



# Agenda

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## Parks and Open Space Advisory Commission

The Barn at Frenchy's Field Agua Fria

Tuesday June 15, 2010

3:00 -5:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Review and Approval of the May minutes
4. Approval of the Agenda
5. Old Business
  - Parks Division Update
6. New Business
  - City Council Resolution
  - Reuben Lovato - YAFL
7. Possible Reports:
  - Tom Agard: Organized Youth Sports and Survey / Workforce Development / Trails to Schools
  - Jessie Esparza: Community Gardens
  - Marge VeneKlasen:
  - Anna Hansen: Art in Parks / MPO Bicycle Committee Meetings / Disc Golf
  - Daniel Coriz: NW Quadrant / BMX
  - Oralynn Guerrerortiz: Tierra Contenta Master Plan / Disc Golf in Tierra Contenta
  - Joe Lehm: Skate Parks / Bike paths and connections
  - Patrick Torres: Community Gardens / Tree City
  - Sandie Taylor: Ten Park Histories on the Portal / Tree City
  - Bette Booth: Graffiti / Youth Involvement / Prairie Dogs
6. Public Comments
7. Confirm date and time for the next meeting

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

**JUNE 15, 2010**

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

**TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 2010**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the City of Santa Fe Parks and Open Space Advisory Commission was called to order by Anna Hansen, Acting Chair on this date at approximately 3:00 pm at Frenchy's Field, Agua Fria Road, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll call indicated the presence of a quorum as follows:

**Members Present**

Anna Hansen  
Daniel Coriz  
Tom Agard  
Sandra Taylor  
Patrick Torres  
Marg Veneklasen

**Members Absent**

Bette Booth, Chair (excused)  
Oralynn Guerterortiz  
Joe Lehm

**Staff Present**

Fabian Chavez, Parks Director, City of Santa Fe  
Jesse Esparza, Parks Department

**Others Present**

Melissa Byers, Legal Department  
Reuben Lovato, YAFL  
Dirk Williamson, YAFL  
Charmaine Clair, Stenographer

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES-May 18, 2010**

**Ms. Taylor moved to approve the Minutes of May 18, 2010 as presented. Mr. Agard seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.**

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Old Business would be postponed until Mr. Chavez arrived.

*Ms. Veneklasen arrived at this time.*

**Ms. Taylor moved to approve the Agenda as amended. Mr. Torres seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Reuben Lovato - YAFL (Young American Football League)

Mr. Agard said he asked Mr. Lovato to give a presentation of YAFL in the fortieth year.

Mr. Lovato introduced Mr. Dirk Williamson, one of several commissioners with YAFL. He said Mr. Williamson's job was to ensure all kids got to play, he handled practices and issued equipment and also took over in his absence.

A summary of Mr. Lovato's presentation follows:

The YAFL program was started because of a lack of activity for kids and to fill a void from August through November. Play started in August with ages 6-12 and kids were matched for height and weight; heavier kids were moved to an older group. The previous year there were 500 kids and each division had a conference.

The leagues played on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday and all of their games were played at Alto Park. Games started at 5:45 and went until about 8 p.m. The league now included Los Alamos, Espanola, Pojoaque and Pecos and everyone played in Santa Fe.

Franklin Miles Park was used for a long time. It fit their purpose with ample parking and a concession stand but the constant prairie dog holes became dangerous. The field was now in bad shape, even after the remodel. Mr. Lovato said the city spent a lot of money but the field wasn't suitable for football or soccer, or any game with the holes and ruts and uneven turf.

Most of the kids had to commute and find rides to town because of the lack of facilities in the southern part of town. Mr. Lovato said he was disappointed with the outcome of the build out for the leagues. He said a big problem was city council; decisions were made without input from the leagues and without knowledge of what the kids needed.

The committee discussed the problem with sharing the fields with other leagues and people that weren't authorized to be on the field. Mr. Lovato thought the city needed a park ranger to check the facilities and who used them. He said people seemed more concerned about the protection of prairie dogs than keeping the kids from danger and disease.

