



Agenda

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**Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee
Parks Division Conference Room
Thursday October 25, 2007
3:30 p.m.**

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Review and Approval of the minutes of the September 13 & September 26
4. Approval of the Agenda
5. Update on the progress of the Parks and Trails Initiative
6. Review of the refined Parks Master Plans
7. Discussion / Action Item - Advisory Committee Strategy to support the Initiative
8. Public Comments
9. Establish date and time for the next meeting.

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CITY OF SANTA FE

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

October 25, 2007

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MINUTES OF THE
CITY OF SANTA FE
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

October 25, 2007

A regular meeting of the City of Santa Fe Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee was called to order by Elizabeth Booth, Chair on this date at approximately 3:00 p.m. at Parks Conference Room, 1142 Siler Road, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

ROLL CALL

Roll call indicated the presence of a quorum as follows:

Members Present:

Elizabeth Booth, Chair
Patrick Torres
Richard Lopez
Lester Wallman
Margaret Veneklasen
Tommy Martinez

Members Absent:

Anna Hanson (excused)
Cliff Sisneros

Staff Present:

Ben Gurule, City of Santa Fe
Jackie Gonzales, City of Santa Fe

Others Present:

Margaret Alexander, SF Conservation Trust
Dave McQuarie, Citizen
Veronica Maldonado, Stenographer

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: September 13, 2007
and September 26, 2007**

The following changes were made to the minutes of September 13, 2007:

Page 6:

Arroyo Son Risa Park

Recommendation – No Improvements

This park is in the Tierra Contenta subdivision. It was recommended that the area be left as it is and try not to do anything with it.

Page 7:

Atalaya Park

Recommendation – Adequate

Remove the tennis court net and tension mechanism, adding a tennis court upgrade which will address replacing the fences and the gate.

Calle Lorca Park

Recommendation – Alternate (Proposed by the Committee)

Install drinking fountain, install new irrigation system, replace with turf, replace nets on basketball court, make a possible dog park to the east, put in more lighting to curtail vandalism and repair fencing

The following changes were made to the minutes of September 26, 2007:

Page 2:

City Hall Park

Recommendation – Funding identified in new convention center.

Cross of the Martyrs

Recommendation – Adequate

Graffiti needs to be removed.

Fort Marcy Complex Facility

Went out to bid and was awarded. Will be presented for approval at City Council meeting on October 25, 2007

Page 3:

Don Diego Peralta Park

Recommendation – Minimum

Prince Park (Cross of the Martyrs)

Recommendation – Adequate

Page 4:

Railyard Park

Shortfall not to be addressed by tax initiative

Santa Fe Estates Park and Santa Fe Estates

Recommendation – Leave as open area.

Sunnyslope Meadows

By installing a water source, this area has the potential to become a community garden.

Tommy Macaione Park

Recommendation – Minimum

Santa Fe River Parkway

Chair Booth recommended calling it the Santa Fe River Park for the entire area.

Galisteo Tennis Courts

Recommendation – Get rid of the tennis courts and put in a playground where tennis courts are.

Maloof Park

No improvements.

Orlando Fernandez Park

Recommendation – Minimum

Monsignor Patrick Smith Park

Recommendation – Pass on this park because of the five-year plan.

Page 6, fourth paragraph, first sentence should read: “*Mr. Chavez said they need to do something with the area between the park and **the pool area** so the neighborhood can use it.*”

Young Park

Recommendation – Adequate
Major renovations with community input.

Arroyo Sonrisa

Recommendation – No improvements.

Baca Street Parcel

Recommendation – No improvements.

Cielo Vista/Maclovía

Recommendation - Combine the two parks together

Page 7:

Gregory Lopez

Recommendation – Adequate

Las Acequias

Recommendation – Adequate

Las Acequias, Phase IV – Toddler Park

Leave as an open area.

