

**MINUTES OF THE**

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

**September 3, 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 Projects, Facilities and Open Space Conference Room, 901 West Alameda St., suite 20C, Santa Fé, New Mexico.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Roll Call indicated the presence of a quorum as follows:

**Members Present**

Judy Kowalski, Chair  
Zach Taylor, Vice Chair [arriving later]  
Devin Bent  
Patricia Conoway  
Almudena Ortíz Cué  
Dave Dannenberg  
Ernesto Ortega  
John Parker

**Members Absent**

William Baker [excused]

**Staff Members Present**

Maria Lohmann, Open Space and Trails Planner  
Erik Aaboe, Assistant County Manager

**Others Present**

Bill Baxter

**3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Dr. Bent said he read minutes about the ICIP presentation and wondered if the Committee should discuss what role COLTPAC had carved out for dealing with it. He said it didn't have to be done today.

Mr. Dannenberg said when the Committee finished the discussion last time, there was not any formal role for COLTPAC regarding ICIP.

Dr. Bent thought it had a role for COLTPAC.

Mr. Dannenberg said it was not a prioritized list.

Dr. Bent said he had different information that it was a prioritized list.

Chair Kowalski said this discussion was not on the agenda right now.

Dr. Bent proposed to add a discussion about COLTPAC's role in the ICIP but then changed his mind.

Mr. Parker arrived during this discussion.

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

#### **4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

August 6, 2014

Dr. Bent said he read the minutes and was disappointed that the Committee discussed him in his absence and judged him. He mentioned that in the past, people had accused him of not being collegial and he didn't think that was true. He quoted from the minutes on page 10, "When Chair Kowalski requested Dr. Bent to follow that process, Dr. Bent wrote back that he had a constitutional right of free speech." And it stops there but he followed that with another message. That message was sent to Chair Kowalski and the others and "I asked Commissioner Mayfield about our presentation to BCC with the permission of the Committee. I had talked to the Committee about it. He asked me to..."

Ms. Conway said, "No you didn't."

Dr. Bent said, "Yes I did. I asked for it before at the end of the meeting."

Ms. Conway said, "That's news to us."

Dr. Bent went back and said, "When Danny Mayfield appointed me to this Committee, he took me around in his truck and showed me all these projects and he wanted me to be an advocate. He also said to me that he was critical about this Committee on occasion when he brought things up to Legal. So I thought I would raise that. So I did talk with Danny and asked him 'if it would be all right with you if we do this and be critical.' I'll do this for myself. It's just that I didn't want somebody to come down from Legal. Anyway, after my initial reaction, he said, 'Go talk to the deputy county attorney.' So I reported that back to you. And I left a message and it said that. You said don't talk to him. My initial statement was that I was going to."

Dr. Bent quoted from the email and said he would give it to the stenographer for inclusion in the minutes.

[Stenographer's Note: Dr. Bent sent an email to the stenographer on September 12 which is attached to these minutes as Exhibit A.]

Dr. Bent said the minutes made it sound like he had contact with the Deputy County Attorney which he did not do. But then Chair Kowalski wrote back, "Thank you Devin." He summarized that he was surprised to see it like this.

He said the other concern he had with the minutes he would bring up later.

Ms. Conway asked Dr. Bent a question. She said she was confused and being on this committee is new to her. She said her background was advertising and marketing in corporate America. "Could you clarify for me and anybody else here who was unclear why you took it upon yourself to go to Commissioner Mayfield on your own in the first place?"

Dr. Bent said Commissioner Mayfield came to him and told him he wanted someone who would be an advocate for this and they agreed on this committee because we both felt..."

Ms. Conway asked again what motivated Dr. Bent to go to Commissioner Mayfield about the Committee's vision and mission statement.

Dr. Bent said he didn't talk with him about the vision. Commissioner Mayfield had been critical in the past of us not running things by the County Attorney and he didn't want to give him... He thought he remembered bringing that to the Committee but apparently nobody else remembered that.

Ms. Conway said the reason was because he didn't bring that up at that meeting. It would have been in the minutes if he had.