Turf fields were discussed and it was noted that Salvador Perez and Alto Parks were the only two and there was a desperate need for one or two more. The use of the high school fields was discussed. Mr. Lovato said tournaments played at Santa Fe High costs \$1400 for the weekend. The schools wouldn't lend their fields to YAFL even though they weren't used during the week. The city had an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) for schools to share facilities if the city needed them and the schools could be asked to accommodate them. He said he was glad that a commission existed that had the ear of city council.

Chair Hansen thanked Mr. Lovato and Mr. Williamson for coming and providing an update.

- City Council Resolution

Melissa Byers said she worked with the city attorney in the legislative office. She said their legislative office role was to attend committee meetings, listen to discussions and note comments and address recommended changes or concerns that the committees had in amendments.

Chair Hansen said she had no problem with the resolution but found it vague.

Ms. Byers explained staff was directed to look at how money could be found to continue ongoing beautification of parks and trails, once the bond money was spent. She would report staff's findings within 60 days to the Public Works and Finance Committees. The resolution would go through the committee process; the Finance Committee, then through Public Works Committee and June 30th would go to city council for consideration. If adopted, staff would evaluate and then go back to Public Works with their findings.

Chair Hansen asked that the Parks and Opens Spaces Advisory (POSA) Commission be included and receive a report.

Ms. Torres was concerned about timing for Parks staff during their busy season and asked if the window could be extended to November.

Ms. Byers said her understanding was not that Parks was asked how financing could be done but it was the Finance Director that would evaluate the options. She said the \$30 million bond had been done that way and started with a resolution and staff looked into varied financing.

Chair Hansen said before the resolution was approved the money had to be designated or it would be used elsewhere for whatever someone wanted.

Mr. Coriz asked if there was money for maintenance; and if money was received for projects could they be maintained. He said his experience was Parks was short staffed.

Ms. Byers said the resolution was direction for staff. She said she could add another whereas to address on-going maintenance needs if the commission had that concern.

Chair Hansen said the commission wanted a whereas added that asked to see money for maintenance, work force training, etc.

Ms. Esparza said money was put aside for salary for each park but it was *keeping* the guys; after hired they wouldn't show up for work.

Ms. Taylor said that a concern was permanent employees. The national recommended average for the maintenance of parks was one person for every five acres and Santa Fe had one employee for every 10 acres.

Ms. Hansen said the resolution should include that permanent staff be hired at a higher salary so qualified people could be kept.

Ms. Byers added the *whereas* and read it to the commission. It referred to the on-going need for work force training and development for on-going maintenance and park improvements. She said she would note on the amendment sheet that Parks staff recommended if they were involved that this be put off until fall. A copy to the amendment of the resolution would be sent to the commission.

**REPORTS: (Revised agenda order)**

- Tom Agard: Organized Youth Sports and Survey / Workforce Development / Safe Routes to Schools / Meeting Report

Mr. Agard said tournament's started in July and would be every day for two weeks and included Girls Fast Pitch, Junior's and Senior's and Boys Majors, and Juniors and Double ABC's.

He said none of the bond issue money was dedicated for the fields. A lot of money was spent on prairie dog removal and they were now in places never seen before. He said staff had done a great job at Franklin Miles Park and the prairie dogs were already back.

Mr. Agard suggested working with the high schools and bringing 4H into the program regarding workforce training. He said the high school workforce kids could be hired that were engaged in agricultural science. He said because part-time summer help was a problem, the focus could be on a population of kids that at least showed interest in working with the parks.

It was mentioned that the Keep Santa Fe Beautiful kids worked in the summer and were eligible and Youth Works kids were under contract with Brian Drypolcher to assist with the River Park.

Ms. Veneklasen suggested getting the teams to help.

Mr. Agard said his league would increase maintenance next year and now had space to keep their equipment and do maintenance and would work with staff.

Mr. Chavez said the challenge was to bring staff up to speed; full time people could work on their Associates Degree and were qualified for all training. He said the part timers could be included if there but a lot of the training occurred in the winter when staff couldn't afford to be in the classroom. He said it was difficult to train part time people that came in April or May and missed that window.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- Parks Division Update

A summary of the update given by Mr. Chavez follows:

*Ragle Park*- over bid by \$8,000; negotiations were underway with the low bidder, the designer and city staff. The project would be started in August and finished hopefully by November and as many elements would be put in that could be. The next step was to meet with Councilors Trujillo and Ortiz.