Los Milagros

Recommendation – Adequate

Page 8:

MRC

Recommendation – Adequate

Rancho del Sol

Recommendation – Adequate

South Meadows

Recommendation – No Improvements

District 4

Candelero

Recommendation – Adequate

New sign and strike the demolition of tennis courts. Install a water main and drinking water fountain. Beautify top area.

Genoveva Chavez Park

Recommendation – Return back to city staff.

Page 9

Villa Serena

Recommendation – Five-year renovation plan was just completed. It is now named Martin Luther King Park.

Las Estancias

Recommendation – Five year renovation plan.

Marcel Brandt

Recommendation – Minimum

Nava Ade

Recommendation – Adequate

Pueblos del Sol Trails

Recommendation – Minimum

Ragel Park

Recommendation – Five-year plan.

Page 10:

Archuleta Park (Passive Park)

Recommendation –

Use \$150,000 of funding towards this park.

Silla Dorada/Berenda (Las Estancias)

This park is under development.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Booth proposed that Item 8, Public Comments be moved to the beginning of the agenda. Margaret Alexander was present to talk about the La Tierra Trails.

Chair Booth proposed to insert a quick review on replacing the two members that have not attended any of the meetings.

Mr. Torres made the motion to accept the amended agenda. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion which passed by unanimous voice vote.

UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS OF THE PARKS AND TRAILS INITIATIVE

Chair Booth introduced Margaret Alexander who is a board member of the Santa Fe Conservation Trust. Since 2001 she has worked on developing the trails.

Ms. Alexander said the La Tierra Torture is an annual race that is held on the La Tierra Trails. Ms. Alexander said the race attracts an incredible number of mountain bike racers to Santa Fe in the spring.

Ms. Alexander gave an overview of the La Tierra Trails that are located in the open space of the northwest quadrant. The trails are about 18 inches wide. The trails can be reached through road 599 and Camino de Los Montoya's. There are several trail heads along Camino de Los Montoya's.

Ms. Alexander said what she wants is to polish the trails into the jewels that the trails are. Ms. Alexander said they are an incredible asset to the City of Santa Fe, to tourists and the local people.

Ms. Alexander said there are about eleven miles of developed trail. The quadrant also includes an area of primitive trails that haven't been tracked yet.

Ms. Alexander said what she is proposing is sort of an Arroyo Chamiso to the north and what it would do is link the La Tierra Trail to the River Trail by going through city land.

Ms. Alexander said what they want to do is build a paved trail to the River Trail and to the underpass that is already built to La Tierra Trail so that people can access without having to use a car.

Ms. Alexander said what is wonderful about the area is the Las Estrellas Development going in and they need recreational outlets.

Ms. Alexander indicated on the map where there needs to be paved trails and dirt trails.

Ms. Alexander said because this is such a big area she is proposing a fence around the entire area. She indicated that there is already a fence on Los Montoya's.

Ms. Alexander said there is a problem with squatters and illegal campers. She said in order to make this an asset that the city can be proud of and advertise they need signs that has rules and directions so people don't get lost.

Ms. Alexander said another web based map of the area. She said it just needs one final push to make it a finished product.

Ms. Alexander is talking about 10,000 ft of dirt trail, 10,000 ft of paved trail to the river trail, a little bit of clean up and natural barriers to the private land that is owned by the school district.

Chair Booth said that in both Public Works meetings, Councilor Bushee kept bringing up including open spaces in the bond initiative. Councilor Ortiz was concerned because the trails initiative had a lot of study. The parks initiative had gone through a fairly systematic process rather quick and Chair Booth wants to emphasize that this isn't written in stone. Councilor Ortiz was concerned that the open space was just being tacked on.

Chair Booth said that at the second Public Works Meeting, Councilor Bushee said that she wanted to at least look at the northwest quadrant where there has already been some work done.

Chair Booth asked if the Committee thought that adding some monies to the Bond Initiative is a good idea. There are several alternatives for minimum and adequate like was done for the other parks.