Dr. Bent said the minutes were not verbatim.

Mr. Aaboe asked where they were on the agenda.

Several people said they were on approval of minutes.

Mr. Aaboe understood the minutes were a transcription of what happened during the meeting. So if there was a correction to the minutes to be made and he believed Dr. Bent had elaborated on something that was left out. He asked if that was it for this item.

Dr. Bent agreed.

Mr. Aaboe reasoned that they could vote on approving the minutes with whatever additions the Committee agrees to and then move on. He asked if that made sense.

Ms. Conway said it didn't to her because she didn't understand why they were having this discussion if she couldn't understand it from the beginning why this became an item for discussion. If this was the wrong time to bring it up, she would bring it up later.

Chair Kowalski suggested maybe the Committee should have another discussion on how the Committee operates with respect to our Commissioners.

Ms. Conway thought it was how Committee members proceed within a committee setting. It seemed to her, and she had been here at all the meetings and she didn't understand why this was taken to Commissioner Mayfield. He is not even on the Commission anymore.

Chair Kowalski said he was on the Commission until the end of the year.

Dr. Bent said he is the Chairman of the Commission.

Ms. Conway said she would bring it up later.

Chair Kowalski thought maybe the Committee should put this on the next agenda.

Mr. Aaboe, to clarify, understood the Committee would like to understand the role of each member with regard to their respective appointing Commissioner.

Ms. Conway agreed. That was what she would like to understand and she would really like to add it to the agenda for tonight.

Chair Kowalski reminded her that the agenda was already approved.

Mr. Dannenberg didn't understand the role for the County Attorney either.

Ms. Conway said it was a piece of the whole pie and she would like to understand it and didn't want to wait another month. She said she volunteered for this Committee and valued all members' input and she believed she was also making a difference. But she didn't understand this.

### **3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA - Reconsideration**

Mr. Dannenberg asked if the Committee could reconsider the agenda.

Chair Kowalski said it could be reconsidered with a motion.

**Ms. Conoway moved to reconsider the agenda approval. Mr. Ortega seconded the motion.**

Ms. Ortíz Cué said she didn't mind discussing it but not want it to take up the whole meeting with it.

Ms. Conoway proposed that they discuss it at 7:30 p.m.

**The motion to reconsider the agenda passed by unanimous voice vote.**

Dr. Bent stated that he sent Chair Kowalski an email confidentially and was surprised to see it in the minutes.

Chair Kowalski explained that the reason she brought it up was that it had some bearing on the agenda item for presentation on the BCC agenda and she wanted the members to be aware of what the issue was that Dr. Bent had expressed opposition to. She thought it was important for the Committee to understand and had hoped Dr. Bent would be present for the meeting but wasn't. She didn't want the members to be blind-sided and that was her decision. That's why we don't like to correspond by email for matters of the Committee.

Mr. Ortega reminded the Committee that they all agreed not to email each other. The County Attorney was very, very clear about that.

Chair Kowalski agreed.

Dr. Bent said he could write to the Chair or the Vice-Chair. It was only a problem when a quorum was involved. He needed to be able to write the chair about agenda items.

**Mr. Parker moved to approve the agenda as amended with the addition of Ms. Conoway's issue as item 9-C. Mr. Dannenberg seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.**

#### **4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - August 6, 2014 (continued)**

**Mr. Parker moved to approve the minutes of August 6, 2014 as presented. Mr. Dannenberg seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.**

#### **5. MATTERS OF PUBLIC CONCERN**

There were no matters of public concern.

## **6. MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE**

### **A. BCC Presentation Update**

Chair Kowalski understood their presentation was not on the agenda.

Ms. Lohmann recalled that the Committee made the decision to postpone presentation until the BCC meeting on September 9. She and Mr. Taylor were ready to make the presentation. She hoped the Committee members would come to support it.

Mr. Aaboe said the BCC meeting would begin at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 9. So with a call from Ms. Lohmann the members could know when the presentation was coming up. She could call members about 30 minutes ahead.

