

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

Thursday, September 20, 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 6:00 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
Melissa Houser
William Hutchinson
Sandra Massengill
Jerry Rogers

Members Absent

Matthew Montoya
Michael Patrick
Scott Stovall

Staff Members Present

Colleen Baker
Beth Mills
Megan Bayer

Others Present

Bill Baxter
Bill Johnson

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was accepted unanimously by the Committee.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM AUGUST 15, 2012

Mr. Rogers requested a change on page 7 in the middle of the page where it should say "he suggested the site watch program as a good example of how to manage a volunteer program."

Ms. Kowalski moved to approve the August 15, 2012 minutes as amended. Mr. Hutchinson seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

SBC CLERK RECORDED 11/23/2012

5. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no matters from the public.

6. MATTERS FROM OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS STAFF

A. Updates on Projects

Ms. Baker reported a nice opening for Burro Lane Park and appreciated Ms. Houser and Mr. Patrick being there. It took from 1996 to get it accomplished. There are a couple more openings in the near future - the adoption of the first Rail Trail segment will open in early October and El Camino Park on October 19th. The design for South Meadows is moving forward. There was good feedback on the first public meeting.

She also mentioned progress at the Agua Fria Park now known as Romero Park and also in the northern part of the County with Nambé Park and Pojoaque Sports Field.

Dr. Mills reported on the plan for Potrero Trails in cooperation with community planning. Arnold Valdez is working on that through a separate contract with SHPO. The planners are doing an amazing job. There will be an open house where they synthesized all community input from last three months pertinent for the property at Potreritos including history, culture, acequias and economic development. County staff will be working with a consultant to get the upper field at Los Potreritos back to traditional flood irrigation.

She has been working with the Utilities Division and Water Trust Board for a grant to do some stream restoration on the Rio Quemado and the Santa Cruz and get some volunteers to help make improvements.

As soon as it is solidified they will have a preliminary plan for review to allow public access at Santuario and a fairly narrow corridor so the property can be used for grazing with a narrow corridor along Santa Cruz that can be used for a trail. Some kind of shade and seating for picnic and trail along upper Rio Quemado onto BLM so people would have connectivity between Santuario and scoot around Quemado with a side jaunt to Rancho de Chimayó. It is from direction of the community plan on appropriate way to deal with tourism and pastoral use of acequia agriculture. She agreed to bring an appropriate management plan when solidified.

Chair Pallin asked if the private land needed a trail easement.

Dr. Mills said there was one easement needed but she believed the land owner would be cooperative. It is from the Jaramillo family at Rancho de Chimayó off the back of the restaurant to hike up that way with a walking bridge. There was \$240,000 allocated for the project. Any construction in the floodplain would probably need various agency approvals.

Ms. Kowalski thought a pedestrian bridge like that should only cost around \$40,000.

Dr. Mills said there was lots of sensitivity because it is a National Historic Landmark. The community is supportive and they feel cut off from the river and the pastures so they like the idea of access to Los Potreritos.

Regarding the Edgewood Open Space, the request for construction bids went out last weekend and the pre-bid meeting is on Tuesday so the County should select a contractor and take that to the Board of County Commissioners by the end of November. This would put the start of construction right in middle of winter.

Chair Pallin asked if they approved the maintenance agreement.

Dr. Mills said she had been tracking the maintenance agreement and as far as she knew it was still with the Town of Edgewood.

Chair Pallin said their lawyer was making recommendations at the Town Council Meeting in August, so he probably had a copy.

Dr. Mills agreed they needed to solve the problem and be on board with the maintenance agreement for both sides.

Chair Pallin said Santa Fé City will run out of space some time but Edgewood is projected to be the second most populous area in the county. He hoped they could find a representative from there for COLTPAC.

Chair Pallin said the East Mountain Trust met and Michael Madden and the BLM rep were there. They talked about several BLM properties on the other side of the road from 260 acres. BLM would like to trade those properties but to keep them as public access. Mr. Madden wanted to connect trails across Highway 14 into BLM. Apparently the BLM plan is done. Dr. Mills agreed.

