



Agenda

DATE 11/12/14 TIME 10:19
PREPARED BY Jessie Esparza
REVIEWED BY [Signature]

Parks and Open Space Advisory Commission
The Barn at Frenchy's Field • Osage and Agua Fria Streets
Tuesday November 18, 2014
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Review and Approval of Minutes: October 21, 2014
5. Old Business:
 - a. Parks Department Update
 - b. 2012 Parks and Trails Bond Implementation status
 - c. Skate Feature Site Selection and Next Steps
 - d. Strategic Planning Next Steps: Recommendations for the Mayor
 - e. 2008 Audit RFP Update
 - f. POSAC Commissioner Selection
 - g. Community Garden Evaluation and Lessons Learned
 - h. Memorials in Parks
6. Reports from Commissioners
7. New Business
 - a. Mayor's Committee on Disability Request for a Maintenance Policy
 - b. Repurposing Salvador Perez Park
8. Confirm date and time for the next meeting

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INDEX OF
CITY OF SANTA FE
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION

November 18, 2014

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>ACTION TAKEN</u>	<u>PAGE(S)</u>
CALL TO ORDER		
ROLL CALL	Quorum	1
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA	Approved	1
4. REVIEW/ APPROVAL OF MINUTES October 21, 2014	Approved	1
5. OLD BUSINESS		
a. Parks Department Update	Discussed	2
b. 2012 Parks and Trails Bond Implementation status	Discussed	3
c. Skate Feature Site Selection and Next Steps	Discussed	3-5
d. Strategic Planning Next Steps	Discussed	5-7
e. 2008 Audit RFP Update	Discussed	7
f. POSAC Commissioner Search	Discussed	7
g. Community Garden Evaluation and Lessons Learned	Discussed	7
h. Memorials in parks	Discussed	8
6. Reports from Commissioners	Discussed	8
7. NEW BUSINESS		
a. MCD Request for a Maintenance Policy	Discussed	8-9
b. Repurposing Salvador Perez Park	Discussed	9-10
8. DATE AND TIME FOR NEXT MEETING ADJOURN	December, 2014 Adjourned at 5:15 p.m.	10

**MEETING MINUTES
FOR THE
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION**

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

1. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the City of Santa Fe Parks and Open Space Advisory Commission was called to order by Bette Booth, Chair, on this date at approximately 3:00 p.m. at Frenchy's Barn, Osage and Agua Fria, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll call indicated a quorum as follows:

Members Present

Bette Booth, Chair
Daniel Coriz
Anna Hansen
Melissa McDonald
Joe Lehm

Members Absent

Oralynn Guerrerortiz (excused)
Sandra Taylor (excused)
Patrick Torres (excused)

One vacancy (Nic Smith)

Staff Present

Richard Thompson, Division Director

Others Present

Liza Suzanne, Genoveva Chavez Community Center (GCC)
Rachel Wexler, Department of Health
Mary Schruben, Rancho Siringo Neighborhood Association
Pete Gardini, Public citizen
Frank Nichols, Public citizen
Charmaine Clair, Stenographer

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. McDonald moved to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Hansen seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES- October 21, 2014

Ms. McDonald moved to approve the minutes of October 21, 2014 as presented. Mr. Lehm seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. Parks Department Update

Mr. Thompson said staff is busy putting the parks to sleep for the winter; irrigation lines were drained and facilities were secured; portable toilets were removed and vegetation management was started on arterials and trails.

Mr. Thompson said that staff had lunch with the Kiwanis Club and the Parks Department was recognized for their contribution to Zozobra.

Mr. Thompson volunteered to be the staff liaison [to POSAC], because it would be easier on staff. He will seek approval from Bryan Snyder. Ms. Esparza will remain in support capacity.