Ms. Lohmann said she had requested 4:30 but couldn't guarantee that. She got the agenda this morning and hoped they could discuss it tonight.

Mr. Aaboe said what happens, if a request is made early on at specific time and folks would be present, the BCC tries to accommodate those requests and he could work to get that request to the Chair. But it is tough.

Ms. Lohmann gave the members her cell number just in case.

Dr. Bent said he was not going to show up and testify against this. He said, "Let me try to explain something to you. First of all, these two things that came up were totally unrelated. I didn't call the County Attorney's office."

Chair Kowalski said they were not going to talk about this.

Dr. Bent said he would like to talk about the mission and goals statement and had to give a little background. He said the history of COLTPAC has not been kind to District 1. Through COLTPAC, District 1 got only 5 acres of open space out of thousands of acres and not one inch of trails. They were going to need parks in the Pojoaque Valley because townhouses were moving in. They were never going to get open space so they needed to get parks. He guessed he over-reacted and he apologized. At the meeting he had asked the Committee to put Parks in the title and then saw the staff liaison didn't put Parks in her title.

Ms. Conoway asked why he didn't say that when they were putting things up on the board.

Dr. Bent said he did raise it then.

Mr. Ortega said the mission statement includes Parks in it. He read the mission statement.

Ms. Lohmann said there was no official name because everything had been reorganized but added that Parks is in the Program Title for the Strategic Plan that is coming out but there was not a program to put parks in the title of.

Chair Kowalski thought maybe it wasn't clear and "parks" should be added to the mission statement.

Dr. Bent said he wanted it in the title.

Ms. Lohmann didn't think COLTPAC could rename a Santa Fé County program. Dr. Bent said for the entire history of COLTPAC, Parks was always in the program.

Mr. Baxter disagreed.

Mr. Ortega asked if it was COLTPAC's role to rename the program.

Ms. Lohmann clarified that there was no program to rename.

Ms. Ortíz Cué thought it was a work in process. She appreciated Dr. Bent's concern but it needed to be done here. She appreciated that he wanted this for his district. But it is a collaborative effort and in that meeting that focused on mission we all felt was good because it was collaborative.

Dr. Bent thought what he said in that meeting that we should have parks in the title and was shocked when he saw it wasn't there. He apologized.

Mr. Dannenberg agreed with Ms. Ortíz Cué.

**Mr. Dannenberg moved that COLTPAC consider this a snapshot. Dr. Bent seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.**

Chair Kowalski said they would present it to the BCC on September 9 as a draft and agreed that we were not clear on it. We want to inform the Commission and we will be acting on a new strategic plan which is very critical for the Committee.

Ms. Conway added that at the end of the day, we don't have the authority to change the title.

Chair Kowalski invited everyone to attend.

## **7. MATTERS FROM COUNTY STAFF**

### **A. Open Space Staff Updates**

Ms. Lohmann said she had nothing at this time since nothing had changed from last time.

Dr. Bent asked if the Committee wanted a backup presenter if Mr. Taylor didn't attend.

Chair Kowalski asked that they wait until he arrived.

Mr. Dannenberg asked if there was any status update on the FLAP application.

Mr. Aaboe said they got verbal confirmation from the federal agency regarding FLAP that they were interested in doing this project and would send documentation soon - probably to Robert Griego. All indications are that the project was recommended for funding. He will go before the City Public Works Committee next Monday to ask for the City to provide some local match for the MRC leg on it.

The River Commission has approved \$150,000 and BTAC also included it and it next goes to Public Works and Finance before going to City Council. And at the end of September the Council will vote on it.

Mr. Dannenberg asked if COLTPAC needed to support it too.

Mr. Aaboe didn't think so. Scott Kaseman is working on it as River Trail Coordinator. He was optimistic about it.

Mr. Dannenberg agreed it is good news.

Mr. Dannenberg said he spoke with Lisa Roach about the access to Glorieta Trails some time ago and asked if there was any progress on that.

