

**SANTA FE COUNTY  
COUNTY OPEN LAND, TRAILS, AND PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (COLTPAC)  
MAY 22, 2024, 6:00 PM  
PLAZA CONFERENCE ROOM, SANTA FE COUNTY  
ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEX  
100 CATRON ST., SANTA FE, NM 87501**

**I. OPENING BUSINESS**

**A.** The meeting of the County Open Land, Trails, and Parks Advisory Committee (COLTPAC) was called to order by Christopher Mann, Chair, at 6:00 pm on May 22, 2024, at the Santa Fe County Administrative Complex, in the Plaza Conference Room, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

**B. ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Christopher Mann, Chair  
Steven Forde, Vice Chair  
Amelia Adair  
Bryan Bird  
Paige Grant  
Genna Waldvogel  
Dan Potter  
Jill St. Thomas

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Adeline Murthy, Open Space and Trails Planning Team Leader  
Rose Masters, Open Space Interpretive Ranger  
Maya Hilty, Reporter

**C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**MOTION** A motion was made Chair Mann, seconded by Mr. Forde, to approve the agenda as presented.

**VOTE** The motion passed on a voice vote.

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**D. APPROVE MINUTES**

**I. JANUARY 18, 2024 SPECIAL MEETING**

Regarding the January 18 discussion item "Potential Donation of Edgewood Equestrian Center to Town of Edgewood," Chair Mann commented that it is not noted in the minutes that maintaining the status quo of the facility is an option. Members reviewed some of the options that were considered in the January 18 discussion. Member Waldvogel suggested adding "See recording for full discussion". This was added to the minutes.

**MOTION** A motion was made by Ms. Waldvogel, seconded by Ms. St. Thomas, to approve the minutes of January 18, 2024.

**VOTE** The motion passed on a voice vote.

**ii. FEBRUARY 7, 2024 REGULAR MEETING**

**MOTION** A motion was made by Ms. Waldvogel, seconded by Mr. Forde, to approve the minutes of February 7, 2024 as presented.

**VOTE** The motion passed on a voice vote.

**II. INTRODUCTIONS**

Two new COLTPAC members were introduced, Amelia Adair and Bryan Bird. All other COLTPAC members then introduced themselves and provided background about their areas of expertise.

**III. PRESENTATIONS**

**a. OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION PROCESS**

The Open Space acquisition process was reviewed and discussed. Chair Mann prefaced the presentation with context as to why the Open Space acquisition process is being presented: Some members thought that there was a missed opportunity for an open space acquisition near Eldorado. COLTPAC does not have a dedicated budget for acquisitions. Any member of the public, including members of the committee, can propose a property for acquisition by submitting a proposal. With two new members, it would be useful to review the acquisition process. Chair Mann is interested in seeing acquisitions fit within a strategic framework, rather than ad hoc or reactive. This would encourage the open space program to be forward thinking and consider how climate change and the pace of development will lead to habitat fragmentation and loss of trail access.

Ms. Murthy gave a presentation about the Open Space acquisition process, which is governed by Resolution 2009-206, "Establishing the Process and Procedures for Acquisition of Real Property under the Open Space and Trails Program." She went over the acquisition process as described in the resolution, and the acquisition application. A discussion ensued about the acquisition process, suggestions for improving the process, and open spaces requirements in the development of subdivisions as per the County's land use code, as well as questions about the acquisition process.

#### IV. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

#### V. ACTION ITEMS

##### a. MAKE RECOMMENDATION REGARDING POTENTIAL DONATION OF EDGEWOOD EQUESTRIAN CENTER TO TOWN OF EDGEWOOD.

Chair Mann stated that the Town of Edgewood sent a request in July 2023 for Santa Fe County to donate the 30 acre property to the Town of Edgewood. The property includes a trail system, and equestrian arena and viewing stand, that were built by the County. The property is maintained and managed by the County. The County Manager asked COLTPAC to review the donation request.

Chair Mann stated that this is the first time anyone on the Committee has dealt with a potential property donation. A few years ago, the County sold an open space property, South Meadows, but did not consult COLTPAC before doing so. The property was sold to Homewise for affordable housing, and they are maintaining a small portion of the property as a park. Chair Mann appreciates the fact that the County Manager asked COLTPAC to review this issue. He stated that the Committee took it quite seriously, did their due diligence, and explored a whole suite of options including doing nothing, leasing it to the Town for the Town to manage the property, doing an outright donation, and donating the property with deed restrictions so that the property would not be developed in such a way that impacts the current recreational use. Members who visited the property did not see major deficiencies in the current management of the property. COLTPAC wrote to the Town in February asking for additional information, including future plans for the facility, and did not receive a response. Chair Mann stated that approximately \$2 million of Santa Fe County taxpayer investment went into the acquisition of the property and construction of the arena and other improvements.