Chair Pallin said the gravel pit operators were told they couldn't expand and weren't happy about that.

Dr. Mills said she was working on La Bajada Ranch planning. She reported that a newly forming steering committee request will go back to the Board of County Commissioners and ask for volunteers with expertise in various specialties to serve on the committee to evaluate proposals coming in on how to conserve and how to develop the property. They have divided the ranch portions that need conservation and the committee will recommend potential projects for the Commission to consider. The plan includes using the Foreman's House as a meeting place for the steering committee and other groups. They set up a volunteer day - Sangre de Cristo chapter of Audubon has agreed to come out on Oct 13 and tour the ranch with folks from La Cienega. They will show what is special about the bird habitat out there. The main house has to have asbestos removed from the roof. There are leaks and mold from that and then they will leave it unrenovated until the committee does its work. They are trying to utilize the portions that can be used for community activities - mostly outdoors. They got a \$30,000 grant from the Pojoaque/Santa Fé Soil and Conservation District for removal of non-native species (Russian Olive and Tamarisk) along Alamo Creek. Scott Kaseman will be there with potential contractors. The grant requires a 10% match from the County.

Mr. Baxter noted that a pueblo owned a parcel south of there. Dr. Mills said they had a tribal representative on the steering committee.

REC'D CLERK RECORDED 11/20/2012

Ms. Baker reported the Arroyo Hondo trail head is about 95% completed now. They did the road closure at the top and were rehabilitating the hiking trail there. It looks bad now but they are reseeding, etc. The trail head is not closed but the rehabilitation work came more quickly than expected. The dirt was pushed up to keep it from widening.

The fire department got a grant to do work on the Talaya Hill Open Space, primarily on forest treatment and signage. The County will be collaborating with them.

Dr. Mills said at Madrid they were collaborating with the Abandoned Mine Land Bureau on restoration work, after going through a long public process. They will do drainage management including the flood water that went through Madrid. They were working closely with them using soft engineering techniques for water shed restoration. There was a lot of infrastructure with water lines and septic fields in the County open space / greenbelt, so they are being vigilant. She was very pleased that the abandoned mines people were asked to do the project.

Ms. Bayer reported a lot was going on in the Santa Fe River Greenway Project right now. On September 25, the County Commission would consider two large contracts for design of the area where they haven't worked yet and also the ROW/acquisition process. If approved Tuesday she would have a lot on her plate and they would be able to move ahead quickly on acquisitions.

On phase 2 of the river restoration at San Isidro Park, Commissioner Vigil wants to see the sculpture there done before the end of her term. For the design on Frenchy's to Siler they are working on final design and hopefully have it done in the next six months. The construction funding for it is in the bond and would start next year if approved.

B. Ongoing discussion about volunteer planning

This item was considered later.

7. ACTION ITEMS

8. MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE

A. Discussion of access to Santa Fé National Forest through Glorieta Baptist Center and other alternative access points.

Mr. Hutchinson said Tim Rogers of the MPO alerted him to this matter. For a long time the public has been able to access the trails up to Glorieta Baldy but apparently lately because of the new lease they started denying access to those trails. Glorieta Baptist Center is actually on private land, not leased federal land.

The Forest Service officer said there was no easement in place. This has been a convenient access

and it is quite a loss. He thought possibly COLTPAC could send a letter to the Forest Service to explore either an easement or alternate access.

Mr. Hutchinson said apparently a new group at Glorieta that leased all of the Center claimed they want to work with the community but it seemed not to be working well.

Steven Merrill, assistant ranger at the Santa Fé National Forest said they had other priorities right now. Mr. Rogers thought they might not even be aware of how important it is.

Mr. Baxter said there are a couple of patent gold mine claims there that also were denied access. So denial is not just for hikers.

Ms. Baker suggested they could approach it by trying to get an access easement just for that purpose. It is private property.

Chair Pallin asked if the trails were accurate on the map. Mr. Hutchinson believed so. Access was through the main gate at Glorieta.

Mr. Baxter thought the letter should be more in the order of an inquiry.

Chair Pallin thought the Committee should advise the County Commission that it traditionally has been an access to public land.

Mr. Hutchinson offered to draft a letter. Ms. Houser agreed to work with Mr. Hutchinson.

Mr. Baxter suggested the Sierra Club might have the contact information.

B. Ongoing discussion about volunteer planning

Ms. Houser said the committee met with the Volunteer Coordinator from state parks, Darcie Schalip, and asked if they could make a presentation at the November meeting since Mr. Patrick would be absent for the October meeting.

Dr. Mills would like to explore the framework for moving forward with the volunteer plan. She asked if they needed a staff member from Open Space there at the subcommittee meetings.

Ms. Houser agreed that would be a good idea.

Ms. Kowalski said they started thinking about liability issues. It is a big part of the job and she thought they could provide examples of policies and expectations of volunteers and tracking their time

Ms. Houser said it would provide reporting on money saved and the average price range.

Chair Pallin said it could also be used for motivation - awards or prizes. Whatever it turns out to be should be focused on neighborhoods rather than one big program.

Ms. Kowalski said Darcie thought they might want to start with existing organizations that already have insurance rather than a whole new organization where you ask volunteers to come because you have insurance issues to deal with.

Ms. Houser said volunteers for the Trust's work have a certificate on liability -

Ms. Baker said the County has what is needed to be added.

Chair Pallin said the legal department would tell you what you need to have.

Dr. Mills asked if the subcommittee thought it would be necessary to meet with Ms. Baker before the next meeting. It needed to be structured before the end of the year.

Ms. Houser said they were working on job descriptions. Ms. Baker had one for the Volunteer coordinator from Boulder, Laramie County and one other. The Boulder web site is phenomenal.

Dr. Mills said they were scheduled for a joint meeting with POSAC and BTAC on October 24th at 5:30 in the Nambé Room at the Convention Center. She will work with Mr. Siqueiros and Ms. Booth to finalize the agenda and get it to members well in advance. She wanted a facilitator so no one group would lead it.

Mr. Johnson announced the opening of the Rail Trail on Saturday, October 6 at 10 am.

Ms. Baker said once they free up the Rail Trail, NMDOT might allow us to do the other side.

Mr. Hutchinson agreed to connect Ms. Baker with Ann McLaughlin and her group.

Mr. Johnson recalled the man who came a year ago and wanted COLTPAC to acquire the smaller property that had no public access. It is at a very preliminary stage to connect the Rail Trail to Arroyo Hondo.

Chair Pallin said at the East Mountain meeting there was talk about what the County would do with the 160 acres to access BLM.

Mr. Johnson asked about an update on the Petroglyph Hill and Kennedy Line.

Dr. Mills said that the management plan for Thornton Ranch Open Space was on hold and all that is happening is her taking tours out and having people monitoring the site at Petroglyph Hill.

Chair Pallin said he took a horseback ride to the ranch there and encountered a fence. He asked if that was the headquarters.

SFC CLERK RECORDED 11/29/2012

Dr. Mills agreed. It was in the Galisteo Basin Preserve and was not the County's property. Commonweal Conservancy just opened up two more miles of trails at the Preserve..

Ms. Baker said the New Mexico Central trail is on back burner now. They started out with multi-modal but the SE Connector is also multi-modal. For Thornton Ranch there is money on the bond for design work because we now have the Galisteo Basin site management plan in place. So with that fund we can do the Management Plan for that property.

Chair Pallin asked if the plan was to fence Petroglyph Hill.


Dr. Mills agreed but there was a question on what that meant. Access to Petroglyph Hill wouldn't be allowed without a tour. The strategy was to have a ranger out there and maybe not a fence. The gate there looks like a private gate and not a County gate. That was intentional.

9. ADJOURN – Next Meeting: October 18, 2012.

Mr. Hutchinson moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Houser seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

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

Approved by:



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 29TH Day Of November, 2012 at 11:59:27 AM And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1688959 Of The Records Of Santa Fe County



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

