line here was if he had not found the dad, he would have done it. But he couldn't find a place for burial.

Every day he passed a property called Hagerman orchard which is part of the County open space inventory. He and others had originally fought for the county to buy it. He was suggesting that 3 or 4 acres of the property be used as a baby cemetery so that next time there was an unclaimed dead baby the county would have a place for their burial.

Chair Pallin asked what the parameters would be for the age group.

Mr. Villegas suggested a child under 18. An 18 year old was legally an adult. So he suggested from time of conception to 18.

Chair Pallin said it might include miscarriages then. Mr. Villegas agreed.

Ms. Massengill asked if the County had ever administered a cemetery. Dr. Mills said no.

Dr. Mills showed the open space on a map. It was near the airport not far from the Santa Fé River.

She added that the pink area right next to it was the boundary of one of the archaeological sites protected by federal legislation for the Galisteo Basin Archeological Sites. BLM was charged with administering the Act. So this parcel of open space was protected by federal law. The space Mr. Villegas identified was at the bottom of that open space parcel.

Mr. Villegas said he worked on the petroglyph protection in 1991.

Mr. Patrick asked why this parcel was his choice.

Mr. Villegas said because it was close to the Capilla de San Antonio. There was no cemetery in that whole area. It was an old Spanish Land Grant.

Mr. Rogers asked if he said that he didn't know what happened to remains of indigent adults.

Mr. Villegas said they had three that were unclaimed and the County had the remains. They were supposed to keep them for 2 years and then the County could do whatever they wanted. He didn't know what they did here but Bernalillo County spreads their ashes from the Tram. He felt Santa Fé County should have some sacred ground for them.

Chair Pallin said COLTPAC's mission was to acquire open space properties and maintain them. But this was the first time they had been asked to choose a purpose for a property other than open space and wondered about their authority.

Mr. Montoya asked if it would be run by a nonprofit.

Mr. Villegas said he wouldn't ask them to donate it but to have the county operate it.

Dr. Mills said they were restricted by the agreement with BLM to enforce the federal law.

Chair Pallin suggested that out of respect for Mr. Villegas they could have a motion that COLTPAC didn't object to that use for the open space.

Ms. Kowalski was thinking of the same thing. The public would be welcomed and it could be a place as a memorial for unclaimed children. The public would still have access.

Ms. Massengill asked who took care of that sort of thing. No one on the Committee knew.

Ms. Massengill thought it might be an area that the BCC could look at that didn't fall under COLTPAC's responsibilities.

Chair Pallin recommended that any motion would have to be very specific because we don't want to expand our role into those areas.

Dr. Mills commented that the village of Agua Fria had a cemetery. Mr. Villegas was aware of that one.

Mr. Villegas said there were politics involved here among the various communities. He brought it here so the Committee would be aware of it. He respected what COLTPAC did.

Chair Pallin asked what he wanted of the Committee.

Mr. Villegas said he just wanted their blessing - that it was approachable. This was something very unique and special.

Mr. Patrick thought it was powerful but he wondered about management of it and any conflicts that might arise regarding the cultural sites there.

Mr. Villegas said he would talk to anyone who wanted to talk about it. He just wanted the babies to be taken care of.

Ms. Kowalski moved to support Mr. Villegas's proposal - that COLTPAC had no objection to it but wouldn't want open space staff burdened with managing it.

Chair Pallin asked to amend by adding that it was not COLTPAC's mission but expressed our feeling of support.

Ms. Massengill suggested since this would go to BCC to say COLTPAC supported Mr. Villegas' effort in acquiring lands in La Cieneguilla.

Mr. Patrick thought they should say that they didn't object to this use for open space property.

Chair Pallin said they should say they had no plans for trails or other changes to this property.

Mr. Hutchinson thought they needed to make clear that no other development could occur there.