Mr. Thompson provided answers to questions regarding the status of parks:

- The SWAN water tank was repainted, but in the same color. Staff felt that the request to paint the tank dark green would make the tank more conspicuous. A final change order was sent to City Council on the hardscape for the design/build and if not approved there is the CIP bond.
- A vendor approached the Parks Department about the Railyard Park slides and missing play structure. Mr. Thompson will talk with the Railyard about allocating CIP Bond Park Funds for the items and the issue will be brought to POSAC in January.
- People have commented they are not happy about the name: *SWAN* Park. Mr. Thompson asked to be on the December agenda and will bring the process for naming parks to the next meeting.

Chair Booth said Mr. Pino told her that the county has purchased South Meadows with the idea that it is a passive park, but they are open to discussion. Mr. Pino indicated the next step should be an ENN (Early Neighborhood Notification) at Las Acequias about the proposed field location.

Chair Booth said Ms. McDonald had suggested an open house so Mr. Thompson can meet staff members he has not met. The Commission members discussed the open house.

Chair Booth said she would work on a list and plan the event for December.

- Parks items before City Council: the river corridor maintenance; shifting money to Youth Works in a PSA and a PSA with I RIDE. The Railyard stewards asked for an increase in funding, but the request was denied.
- The reorganization plan as part of the budget process is to shift the emphasis from park maintenance by generic crews to work done by classified positions and certified irrigation crews. Continuing education and horticulture and arboricultural would be included. Special events would be strengthened along with the mechanical/construction trades with some internal design/build function. Plans are to make mowing its own entity and of the two superintendents, one will shift to knowledge based (classified training, skill based compensation and database management). The numerous paper files will be digitized and mapped and a record of costing of assets will show the cost to maintain parks.

b. 2012 Parks and Trails Bond Implementation Status

Mr. Thompson said the goal was reached on the second bond sale and the city ended up with \$1.61 million. Martin Gabaldon the project manager and Jason Kluck the designer, realized a surplus in the first projects and the remaining project budgeting has been completed. Mr. Thompson said he will provide a financial report at the December meeting.

Chair Booth asked about the status of the Water History Park and was told it is design/build, third party with input from the Santa Fe Watershed Association.

c. Skate Feature Site Selection and Next Steps (Exhibit 1)

Chair Booth said several people looked at both sites. She asked Mr. Lehm to talk about the site visits and invited Liza Suzanne from GCC (Genoveva Chavez Community Center) to answer questions.

Mr. Lehm said he was glad to have so many attend. He said the group discussed the status of Franklin Miles Park and the repairs and everything looks great.

He explained that the group looked at Ragle to get a sense of the advantages and disadvantages. An advantage is that the site is closest to Santa Fe High School and the preparation expenses could reduce the amount left for the skate feature. The site is fairly level and putting in a parking lot would be easy; paved parking would be needed only for ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act). Water and electricity would be needed at the site.

A disadvantage is that the site is close to the existing skate park (about a mile and a half) and needs more preparation. Possibly the neighbors would not allow a skate park; an ENN would be needed. There is a question about the close proximity of two different user groups; the handball and skateboard group and the isolation from the remaining park presents a safety/security concern.

At the backside of GCC the advantages are: the site is further south where more youth live; there are existing amenities; the site has existing safety features and GCC staff and the fire department nearby. The location could spark a new perspective for an alternative sport and a new generation for users of a different kind. The recreation staff could create programs and events that include skateboarding and activities for the entire family would be in one location; ice skating, skateboarding, the gym, etc. The site is next to the overflow parking and would create more parking and more *paved* parking for GCC overflow parking.

A disadvantage is that the space has been projected for another use, such as a senior center.

The front of the Chavez Center had many of the same advantages and the field is not used much because of the slope. The expense to remove the prairie dogs would be eliminated. A disadvantage is the parking pressure would increase and there would not be a new parking lot. There are bus routes to both sites.

Mr. Trujillo said skateboard tournaments had been discussed and he was concerned with how many more people would use the GCC facilities.

Ms. Liza Suzanne said she found there was not a lot of negative impact at Monica Lucero or the Disc Golf Park; in fact it probably helped bring users to the Chavez Center.

Mr. Trujillo said another of his concerns is that money was spent to put in a sprinkler system and he wondered how the public would react to tearing that up.