Ms. Lohmann said not that she knew. The last she had heard was that folks there got very busy with summer programs and didn't have any time but would revisit it at the end of the summer season.

Mr. Dannenberg thought it was high profile and easy to do.

Ms. Lohmann said there was some discussion about redoing the application for making donations of land easier for the donors. That needs to be looked at again and hopefully that will come back to the table.

Mr. Aaboe asked if COLTPAC could participate in the recommendation.



Ms. Lohmann agreed and would help refine the application.

Mr. Dannenberg asked if it would simplify the application.

Ms. Lohmann hoped so.

## **8. ACTION ITEMS**

There were no action items.

## **9. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **A. Discussion of Open Space and Trails and Parks Strategic Plan**

Ms. Lohmann referred to the last two pages in the packet. Mr. Baxter brought up at last meeting about tweaking the places for the public meetings, etc. She showed the draft of the Public Participation Plan.

She said her thinking was not the same as the document Ms. Roach put this together as part of her plan. She envisioned having at least four meetings in each GMA of the districts and a wrap-up meeting where they would talk about goals and needs for that GMA. That would be very in-depth.

Ms. Lohmann thought it could be rearranged so it wouldn't take so much time and have one meeting in each GMA. So they could do it in one intensive workshop and have 8 meetings instead of 20.

Dr. Bent thought that in terms of public participation it would be more reasonable for people.

Ms. Lohmann said because it was more intensive, she would need a team to help. She wanted to recruit COLTPAC members and representatives from other community organizations. The County just got two new community planners. She wanted Committee members to be part of the team and have lots of hands-on involvement. To get ready, she wanted to do some focus groups to talk with the experts.

She noted that Ms. Roach's focus topics were listed but Ms. Lohmann thought they could be collapsed somewhat. Mr. Aaboe worked as scribe at the board as the Committee considered the list and began making modifications that would simplify the list in a logical manner. The six topics from Ms. Roach were: Outdoor Recreation, Environmental/Restoration, Cultural Landscape and Agricultural Preservation, Visual Resource/Viewshed Protection, Access to Public Lands/Land Management, Youth

Engagement/ Outdoor Education. She would like 5-6 experts for the focus groups who would help her with the issues when she went out to the communities.

Chair Kowalski asked if she would provide a white paper on each issue or get help in the focus groups.

Ms. Lohmann said she would do both and maybe they could see elements addressed in the plan.

Mr. Aaboe understood she was looking to define the focus groups and then find the community champions for each focus group to get a presentation and then go out into the community and have it as a topic table.

Chair Kowalski said they needed to be tweaked in order to attract the public.

Mr. Aaboe said the strength of their ideas is what would give them weight. This seems to be a collecting information exercise and at this phase probably they would not prioritize things.

Mr. Parker agreed.

Mr. Baxter thought she would need a classroom teacher for the education focus group and if not, it would change the outcome.

Chair Kowalski agreed.

Ms. Ortíz Cué thought it would be more interesting to force everyone to visit all those tables.

The Committee engaged in some brainstorming about the organization of the topics in the focus groups and during this discussion, Mr. Taylor arrived at 7:00.

The Committee continued to discuss the organization of the focus groups.

During the discussion, Ms. Lohmann said she had a firm time line to finish this focus group process by the end of the year. She said she would be the facilitator.

Chair Kowalski suggested the Committee members could think about those things and come back next time with further suggestions. She also asked members to think about specific persons to consider for the focus groups.

Ms. Lohmann asked them to send her their suggestions and they could refine it. She agreed to send out the items the Committee came up with on the board as a reminder.

Ms. Ortíz Cué suggested having the public meeting before holding the focus groups.

Ms. Lohmann said that was the progression on Ms. Roach's document but she felt it would be more helpful this way.

## **B. Discussion of COLTPAC Next Steps**

Ms. Lohmann said this discussion would take a lot of time.

Mr. Dannenberg thought it would be useful to have some tactical baby steps the members could sink their teeth into. These are high visibility items for us. He brought up the Glorieta-Baldy trail heads which are high priority for him.