Ms. Veneklasen said she thought it was impossible to float a Bond Issue for \$27,000,000 and then go in again and say it was forgotten. If it is going to get done it needs to get done right away.

Ms. Veneklasen said she has heard lots of pros and cons on how hard it is going to get to get people to vote on the bond. If they don't get this money the parks are really going to suffer. People are very angry about what happened ten years ago.

Chair Booth asked what if scenario one was just to fence the area.

Mr. Gurule said that the first time it went to Public Works they thought it was a great idea. At that time it was about \$19,000,000 and then one of the Councilors asked if the trails were included and they were not in the master plan. In the trails that BTAC was requesting to do, there was actually \$6,700,000 funded and a shortfall of \$9,145,000. At that time they moved to include the trail which would actually finish the Arroyo Chamiso Trail which connects to the La Tierra Trails and comes around and hooks up to the Santa Fe River Trail and brings it down town and the railyard. To the other side it would be trails Tierra Contenta to Nava Ade and Nava Ade to Arroyo Chamiso and Arroyo Chamiso to the Rail Trail and then down town. Mr. Gurule said it would be one giant loop and all the trails would be connected except the northwest quadrant. The northwest quadrant is not being addressed.

Mr. Gurule said when it went to Finance they were content with the \$27,000,000 except that the northwest quadrant was not being addressed. They then decided to make it an even \$30,000,000 and include the northwest quadrant. Councilor Bushee gave Parks the direction to figure out what it would cost to finish improving the existing La Tierra Torture Trails and make an ADA connection to the Santa Fe River Trail.

Mr. Gurule said that is why they recruited Ms. Alexander because she is the most aware of what is going on. Mr. Gurule said they just put in \$50,000 of improvement on the trails. Mr. Gurule said the trails are an asset to the City and it would be nice to link them.

Mr. Gurule said now it is at \$27,000,000. The City has done a survey and it basically says that the people are in support of the bond issue.

Mr. Gurule said they are considering changing the amount to \$30,000,000 and are seeking support and justification as to why they are adding more monies.

Mr. Gurule said the cost for an ADA paved trail is \$1,000,000 per mile and from the Santa Fe River Trail to the northwest quadrant is 10,000 feet. In addition for an 18 inch mountain bike trail it is an additional \$1,000 per mile. If you add another 10 miles in the spot that used to be the archery, to make it complete, it would be rounded off to almost \$3,000,000.

Mr. Gurule has not received pricing for fencing and signs yet.

Ms. Alexander said that when they received bids to work on the trail this summer, one of the bids turned out to be just a planning document. They went with the bid that wasn't for the planning. She thought the planning bid was interesting because they wanted \$70,000 to do a top notch plan for the area.

Ms. Alexander said planning is important so you get things done right the first time.

Ms. Gurule added that one of the recommendations for the Committee was to provide adequate maintenance to the parks. The department is currently under staffed so the monies that are being dedicated with this initiative cannot be used for maintenance personnel. It can be used for operation, capital outlay but it can't be used for maintenance personnel. In the strategic planning for the city, they have the governing body right now that is in support of channeling other monies to the department to fund maintenance personnel.

Mr. Gurule said that if this passes, both Finance and Public Works make the steps to fund the Parks Department to where it would have the meticulous maintenance that the parks need.

Ms. Alexander said that one of the partnerships that the Conservation Trust is working with is the City, County and the Trust to hire a trails coordinator to help all the volunteers that are interested in working on the trails. They have a stewards group for the La Tierra Trails that have met twice.

Ms. Alexander said the Santa Fe Conservation Trust has proposed \$25,000 from the City, \$25,000 from the County and \$25,000 from the Trust to set up this program. The Trails Coordinator would assist the Parks Department in helping volunteers know what to do out on the trails. This will leverage a lot of volunteer efforts. The Trust is really interested in doing this too.