Mr. Thompson said Parks recognizes the internal challenge to market park facilities and amenities. He said they have a list and will identify markets and targets.

Mr. Trujillo said he was fine with the Commission's decision not to include Ragle as an option. He asked which site would be better; the front or back of GCC.

Mr. Lehm suggested the back site. He said the site is level and next to existing parking and parking would be easy to add.

Ms. McDonald said if the back is chosen they should look at how to harvest water off of the parking lot, because of water pressure on the arroyo. She said it is a wonderful opportunity to establish vegetation. She wanted to be sure that is included in the programming.

She asked about the lights and if the trails closed at 10 p.m. Mr. Thompson replied that facilities and parking lots have to be lit until the 10 p.m. curfew.

Mr. Coriz said he thought the back side was better and it would be nice to have restrooms and water accessibility. He said a lot of kids are dropped off while their parents run around town and GCC is a perfect site for them.

Ms. Hansen said she supports the back of GCC. She said if lighting is done appropriately and under the Night Sky Ordinance there would not be problems from neighbors. She liked that the parking lot could be expanded and the idea of water harvesting, but was concerned about the [proposed] senior center. Mr. Trujillo replied that until money is available a senior center on the south side is a dream.

Chair Booth said she also supports the backside for the reasons named.

Chair Booth opened the floor to public comment at this time.

Ms. Rachel Wexler said she represents the Department of Health (DOH). She said public health is working on healthy aging and the New Mexico DOH is getting involved. She said healthy aging is about having access to multi generational communities and a dream is to have a senior center adjacent to the skate park. She said if they dreamed even bigger, it would be how to plan so the two engaged with one another.

Ms. Mary Schruben clarified that bus service from GCC is serviced by bus #4, but she is not aware of a bus that goes by the corner of Zia and Yucca. Mr. Trujillo replied that bus stops could be looked at.

Mr. Pete Gardini said he liked the idea being by GCC and would like a design/build this time.

Mr. Thompson said the community had been heard; they want one house for design/build. He said the reallocation would be taken to City Council for their determination and funds are available.

Mr. Trujillo thanked POSAC for doing due diligence. He said his only concern is the lighting and the neighbors that live adjacent to the site. He said if those affected say they do not want lights, he would support that to be considerate to the neighborhood. He said he is not opposed to solar lights on timers and for tournaments there could be a variance to have lights.

Councilor Trujillo offered to sponsor the resolution. He said he would like to see the skate spots concept.

Ms. Suzanne said the lights should be easy to direct since they only have to shine in one direction.

Chair Booth said she would start working with Ms. Byers in Legal.

Chair Booth talked about how several older skaters keep DeVargas clean and clean up the graffiti. She said there is very little graffiti in DeVargas and Franklin Miles Parks because Mr. Gardini uses his own paint and paints every weekend.

Mr. Gardini said most of the skaters bring their kids on Sundays to sweep and clean. He said skaters try to confront people that do graffiti and they send that message to the younger generation.

Mr. Thompson said the city has made great strides with Keep Santa Fe Beautiful and offered resources to make it easier. He said Parks will work closely with the design/build team on the surfaces. He said the stakeholder meetings are critical and the main objection is the design/build. The request will be vetted through the RFP and local procurement with the hope to get a local firm.

Mr. Lehm suggested getting GCC's feedback about whether new parking is an extension of the existing parking lot with the skate feature next to that, or in between the two parking lots.

Chair Booth suggested they meet on site to look at that. The group discussed the site and decided to meet Tuesday, December 2nd at 1 p.m.

Chair Booth thanked Mr. Trujillo and said she appreciated his openness to discussion and change. Mr. Lehm thanked Mr. Trujillo as well.

d. Strategic Planning Next Steps

Chair Booth said the Mayor has asked the Commission to come back with ideas and she and Ms. McDonald and Mr. Thompson developed the points. She said the points were all previously discussed by the Commission in strategic planning.

Chair Booth read each of the points. She said a tenth point was suggested by Ms. McDonald: to actively look for financing.

The Planning Steps were discussed. The group conversation is summarized as follows:

#1- Mr. Thompson suggested language be to “obtain funding” rather than *identify* funding. He said there is no money in the budget, but the Mayor and City Council have discretionary funds. Ms. Hansen suggested that a master plan is needed and that a staff member should lead the effort.

Ms. Schruben said there are several uses of parks and open space; active recreation, passive park enjoyment and food production. She thought because different levels of water are used that there might be a public rate for each activity. Ms. McDonald explained that a rate structure committee sets the rate structure.

#2- Gaia Gardens is close to being purchased and is an example of an urban garden. Fee based, at-scale suburban agriculture was explained as similar to the Boulder model. At-scale refers to the economy of scale for costs of produce, etc. such as farming a plot 4 x 8' of tomatoes vs. farming a plot 400 x 800' which reduces the cost. Fee-based is referred to as a commercial pursuit and one of a menu of alternatives. The idea is to have a successful agricultural producer on one of the demonstration plots.

#4- Freeing funding for maintenance was said to be a big undertaking and takes buy-in. Ms. Wexler said she would not support this idea unless convinced that parks staff would be educated in irrigation and that parks would be audited and the city would take a conservative approach. It was noted that the Water Conservation Committee is auditing parks to ensure that the water use is within a certain level.

Chair Booth said this section should be strengthened and more explicit and show that the rate is tied to water conservation.

#5- Mr. Thompson said of public lands and open spaces and most assign maintenance only to Parks. He said the Land Use Planning Department director was reassigned recently as the asset manager for the city and a meeting is scheduled.

#6- There should be a formal and transparent process to look at repurposing parks and open spaces; officers should be selected and there should be a time limit. Housing should be a recruiting tool.

Mr. Thompson said substations are promoted internally. He said the parks are not fully manned 24 hours a day and the officers are off duty at home [in housing] at the park. He said a better deterrent than officers living at the park has been discussed.

#8 -Mr. Thompson provided ideas involving businesses and corporations and attracting philanthropic tourism. In San Antonio as an example, the Ben and Jerry employees built a playground as part of their annual meeting convention. The idea is to align all of the city's volunteers, marketing and social media efforts into one office. This could be a place to create a subcommittee to look for grants/funding, etc.

Ms. Wexler noted that this also speaks to a current deficient in programming in the Santa Fe Parks system. She said from a public health perspective programming is key to the health of the community. A great park system and a *Friends of the Park Program* is one of the best ways to get programming in parks. She suggested programming be included in the draft. Chair Booth said she would add a few words about programming.

#9-Agreements are very informal and Parks is maintaining a number of fields and the MOUs (Memorandum of Understanding) have expired.

#10- The idea is to actively look for funding/grants, etc. and that could possibly be done by a Parks and Recreation Commission. Ms. Wexler suggested DOH partner with the Commission and be part of the interagency agreement. Mr. Thompson said the Advisory Commission should take the lead role and work through the Parks Department and with the city grant writer.

Chair Booth said she would make the changes and send the draft to Ms. McDonald and Ms. Hansen who expressed interest in seeing the draft. She confirmed that members would be comfortable with the document being sent to the Mayor.

e. 2008 Audit RFP Update

Ms. Hansen said the audit will be on the December 1st Finance Committee agenda. The auditor selected was REDW of Albuquerque. There will be a meeting with the Finance Committee to review the issue and let all parties know what is expected and needed. The actual audit is scheduled the first week in February and should be completed by March 31, 2015.

f. POSAC Commissioner Search

Chair Booth said the Commissioners were sent the resume for James Stodgel. Two resumes were received but she felt that Mr. Stodgel is the better candidate. She reviewed Mr. Stodgel's credentials and that he owns Only Green Design Studio Build and Business Development and has built a pilot skate park with the skaters.

Ms. Hansen said she has deep respect for the other candidate who would also be an asset. She said she would like to keep her name on the list, but thought that at this time, a young male engaged in the community is a better fit for the Commission.

Ms. McDonald asked about current membership renewals. She said the Commission should consider younger members because things could shift dramatically. Chair Booth replied she would check, but thought a number of the memberships will come up in June.

Ms. Hansen moved to invite James Stodgel to join the POSAC Commission. Ms. McDonald seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Chair Booth said she would communicate with both applicants and get with the Mayor. She said the Commission could revisit the resolution that established them at another meeting.

g. Community Garden Evaluation and Lessons Learned

Chair Booth said there was a 65% response to the survey and she would like a presentation in December. Mr. Thompson asked to participate.

She said currently she is waiting for the data on garden use. She wants to include the water use in the report to the parciantes to get their input. She said they could invite them to the December meeting.

h. Memorials in Parks

Chair Booth said the resolution will be looked at in more detail, but Mr. Pino brought a request from Jamie Sullivan. He wants to donate money for a bench in memory of his sister. She said policy was developed, but has not yet been passed yet. She asked if members were comfortable approving the donation.

Ms. Hansen moved to approve the request from Jamie Sullivan to donate money to the city for a memorial bench as presented. Mr. Lehm seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

6. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Mr. Coriz said he is currently working with the BLM (Bureau of Land Management) with grant money and is in the process of sub-developing a mini bike track. He said work is being done to make improvements and do maintenance on the track.

He said some of the guys put an event together called the Hot Lap Challenge to experiment with the type of turnout and whether events could be held at the track. The Challenge was fairly successful with about 40 riders overall.

The challenge was for riders to figure out how to get their fastest lap time over a span of a month. The top 10 fastest riders would be called at the end of that time. The Challenge was set up over a month mainly because there is not enough parking to hold a motocross race. Local businesses sponsored the event and cash prizes were given for incentive. The event became a Facebook/social media event and people could see who was using the track. A ride usually lasts about two hours and riders do not see many other riders during that time.

Mr. Coriz said design choices are being discussed (radius/distance). There is no beginner level guidelines; only one person's perception of their riding ability and level of riding. He said the insurance is now in the PSA.

Mr. Coriz said a group of volunteers at the Northwest Quadrant from the Fat Tire Society were interested in the trash pit (the other jump site ridden by mountain bikers). Changes planned will integrate more beginner obstacles and by spring there will be a new section. They are working with Chris Goblet who put on the Bike and Brew Festival. He is helping with some of the obstacles.

Ms. McDonnell said she and Mr. Thompson and the Chair met with Lisa Randolph, the Facilities Programming Director and talked about water conservation.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. MCD Request for a Maintenance Policy (Exhibit 2)

Chair Booth read aloud a letter received from the MCD (Mayor's Committee on Disability). She asked how the Commission wanted to proceed.

Mr. Thompson said ADA has 'best management practices' and the issue is a budget item. He said it would be difficult to ask City Council to establish a resolution/ordinance to enforce maintenance.

Ms. McDonald said a lot of what is built in Santa Fe is not ADA compliant. She said ADA is addressed in new projects, but she is not sure how to address the issue in a policy.

Ms. Hansen said this is out of the Commission's scope; they are advisory and do not write policy.

Mr. Thompson said he is unclear about the idea that the funding of a maintenance policy could be codified. He suggested forming a committee to bring issues to the surface so everyone could agree/disagree on the objectives.

Ms. Hansen said some parks do not have that within their scope and do not have to be included.

Chair Booth provided options: 1) meet with MCD to discuss the issues; 2) explain that writing policy is not a job of the Commission; 3) have a future discussion.

Mr. Thompson suggested dialogue be started electronically and the information be distributed to plan an action. He said this is a maintenance issue.

b. Repurposing Salvador Perez Park

Chair Booth said the word is that there will be a proposal to repurpose Salvador Perez Park to build a school for the arts. She wanted to be sure the Commission was comfortable moving forward with that. She said her response would be that if Salvador Perez is moved out of District One, the amount of parks in District Two would be decreased to 1.7 acres of park per thousand people.

Ms. Hansen said the item is a redistricting issue that should be brought to the Redistricting Commission. She asked Chair Booth to inform the Commission if the issue is to appear before a city committee or commission.

Chair Booth asked Mr. Thompson to meet with Mr. O'Reilly to get the list of inventory. She said she would advocate for at least two types of public meetings for the issue, per the new resolution. She said the 2012 Bond has a half million dollars for Salvador Perez Park and the issue has to go before the Governing Body and have an ENN (Early Neighborhood Notification). She said the process could be lengthy and she will put the item on the December agenda.

Public Comments

Mr. Frank Nichols said he is back to find out what was found on funding the basketball courts [repairs].

Mr. Thompson said that Parks made some of the same observations as Mr. Nichols' photos. He said there are concerns about surfacing and bonding and outdoor court surfaces are a great challenge.

He has visited with the facility development team (the designers) about a bonding project and the city needs to retro act on all of the surfaces that failed, but a solution is needed first. There are options such as etching, coloring and striping the concrete. He said suggested it might be possible to designate more money for high-value, high-volume, high-traffic courts and use the lower tech lower cost solutions at other parks.

Mr. Nichols said he talked with a contractor who does courts all over the country. He wondered if the contractor could be an advisor to avoid making mistakes. Mr. Thompson replied that Parks is investigating playground surfaces and that could be discussed. He offered to pursue that if Mr. Nichols provided the name of the contractor.


8. DATE AND TIME FOR NEXT MEETING:

The date of the December meeting is to be decided. Chair Booth indicated she will be gone from January 7 through February 21st, 2015.

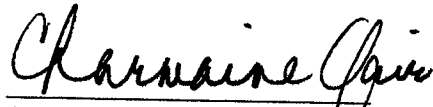
ADJOURN:

Having no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Approved by:


Bette Booth, Chair

Submitted by:


Charmaine Clair, Stenographer

Skate Park Options

Ragle by the Handball Court

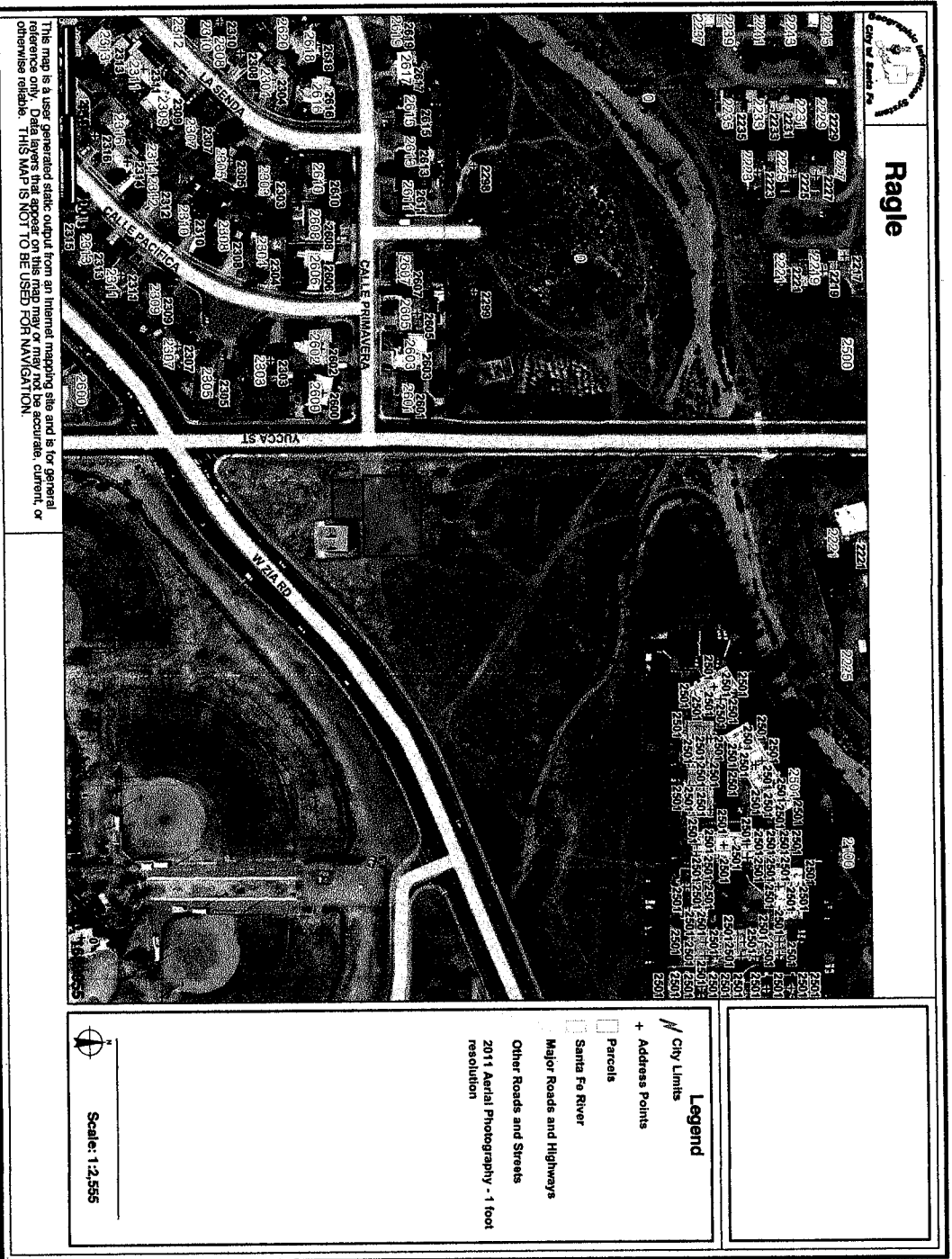
Advantages of this site	Disadvantages of this site
<p>Close to Santa Fe High School. Site preparation expenses could reduce amount left for skate feature.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Very close to the existing skate park. 2. Needs more site preparation than GCCC. Would need to create ADA parking and access for both the skate park and the handball court. 3. Very possible neighbors will not allow it? 4. Questions about proximity of two such different user groups. 5. Isolated from the rest of the park – not as much passer-by supervision for safety and security.

GCCC Back Parking Lot

Advantages of This Site	Disadvantages of this Site
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Further south where more youth live. 2. Amenities already exist. 3. Parent traffic = safety. GCCC staff = safety. 4. Fire department is next door for emergencies. 5. New perspective for alternative sports. This will spark a new and different generation of users. 6. GCCC Recreation Staff can create programs and events. 7. Keeps the family together in one location. There are activities for everyone. 8. Would increase parking for GCCC with it's own parking lot. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Space projected to be used for other purposes in the future?

GCCC Front

Advantages of This Site	Disadvantages of this Site
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Same as 1-7 above. 2. Build ready. Wouldn't need any preparation. 3. Not very used as a field in any case because of the slope and rough surface 4. Would eliminate on-going expenses related to removing prairie dogs. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Could increase parking pressure. 2. Would eliminate the field.



Blue represents the skate park and green represents the upgraded parking lot.

Mayor's Committee on Disability

C/O ADA Coordinator, City of Santa Fe

P.O. Box 909, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-0909

October 15, 2014

Bette Booth, Chair
Parks and Open Spaces Advisory Commission (POSAC)
City of Santa Fe
P.O. Box 909
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-0909

Dear Bette Booth,

Please have your commission develop and adopt a maintenance policy for Parks and Open Spaces.

The maintenance of ADA compatible surfaces includes the following components:

- ❖ grooming
- ❖ composition of wood fibers
- ❖ compaction of surfaces that consist of crusher fines
- ❖ repainting / stripping of designated parking spaces for person with disabilities

Please let us know when the wording is in place and when the policy is adopted.

Thank you,



Marcia Bowman
Chair
Mayor's Committee on Disability

Cc: Isaac J. Pino – Public Works Department Director
Jason Kluck – Project Administrator