Dr. Bent said that was a way to try to influence the ICIP and remembered that Bill Baker brought folks that came to talk with us about their interests. COLTPAC is competing with lots of other projects, not just trails, parks or open space.

Chair Kowalski brought up the park management plans on specific properties.

Ms. Lohmann agreed and said she was working on putting out an RFP for those management plans.

Chair Kowalski said she had talked with Commissioner Stefanics about how acquisitions came up. She said in the beginning all members beat the bushes to find properties to bring to the table that were eligible for acquisition.

Dr. Bent said he was still looking for them.

Mr. Dannenberg said that should be part of the streamlined application process in donations. Mr. Baxter agreed.

Chair Kowalski suggested they might review that next time.

Dr. Bent told about a great property that was just taken off the market called the Ortíz Ranch, an old estate that nobody wanted to buy. It is on the old road to Taos.

## **C. Discussion of Ms. Conway's issue - the Role of COLTPAC.**

Ms. Conway noted they had only ten minutes left to discuss this. She asked if it should be postponed to the next meeting.

Dr. Bent said if he was operating wrong, he wanted to hear about it.

Mr. Aaboe reminded the Committee that they were going to talk about the BCC

presentation when Mr. Taylor arrived.

Mr. Taylor said he thought he could be present for the new date but just found out he would have to go to a funeral in Michigan and wouldn't be back on Tuesday and if someone else could do it, he was not attached to it.

Chair Kowalski offered to make the presentation and the Committee agreed.

Ms. Conway said she just wanted to know, having come from advertising where they had to work closely in a team effort to get anything done, if COLTPAC was a team or not. She asked if everyone was going to collaborate and let each other know how we feel about things and be a team. She asked how they were going to function as a group if it was okay for Dr. Bent to go discuss something that was not even finalized - a work in progress - and was okay for everybody to do that on their own.

Dr. Bent said he just discussed things with the Chair and the Vice Chair and the staff. He felt it was okay.

Chair Kowalski said it was the idea of going to the Commissioners and previewing topics with them.

Dr. Bent said that was a whole different topic and people were meshing them together and accusing him of doing something he didn't do.

Ms. Conway said she was not accusing anyone but asking a question. She wanted to know how they would function as a committee and if everyone was going to put their concerns and doubts on the table while the Committee was meeting or go off to talk with somebody who was not here and not let the rest of the team know about it.

Dr. Bent said that was not what he did so he didn't know why that came up. All he was trying to do was to make sure - "I do work closely with the Commissioner. It's not like I tell him about stuff. I'm sort of a lobbyist. We need the Commission; we need political support; we need our state legislators."

Ms. Conway said nobody was arguing that.

Dr. Bent said, "He told me one time that he thought we had screwed up and I was just trying to help and asked him what should we do so we don't screw up this time? And I wasn't talking about the subject matter."

Chair Kowalski said he did raise the subject matter when he said there was an issue with equity that you were concerned about. "That was where you said you were going to come to the meeting and say that you did not support it."

Dr. Bent said that was a totally different thing.

Ms. Conoway said that was what the Committee was talking about - about how the Committee is going to function.

Dr. Bent said okay. Dr. Bent said the train is pulling out of the station where he lived. It is surrounded by pueblos and the pueblos are buying the land. There is less and less land. The property value is 27%. It is disappearing to the pueblos. He apologized but didn't see that as an issue.

Ms. Conoway said either we are a team or we all go off and do our own thing

Chair Kowalski asked, regarding the attorney, that if anyone thinks the County Attorney should be consulted, to please bring it to the Committee and not to the County attorney yourself.

Dr. Bent said he would go along with her on that.

Ms. Ortíz Cué said this should not be about Dr. Bent but about all of us. Dr. Bent apologized. If someone goes in good faith to do something and the Committee doesn't know about it, it is bad and leads to misunderstanding. It is not about pointing fingers.

Ms. Conoway said the Committee should have an understanding about how we proceed and what is fair. A great way to dissolve a group is to circumvent it.