Mr. Chavez said he was contacted by Larry Martin, supervisor from Western Summit. Western Summit liked to give something to the community before leaving a project and they would provide a fast track

for BMX and some skate and other features free. The features would be started in July and a plaque would state the feature was built by Western Summit in appreciation for the people of Santa Fe.

*Franklin Miles Park*-the skate Park improvements were done. A new water meter was put in; a stone feature memorial would go in and a blessing, requested by Councilor Dominguez, would be done in the next couple of weeks.

*Sunny Slope Meadows*-completed.

*Frenchy's*- a mid August opening was projected. The lights were up and running and when all of the work was done and the fences down, a ribbon-cutting would be done.

*Larragoite Park*- still on line for mid August and the tennis courts were resurfaced and open.

*Frank Ortiz Dog Park*- the layout of the irrigation was finished and the trees and shade structure would be done in about a week. The drinking fountain and irrigation would be finished near the playground and trees and ADA ramps would be added and finished in 2-3 weeks.

The prairie dog re-locator was out at Franklin Miles Park and would go to Ragle to begin relocation. A condition was being worked out in the MOU (memorandum of understanding) with the Bureau of Land Management to provide a relocation site. A cultural landscape report would have to be paid for; the site was on historical land and homesteads there had to be identified. Historically the site was a prairie dog site and a large prairie dog colony was needed for the eco system to work.

*Santa Fe River Parkway*- the irrigation improvements would be started next week in sections 1 & 2 from Camino Alire.

*Nava Ade, Prince Park and Missoni Park* -were under design; *Octilia Tennis Courts*- complete.

*Power Plant Park*- finished but the gates would stay closed to get the seed growing.

Proposals were currently being sought for basketball courts to be resurfaced.

*Ashbaugh Park* - the construction documents were finished, would be reviewed for changes and go to bid in the next couple of weeks.

*Salvador Perez Park*- the patio was completed and schematics were finished and under construction document stage.

*Chair Ms. Hansen said she would move Public Comments up on the agenda at this time.*

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS (Revised Agenda Order)**

Jeff Howely said he was involved in athletics in Santa Fe for over 30 years and his father and Mr. Lovato had started YAFL.

He said he had coached in numerous organizations and made a promise to kids to do what he could to bring activities to the South side of town. In hearing the comments and the work that Parks had done, his major concern was that there were no parks on the South side of town and that need had to be addressed. He said he had been working with Councilor Dominguez for two years and this was the first he knew about the parks commission.

Mr. Howely said certain areas that the state owned were being looked at and there had been discussion about sales and land swaps. He said money was the number one thing. He thought the city hadn't been creative enough to allow the community to finance parks and use corporations; Western Summit pipelines were going in on the South side of town but the money was used on the north side of town.

He said he was happy to hear that the basketball courts at Las Acequias Park would be resurfaced. He said he was concerned with the graffiti and the lack of responsibility in the park and that side of town should be involved in the activity to have pride in their park. A workforce development program should be looked at and be part of the park activity and kids should be taught to work with irrigation systems, park maintenance, horticulture etc. and be responsible for their park. He said it would allow them to be proud of the park and the South side of town.

He said on the South side, most of the kids had never been in an organized program because their parents couldn't drive them at five o'clock from that side of town to practices at Franklin Miles or Alto Park. He wanted dialogue for that. He said parks were looked at for Nava Ade and Los Soleras that wouldn't serve the South side of Santa Fe. The area from Los Pablano to 599 had to be looked at where 4,000-5,000 kids lived.

Chair Hansen said a regional park for Tierra Contenta was being worked on and Ms. Guerrerortiz represented that and wasn't able to be present.

Mr. Howely said Councilor Dominguez urged him to talk with the commission. He offered to be a part of the commission or a committee that needed ideas.

Chair Hansen said she would pass his name and contact information on to Ms. Guerrerortiz.