Dr. Mills reminded the committee that by agreement with BLM they were subject to the stipulations within the law that prohibited any development or change of use. That proposed use would have to go to the BLM for approval.

Ms. Massengill said then the Committee could support what he was trying to do and maybe the County could find other space that would be appropriate.

Chair Pallin recommended to conceptually support the efforts of Mr. Villegas to find property for a children's cemetery.

Mr. Hutchinson agreed.

Mr. Hutchinson moved to conceptually support the efforts of Mr. Villegas to find property for a children's cemetery. Ms. Kowalski seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Villegas told the Committee they did what they were supposed to do and he respected it. It was a start - a beginning. Thank you for allowing me to come here tonight.

Ms. Baker arrived during Mr. Villegas's presentation.

6. MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE

A. Questionnaire for Open Space Users

Dr. Mills brought copies of the questionnaire for the Committee.

Ms. Kowalski said they could try posting it on line for people who were members of the Arroyo Hondo community but thought it would be best to have volunteers go there at various times of the day, evening, weekends, etc and get people to fill them out.

Chair Pallin asked if they could post a sign that directed visitors to our website and complete our survey.

Ms. Kowalski said it couldn't hurt. She tried to keep it very simple.

Chair Pallin felt it was important to distinguish between locals and non-locals. You could ask if they were county residents. Ms. Kowalski agreed.

Ms. Kretzmann said they just needed a snapshot of who was using the property.

Ms. Kowalski agreed and they should let people know the County had these resources.

Ms. Baker didn't think they needed to collect names on the questionnaire.

Mr. Rogers thought the activity for which they came was important but so was motivation for visiting.

Chair Pallin suggested "duration" instead of "length of stay."

Dr. Mills asked how to get volunteers to administer the questionnaire.

Ms. Kowalski suggested a two hour stint for volunteers.

Mr. Hutchinson agreed to help as a volunteer.

7. MATTERS FROM OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS STAFF

A. Update on the Land Use Code, Concept Decision Points for OS&T and Focus Groups

Dr. Mills said during the first week of August they had a series of meetings around the County including Pojoaque, Edgewood and Eldorado to get comments on how much regulation people were willing to have in new developments for trails, etc. They had 59 people respond to the administrative survey. Next week she would post it on the web page under a quick information link. You would see the questions and the numbers.

The results reported the type of open space facility that was important for them, trails, other facilities, size of parks, etc. She got a geographic breakdown on responses. She also asked about how much the next bond should be and about a mill levy for operations. They had a 75% positive support for trails followed by protected open space to protect resources but with public access. More than 60% supported an open space bond. People checked as much as \$15-25 million. The percentages of bond support were highest at Eldorado and Agua Fria. People in far north and far south didn't support a mill levy. Some of them were quite contentious.

They did a focus group last night and had a webcast with three questions on the work the County had been doing. It was very useful. At the end of the day, they would have code language to indicate how much needed to be set aside in each new development, etc.

B. Update on OS&T program funding and Resolution

Dr. Mills said she and Commissioner Holian decided it would be best to bring the resolution to their September meeting because they were bringing the connection of Dale Ball to Tesuque this month and wanted to make sure they had the commission's approval for that acquisition.

Chair Pallin asked about the contact with Bernalillo County on their mill levy.

Ms. Baker met with Ed Campbell on it. She asked if they would have to go through the state statute. He said there was no special legislation to do the mill levy. In his experience there was a wide range of uses for a mill levy. In 1989 or thereabouts, a piece of property needed protection and was not in the city so a mill levy was their solution for acquiring it. They have a smaller bonding capacity than Santa Fé County so a bond wasn't an option for them. A group of citizens came up with the idea and the County Commission approved it.

They went through the first two years and then went for six years. In 2006 they didn't put it on the ballot and administratively extended it and had done so since 2006. She wasn't sure how to get that communicated to the BCC. A 0.1 mil levy raises \$1.5 million in Albuquerque. Here it would raise about \$600,000. Right now the budget was probably \$300-500,000. The 0.25 mil levy was about \$35 per home.