Mr. Ortega said the members should work through the Chair and from a government entity. We can't go beyond our responsibility by ourselves.

Dr. Bent thought they needed to lobby. They needed a park up there.

Chair Kowalski said they could do that through the Committee.

Mr. Aaboe was hearing that this Committee should speak with a single voice. The BCC sets policy as a Commission and not as one individual and that is a good policy for this Committee. So if COLTPAC decides they need to lobby, then as a committee they should decide that. So the committee then asks a member to go lobby for us as a representative of the Committee.

Chair Kowalski understood that if Dr. Bent got information from Commissioner Mayfield that he might be negative about what COLTPAC was getting ready to do. So instead of raving to the Chair that he was going to stand up and oppose this, he could have said, "Gee, Madam Chair, I got some information that the Committee might be interested in. I would request that you consider putting it on the agenda." That way, we could discuss it as a whole group. That would have been the right way to do it.

Dr. Bent said that was putting two things together. He didn't talk to Commissioner

Mayfield about the policy statement at all.

Mr. Taylor understood he was worried about parks not being highlighted enough. He suggested that Dr. Bent could raise it with the Committee that he felt he was not being heard.

Dr. Bent admitted that he overreacted.

Mr. Ortega said this was the second time.

Ms. Conway said in moving forward, that she would like to have a framework within which all members agree to work with a single voice.

Mr. Taylor agreed.

Ms. Conway asked if we all agree that we want to proceed like this.

Dr. Bent said his memory was different.

Chair Kowalski said they didn't need to get into that.

Ms. Ortíz Cué said she didn't want Dr. Bent to feel he had a leg up with his relationship with Danny Mayfield. Each member should have equal weight.

Dr. Bent said he did bring it up at the end of the meeting. Maybe people were thinking about other things.

Ms. Conway asked if we are all going to raise how we feel with everyone on board or not.

Mr. Ortega felt if anyone didn't want to operate that way, they should step off.

Mr. Taylor said the Committee needs to make sure everyone is heard so that no one feels they have to do things behind the scenes.

Ms. Ortíz Cué agreed and anyone who has an issue should bring it to the table and address it here.

Ms. Conway wanted a vote on it.

Chair Kowalski said she had heard people say that any issues of substance will be heard at the table and the majority rules and if someone has an issue, to bring it to the table for discussion either through the Chair or staff liaison and no discussion outside of the meeting.

Mr. Dannenberg added that each member should commit to go with the committee direction and not commit to sabotage.

Chair Kowalski asked Dr. Bent if he agreed.

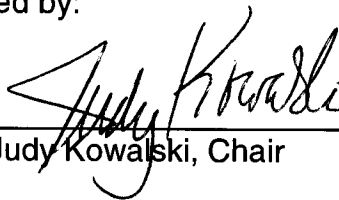
Dr. Bent said he was not going to do anything he felt was illegal or harmful to people in his district so "thumbs up."

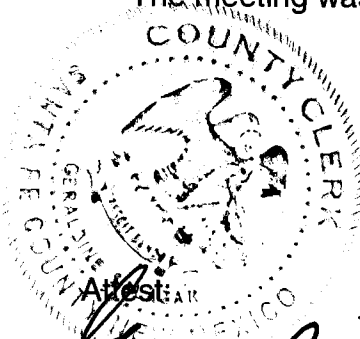
**10. NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, October 1, 2014**

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Approved by:

  
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Judy Kowalski, Chair



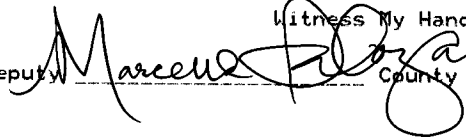
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Geraldine Salazar, County Clerk

Submitted by:

11-10-2014

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



COUNTY OF SANTA FE )  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO ) ss  
COLTPAC MINUTES  
PAGES: 15  
I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for  
Record On The 12TH Day Of November, 2014 at 08:39:52 AM  
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1750507  
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County  
Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office  
Geraldine Salazar  
Deputy  County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM

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SANTA FE COUNTY RECORDS