Mr. Chávez said he failed to mention that \$243,000 had been appropriated for the master design of Tierra Contenta Park and the RFP would go out this month and would meet with the neighbors to find what they wanted in the park. He added Plaza Contenta would break ground in a couple of months and a neighborhood meeting was held at Colonial Prisma the previous week and the park would happen this year.

Mr. Howely said the pocket parks were nice. He said he wanted to look at the opportunities and thought the parks should be more self sustainable and the youth resources used, so taxpayers wouldn't be burdened.

## **REPORTS: (continued)**



- Jesse Esparza ; community gardens

Ms. Esparza said Frenchy's had black fabric donated to surround the gardens to help keep out prairie dogs.

Ms. Taylor asked if a thank you letter could be written to the person who made the donation and was asked to draft the letter to be put on next month's agenda for approval.

- BTAC/ Anna Hansen –

Chair Hansen said she would attend the MPO Bicycle Committee meeting the next afternoon. She was concerned about the crossing at St. Francis because it was narrow and congested and she planned to bring that up.

- Northwest Quadrant – Daniel Coriz

Mr. Coriz said trails were being worked on. There were two sets; the trash pit and the BMX trails. There wasn't much use because of the wind.

He said Franklin Miles Park came out good and the cracks had been filled in and everyone was impatient to use it. They were staying off the ledges that were rebuilt and everyone was excited to see the new features at Ragle. He said that would be a beginner level BMX for kids. He said there were a few concerns and a couple of ledges that should be addressed.

- Community Gardens/Tree City- Patrick Torres

Mr. Torres said the last meeting for Tree City was in April and the Parks Division would acquire free software ( i-trees and i-streets) to count individual samplings of trees for a tree inventory.

He said a work plan was started and part of the plan was public education and ongoing training of employees. He said extensive work around city hall and the river area would take place.

In May, tree seedlings were distributed at the Community Day event. Mr. Chavez said it was fun and their booth was the most popular. A tree was given away every 10 minutes with a total of 50 given.

He said the Forrest Service had Re-Leaf money and he had talked with the grant writer about reapplication this year. The deadline was the end of summer and the maximum was \$6000 with a stipulation that Parks showed an in-kind donation. The River Parkway would be their in-kind donation. Last year \$8-9,000 worth of trees was bought and the grant would free \$6000 up of tree purchases. Mr. Chavez asked if members saw a grant that fit to send to him and he would do the work and submit it.

- Park History/Portal/ Tree City – Sandra Taylor

Ms. Taylor said to add to Mr. Torres' report on Tree City, the number one task for Tree City was to explore resources such as Re-Leaf, or the National Arbor Day Association that could fund new and replacement trees. She said things were moving along.

Ms. Taylor said a request was made on who Mager's Field was named for. She said that H. Brady Magers had been a coach at Santa Fe High and coached the first team that won a state football championship from Santa Fe on that field. After the championship game Mr. Magers got kids and parents together and built stadiums and was instrumental in getting the area developed in the 1930's. He passed away in 1976.

Mr. Chavez added that Magers' Field Park was planned to be called Fort Marcy Park and someone suggested it be Brady Magers and the resolution was changed.

Chair Hansen asked Ms. Taylor if the historic information was on the website. She was told it wasn't but it was being worked on.

**DATE AND TIME FOR NEXT MEETING:**

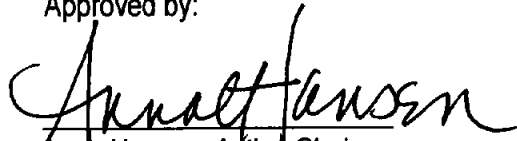
Tuesday, July 20, 2010, at Frenchy's Field.

**ADJOURN:**

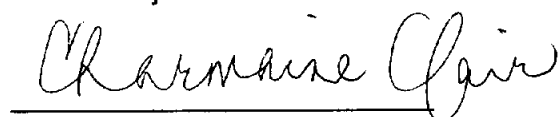
**Mr. Agard moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Veneklasen seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.**

*Having no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.*

Approved by:

  
Anna Hansen, Acting Chair

Submitted by:

  
Charmaine Clair, Stenographer