Dr. Mills said the unwillingness of far north and far south made her think that having a special assessment district for the central, more urbanized, part of the County might be advisable.

Chair Pallin asked if they could get one or more commissioners to talk with legal staff about it before a resolution moved forward.

Ms. Baker didn't know the answer. The plan now was to go through the new director, Mark Hogan.

Chair Pallin asked staff if at the meetings they heard concerns about open space not being open to the public.

Dr. Mills said she had not. People who came understood the constraints the Program was working under.

Mr. Rogers thought it was a good idea to get an elected official to support the idea. There was still a question as to whether Santa Fe County could do what Bernalillo County had done.

Chair Pallin agreed it was a good idea.

C. Update on Edgewood Design

Dr. Mills displayed the plan for use of Edgewood Open Space. Several members attended the meeting and saw this conceptual plan for using the 30 acres there. There was some sticker shock on the estimates from the consultant for construction. She reviewed some of the comments made earlier and at last month's COLTPAC meeting.

Edgewood residents wanted a larger arena with nice seating, a larger parking area and more trails and permission for overnight equestrian use as phase 2. The new iteration would show that.

Hopefully phase 1 was closer to the budget and she would take it back to the community.

Chair Pallin noted that the Town of Edgewood had already talked about overnight campers.

Ms. Baker thought to be able to accomplish all of it might need local groups as volunteers.

Dr. Mills said the cost was estimated at \$550,000 and the budget was \$350,000. Much of the cost of construction was in the overnight equestrian facilities.

Ms. Baker didn't think it would be difficult to get permission to change the design.

Chair Pallin thought they might get local donations. If a local merchant donated a corral he asked if the County could put a sign on it.

Ms. Baker said there was a precedent.

Ms. Massengill asked why they wanted the arena.

Chair Pallin said it was because they didn't have one now.

When asked about user fees, Chair Pallin thought that would take a lot of work.

Ms. Massengill thought it would be a matter of having someone live there. There were lots of people with horses who would love to not have to go into Albuquerque.

Dr. Mills introduced Dave Padilla who was working as project manager now and Mark Hogan, our new director.

The members of the Committee introduced themselves to Mr. Hogan.

Mr. Hogan shared his background with the Committee and said he just became Director of Projects and Facilities.

Dr. Mills said they were shifting to be part of the Public Works Department as soon as the County hired a new Public Works Director.

Ms. Baker described it further.

Ms. Massengill asked if their offices would be moved.

Ms. Baker said for now the offices would remain here but eventually all Public Works offices would be together.

Chair Pallin said there was a sign in Edgewood about new offices.

Mr. Padilla said they had three fire stations now - Pojoaque and La Tierra. We were adding living quarters to the facilities. It should be a nice facility as retrofit but Edgewood would get a brand new facility. They also bought a building at the edge of Edgewood that would be a training center.

Dr. Mills agreed to bring a new organization chart to a meeting.

Mr. Hogan said the organization would be evolving.

D. Mt. Chal site visit September 24

Dr. Mills announced she had a good response from members so far. They would meet at the state park headquarters in Cerrillos at 9:30 that morning. For those who couldn't come this time, Bill Baxter said he would do another site visit later.

8. ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items.

Mr. Patrick asked if they were taking the purchase agreement to the Board of County Commissioners in

August for the property acquisition.

Dr. Mills was not sure they could meet the deadline.


Chair Pallin asked about 14/344 corner.

Dr. Mills said they were planning to have an event out there soon.

9. ADJOURN

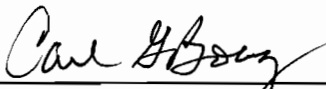
The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Approved by:



Sam Pallin, Chair

Submitted by:



Carl Boaz, Stenographer

SFC CLERK RECORDED 01/23/2012