Chair Booth asked what the Committee wanted to do.

Ms. Veneklasen said as she understood it they did not need to vote on this issue.

Mr. Martinez said a consensus would be the way to go since it wasn't an action item. He does not have a problem supporting it

Mr. Lopez said he is also in support but he hopes that someone won't come next week and say they have another trail they need work on.

Chair Booth said she has a problem with the connecting to the Santa Fe River Trail.

Mr. Gurule said there is a proposal already in place to bring the trail down to the Santa Fe River.

Ms. Alexander said this should be a little easier because it is already city owned land and now is the time to do it before all the development or land issues interfere. It will more expensive later on to do it.

Mr. Gurule said that the recommendation of this committee should be brought forward as a minimum of adequate and Jackie will write it down so they can produce a document.

Jackie Gonzales asked what would they want to include in the improvements.

Mr. Gurule said a link to the trails and fencing.

Ms. Alexander said new trails on the east side of Los Montoya's.

Chair Booth asked how people feel about adding this on.

Mr. Gurule said they need time to add whatever documents they need in the packet.

Jackie said it would not take her a lot of time to do this if she has the improvements that were recommended.

Mr. Lopez said if they don't fence it, it will be a waste of money because of illegal dumping, four wheelers, etc.

Chair Booth said to her the minimum would be to fence.

Ms. Alexander another aspect would be to link to Las Estrellas.

Chair Booth said that \$1,400,000 had been funded for the Pueblos del Sol Trail and Councilor Ortiz said he would remove the \$400,000 for the Electrical Plant to be converted into a museum on Canyon Road.

Ms. Veneklasen said it really looks like Councilor Bushee really wants this done.

Ms. Gonzales said she would include fencing, link to the Santa Fe Trail, signage and mapping to the document.

Chair Booth said it was the consensus of the Committee with a motion pending that the Committee was fine with this issue and Mr. Gurule and Ms. Gonzales will prepare and present to the Governing Body.

REVIEW OF THE REFINED MASTER PLAN

Chair Booth said that she had found some discrepancies in what was recorded in the minutes and the Master Plan. She and Veronica will meet and go over the information so that the minutes and the master plan have the same information.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dave McQuarie asked when the Master Plan would be made available to the public. He indicated that it is a working document and before it get out it needs to go out for public review. Mr. McQuarie suggested that at the minimum there should be copies available at all the libraries, one at City Hall and one at the Parks Division Office. Another copy should be provided on-line on the City's web page.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM - ADVISORY COMMITTEE STRATEGY TO SUPPORT THE INITIATIVE

Chair Booth said she has received a couple of calls and e-mails suggesting the idea of creating a Parks Bond Initiative Campaign Committee. She is urging that they get the private sector, homeowners associations so they have representation from the environmentalists.

Chair Booth asked what the Committee should do.

Mr. Wallman said to go to the newspapers.

Mr. Martinez said they need to get someone on the Committee that has advisor that has some kind of marketing background on how to get the word out.

Mr. Gurule said they have two resources within the City that can definitely give the Committee some direction.

Ms. Veneklasen said she wants to find a person who will tell them what to do.

Mr. Gurule said he would pass it through the City Attorney to see if they can use City staff.

Chair Booth asked who would oppose it.

Mr. Gurule said everyone in the Patrick Smith Area unless you give them all dog parks.

Ms. Veneklasen said the older poor people will not be for it. She said they need to get the young people out and the people who have money who want Santa Fe to be a wonderful place. These people need to help get this done.

Chair Booth said they would keep in contact with the Santa Fe Conservation Trust to see who they want on the Committee.

ESTABLISH DATE AND TIME FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for November 15, 2007 at 3:30 p.m. at the Parks Division Conference Room.


ADJOURNMENT

There being no further matters to discuss and the agenda having been completed, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Approved by:


Elizabeth Booth, Chair

Submitted by:


Veronica Maldonado, Stenographer