Member Adair stated how nice of a facility it is with an arena and trails, and that there are not many public arenas.

Member St. Thomas suggested tabling the item until the Committee hears back from the Town about the additional information that was requested. Chair Mann

reiterated that the Committee already asked for this information a few months ago and followed up, but did not receive a response.

Member Forde said that the facility is far from Santa Fe, so it would be good for the Town to help with the maintenance of the facility.

Member Adair explained the concept of a horse hotel, which is a potential proposed use of the property by the Town.

Ms. Murthy then presented the recommendation drafted by the Chair. The Committee discussed the draft recommendation and discussed the wording of the draft recommendation to clarify the language in the recommendation.

The Committee then voted to make the following recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners:

Recommendation:

COLTPAC has carefully considered the request of the Town of Edgewood that Santa Fe County donate the Edgewood Equestrian Center to the Town. Our findings in this matter are detailed in the accompanying memorandum prepared by the County staff. In summary, the Committee finds that there is no significant deficiency in current management of the property, no compelling public interest, and insufficient information to justify conveying the property to the Town of Edgewood.

Therefore, COLTPAC recommends that the County reject the Town of Edgewood's request for donation of the Edgewood Equestrian Center to the Town and that the County maintain the ownership and management of the property. However, should the Board desire to convey the management of the property to the Town of Edgewood, COLTPAC recommends that instead of a donation, the County offer the Town a low-cost lease with stipulations for adequate maintenance, public assess and stewardship of the property. COLTPAC further recommends that the County designate a trustee to assist with the management of the property.

**MOTION** A motion was made by Ms. Waldvogel, seconded by Ms. St. Thomas, to approve the recommendation.

**VOTE** The motion passed on a voice vote. (Mr. Potter had left the meeting and did not vote)

## **VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

None.

**VII. INFORMATION ITEMS**

Ms. Murthy will re-advertise the District 1 COLTPAC vacancy soon via a press release.

**VIII. MATTERS FROM STAFF**

**a. OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION UPDATES**

Ms. Murthy stated that the acquisition of 10 Little Hills was completed on March 22. The property is already accessible to the public via the Elkins Canyon Trail. Member St. Thomas asked about the parcel of land between 10 Little Hills and Cerrillos Hills State Park. Ms. Murthy will send Member St. Thomas the name of the title company she used to identify the owner of the parcel.

Chair Mann stated that the Acquisition Subcommittee was working on reviewing the acquisition process, including a streamlined evaluation criteria, but this was put on hold. The Acquisition Subcommittee expressed interest in finalizing this initiative and will meet soon to do so.

Ms. Murthy stated that the San Pedro Open Space expansion acquisition was completed April 10. Ms. Murthy will be going on a site visit to the property with staff from the Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) program to assess a couple known mine features and determine if there are any safety concerns that need to be addressed. Then AML will then walk some transects to check for additional mine features at a later date. The next step will be to begin trail planning for the property.

**b. ORDINANCE 2001-1 REVISION UPDATE**

Ms. Murthy met with various staff members and County leadership to review the ordinance, including staff from the Growth Management Department, Community Development Department and Public Works. No substantive changes were made to the new e-bikes section. Staff would like to work on revising the Enforcement and Penalties sections prior to bringing the Ordinance to the Board. The Committee discussed the ordinance changes and potential next steps that the Committee could do, such as crafting communication materials about e-bikes and a letter from COLTPAC to the Board of County Commissioners about the proposed changes to the ordinance regarding e-bikes.

**c. TRANSFER OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS AND OPEN SPACE CONSERVATION PROGRAM UPDATE**

Ms. Murthy circulated the draft TDR sending area plat for the Santa Fe River Greenway. Ms. Murthy is working with Legal and Building & Development

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Services staff to iron out final details pertaining to easements before she finalizes the plat. A general discussion about the TDR program ensued.

**IX. MATTERS FROM COMMITTEE**

Member Grant provided an update on the Forest Resiliency Subcommittee and their recent site visit to the Ortiz Mountains Open Space with a forester. A general discussion ensued about the proper procedure to conduct research and gather information for a topic of interest in a subcommittee.

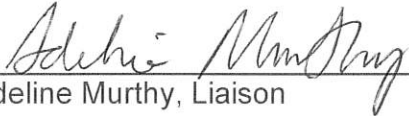
**X. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2024**

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.



Christopher Mann, Chair



Adeline Murthy, Liaison

COUNTY OF SANTA FE            )  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO        ) ss

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I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for  
Record On The 13TH Day Of November, 2024 at 10:21:31 AM  
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # **2046509**  
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County



Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office

Katharine E. Clar

Deputy  County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM