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Parks and Open Space Advisory Commission

The Barn at Frenchy's Field

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

3:00 -5:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Review and Approval of Minutes: September 20, 2011 & November 15, 2011
4. Approval of the Agenda
5. Old Business
 - Priority Recommendations for Parks, Open Space, Trails and Recreational Facilities 2012 Bond Planning Process Update: Legal Implications for the 2012 Parks and Trails Bond – Judith Amer, Assistant City Attorney
 - Reallocation of Parks Bond Monies Proposal Update – Councilor Carmichael Dominguez
 - Parks Implementation Update / Items that will be coming before the Governing Body in January / February
6. New Business
 - New Mexico Centennial Garden Program Proposal – Amy Hetager
7. Possible Reports:
 - Tom Agard: Organized Youth Sports / Workforce Development / Trails to Schools
 - Jessie Esparza: Community Gardens
 - Martin Ortega:
 - Anna Hansen: Art in Parks / MPO Meetings and MPO Bicycle Committee meetings / Disc Golf
 - Daniel Coriz: NW Quadrant / BMX
 - Oralynn Guerrerortiz: Tierra Contenta Master Plan
 - Joe Lehm: Bike paths and connections / Skate Parks Patrick Torres: Community Gardens / Tree City
 - Sandie Taylor: Ten Park Histories on the Portal / Tree City
 - Bette Booth: Graffiti / Youth Involvement / Prairie Dogs
8. Public Comments
9. Confirm date and time for the next meeting

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CITY OF SANTA FE
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION

JANUARY 17, 2012

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2012

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 pm at Frenchy's Field Barn, Corner of Agua Fria and Osage, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

ROLL CALL

Roll call indicated a quorum as follows:

Members Present

Bette Booth, Chair
Oralynn Guerrerortiz (arrived later)
Anna Hansen
Joe Lehm
Sandra Taylor
Patrick Torres

Members Absent

Tom Agard
Daniel Coriz
Martin Ortega

Staff Present

Gino Zamora, City Attorney
Robert Wood, IPM Manager
Fabian Chavez, Parks Superintendant
Jesse Esparza, Parks Department

Others Present

Charmaine Clair, Stenographer

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- September 20, 2011 and November 15, 2011
September 20, 2011

Page 4, third paragraph: "it was explained that the City Clerk requested the documents be exhibits to the minutes..." was actually that POSAC had asked if the documents could be exhibits in the minutes so the documents could be on the website.

Page 7, under the park update- the new park listed as *Octillia* was corrected to **Atalaya**.

Page 12, "Mr. Lenman said Willard with Santa Fe *Sentry* donated \$500" was corrected to Santa Fe **Century**.

November, 2011

Mr. Torres moved to approve the minutes of September, 2011 as amended and November, 2011 as presented. Ms. Hansen seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Ms. Alexander would speak under Public Comments if she arrived.

Mr. Zamora would replace Ms. Amer under Old Business.

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

Ms. Guerrerortiz entered the meeting at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

- Priority Recommendations for Parks, Open Space, Trails and Recreational Facilities 2012 Bond Planning Process Update: Legal Implications for the 2012 Parks and Trails Bond – Mr. Zamora, City Attorney

Chair Booth said City Council approved two types of bonds; the Capital Improvement Bond (CIP) that does not go to the voters and the General Obligation Bond (GO) that is voted on. She asked Mr. Chavez to explain the CIP Bond in regard to parks.

Mr. Chavez said the CIP Bond contains two million dollars for Parks to fund operations for the parks, open spaces and trails. The funds could be used to pay salaries for temporary workers for a two year cycle (starting July) and for repair/replacement of broken equipment, etc. He said this was not a supplement to the Parks bond and the money could not be used to build parks.

Ms. Guerrerortiz confirmed that the Parks crews would be paid for over the next two years. She understood that money taken from the 2008 bond to cover some of the numbers would be refunded and reapportioned to other park bond issues.

Mr. Chavez said that was incorrect. He said the only money that came from the 2008 bonds was the labor for temporary workers. The money was not a reimbursement.

Ms. Guerrerortiz asked where the money came from for the \$750,000 reallocation in the 2008 bond.

Mr. Zamora said it came from the project savings of the 2008 bond; leftover money that was reallocated.

Chair Booth said the GO bonds would go to the voters and there are three basic questions: 1) A public safety bond of \$5 million 2) Parks and trails and 3) Sustainable environmental bonds for about \$3.8 million.

Chair Booth said the question is whether the City of Santa Fe should issue up to \$14 million of bonds to acquire land, plan, design, build, renovate and improve public parks for bicycle/pedestrian trails and related infrastructure (\$6 million for trail improvements; \$5 million for SWAN Park and \$3 million for parks improvements.)

Chair Booth thanked Mr. Zamora for coming. She wanted the Commission to be clear and able to give accurate information when talking to people about the bonds.

Mr. Zamora said as he saw it, the central question was in the bond what governs the types of projects that could be funded by a GO Bond voted on by the public. The three questions are up for separate votes and would be listed in March.

He explained that what appears on the ballot is the question voters will vote upon. The language that followed (flyers, descriptive, educational materials, projects recommended by Governing Body etc.) would not appear on the ballot and the language that appears would govern the spending.

Mr. Zamora used question #2 to explain why questions were phrased in the manner they were. He said each word has a purpose because if a word was left out money couldn't be spent on that. He gave a hypothetical situation that the City had one million dollars to construct a park and learned that someone had a claim on the land and a title had to be acquired. He said the bond money couldn't be used to quiet the title because it wasn't included in the bond.

He said there is a point where the language should be broad and inclusive. He gave an example of when that was needed. He said the language should be broad enough to cover the detail of the projects identified. The language of the bond allows for contingencies and what is included is allowed and what isn't included is not allowed.

Chair Booth said there would be three new councilors on the City Council and with two Councilor's votes, the \$5 million for SWAN Park could be used to do something else.

Mr. Zamora said the ultimate decision makers are the Governing Body and advisory committees are *advisory*. He said the advisory commissions were appointed to put together a pool of people with expertise and information and the ability to analyze issues at a deeper level than the Governing Body.

Chair Booth said Councilor Dominguez had commented that POSAC had wielded an incredible amount of influence in how the bond was implemented. She thought that was because POSAC represented a broad diversity of Santa Fe with the expertise to speak intelligently about the parks. She thanked the Commissioners for their hard work.

Ms. Guerrerortiz said since money could be moved, she wanted question #2 to state that SWAN would have a minimum of \$5 million and she understood there was a possibility it might not be used for that. She asked if the questions were set in stone.

Mr. Zamora said the deadline to finalize the questions had passed. He said there is risk with too much or a lack of specificity and identifying a certain park in a certain area could risk losing support from another area of town.

Ms. Hansen said POSAC should talk to the people running for City Council and express how important the money is for SWAN Park. She said if the Councilors were to think about changing that, the Commission would need to know now. She said she could advocate for people willing to put their money where their mouth is and support SWAN and it was criminal a huge park isn't in the south part of town.

Ms. Guerrerortiz thought they should make sure the Councilors want to support Swan.

Mr. Zamora pointed out that advisory committees often think anything less than 100% of their project lists is a failure but from 50-80 percent was incredibly successful.

Chair Booth said that was why when the Commission helped to create the budget their first step was to identify priorities. She said the Commission has to hold the line on their four priorities; to bring the south side up to standard; to make Santa Fe more wheel friendly with the push for skate parks; parks that were not finished/orphan parks and to support youth sports, particularly multi use fields.

Ms. Guerrerortiz said it would be good to have a campaign that shows parks before and after the 2008 bond. She asked if funding was available for that.

Mr. Zamora said Kate Noble is coordinating the information process for the GO Bond and could advise the Commission of the informational campaign through government television and e-mail blasts. He said to date there wasn't a private campaign either for or against, but he expected both.

Mr. Zamora said the City website has a schedule and a page dedicated to information on the bonds and City Hall Live would feature a different person each week to present different facts and information. He would send an e-mail with a disclaimer that the information was not to advocate for or against and only for informational or educational purposes.

Mr. Zamora explained that as individuals they could engage in personal activities but as a City committee their role is to provide facts for the bond.

Ms. Taylor asked if Chair Booth appeared on a radio show and was identified as the chairperson of POSAC and advocated for the bond, would that be as an individual; or because she was introduced as the chair, would that cross a line.

Mr. Zamora said the questions had shades of gray and someone invited to a radio interview in their individual capacity could be an advocate. If invited to give the perspective of a specific City entity then he recommended they give only facts. He said either way, to educate people about what is in the bond could help people decide.

Mr. Chavez asked if it was okay to say 40% of the children live in the Southwest sector of Santa Fe and there were no parks over 5 acres in the Southwest side of town.

Mr. Zamora said those were facts and were okay. A statement like "a park in this area would raise the quality of life" implied that voting against that would lower the quality of living.

Ms. Guerrerortiz said if introduced as the chair of POSAC that the Chair could start by saying she was there as an individual and not representing the Commission and that the expressions presented would be theirs. They could then say what they want and be an advocate.

Mr. Zamora agreed and said it would be important to clarify that they were acting as an individual. He agreed the Commission could write a letter to the editor that stated facts also.

Chair Booth said she wasn't sure how she could stand in front of people and say they want \$5 million for Swan and a multiuse field would be built for Las Acequias when they don't know that that would happen. She said people thought the City wouldn't spend the money as stated in the last bond and the Commission assured them they would let them know if that happened.

Mr. Zamora said the greater majority of projects get completed and the majority of funds are dedicated and used for their purpose. He said contingencies are in every project but the likelihood is that the projects would be completed and POSAC would remain vigilant to see that as many as possible do.

Mr. Zamora had to leave and said as he previously stated; if monies remain available for whatever reason they could be reallocated within the purpose of the question. He said that \$750,000 in funds remained as a result of expansion is available.

1. Reallocation of Parks Bond Monies Proposal Update – Councilor Carmichael Dominguez

Councilor Dominguez could not be present and Chair Booth asked Mr. Chavez to explain the reallocation.

Mr. Chavez said he could only speak to the facts. He said when the parks bond question came to vote in the November 30 meeting, Councilor Dominguez moved to approve to vote for the Parks reallocation to move \$750,000 to pay for payroll from CIP to pay for salaries.

Mr. Chavez said at that time Councilor Dominguez amended his motion to take \$500,000 for the SWAN Park design, \$50,000 for the Botanic Gardens, \$100,000 to look at the electronic boxes on the Plaza and \$100,000 for cameras in town and the motion passed.

Ms. Guerrerortiz said she wasn't happy that the bond money was moved around but liked where it went. She said Councilor Dominguez tried to get CIP funding for the design work for SWAN but the CIP money couldn't be used for that and he would get the design started soon. She was uncomfortable about the concept that everything was done and money was leftover and said she doesn't see it.

Chair Booth said the Parks staff had done everything possible to keep costs down and in a since, she thought was punished for doing a good job and the money taken for other projects on the master plan.

Ms. Guerrerortiz said Councilor Dominguez has committed \$350 (thousand) needed for the downtown skate park and is looking in the Park Impact fees. She heard it has about \$425,000.

Mr. Chavez said that was not correct. He said there was money for the Colonial Prisma design and \$144,000 for Salvador Perez and there are four categories. He thought the balance was about \$145,000.

Chair Booth said the question was if the money was needed because the parks were underfunded or a cost overrun, etc. She said one question was if a skate park at De Vargas would be built or would wait until the next bond.

Mr. Chavez said the West De Vargas Park would be built but if there are plans to change the design it would require additional funding.

Ms. Guerrerortiz asked Mr. Chavez to let her know if something was short (of funds) because she knew a Councilor willing to get the money from the Park Impact fees.

Mr. Chavez asked Ms. Guerrerortiz to contact Brian Drypolcher.

Mr. Lehm added that the Park (De Vargas) was about \$150,000 short. He asked if it wouldn't raise the priority because it was two thirds done and should have already happened.

Chair Booth said \$80,000 was budgeted for the skate park to pave the bowl and all of the money has been leveraged from the Parque del Rio.

Ms. Guerrerortiz said she would call the Councilor and tell him that \$150,000 was needed.

Chair Booth said the majority of the money went for things POSAC came up with and supported. She suggested that the following month the Commission decide how to keep their priorities up there.

2. Parks Implementation Update / Items that will be coming before the Governing Body in January / February

Mr. Chavez provided an update on the parks. A summary follows:

Adam Armijo- an extensive orchard would be put in; about 70% complete. The money would come from Quality of Life.

Amelia White Park- the new latillas would be next.

Pueblos Del Sol trails- completed. Dog waste stations and trash receptacles would be done in house.

Ragle-the electrical contractor would redirect lights on the fields for even lighting. The park had four power outages last year and PNM engineers agreed to redo the primary line and pay for it. The line would go up the center of fields two and three where the new art work would go and a PNM person would have to be present while the work is done.

Ashbaugh- contractor complete; the last electrical and irrigation work in house is being done and the top part of the park should be open in a week.

Herb Martinez- the construction drawings are almost complete; the cultural report is complete. The in house construction crew would hold a preconstruction meeting within a week.

Calle Lorca- complete except for over-seeding in the spring. An accessibility ramp and play feature will be installed.

Villa Linda- completed. A new trail was built but the southwest fence needed repair and more money would be spent to re-do the perimeter fence.

Rancho del Sol Park and Atalaya- under in house design.

Cielo Vista Park- almost finished. The neighbors reviewed and decided to put a wall up instead of a bridge so the connector trail wouldn't happen. Archaeological would delay the project a month.

Prince Park- (next to Cross of the Martyrs) is waiting for plaques paid for and coming from the National Park Service. Parks would install. The benches and trash receptacles stopped because of archaeological would be finished.

Monica Lucero- design is in process.

- Pruning at all of the parks would start and take about three months and use Quality of Life money.
- In January all Park staff supervisors would be sent to ADA accessibility training related to playgrounds and eleven people would be sent to Think Trees in Albuquerque.
- Parks received a \$7,000 grant from ReLeaf from State Forestry that would go to West De Vargas Park. The Parks staff helped the Adam Armijo group apply for a Miracle-Gro grant but they didn't get it because of heavy competition.

NEW BUSINESS

- NM Centennial Garden Program Proposal – Amy Hetager

Chair Booth introduced Amy Hetager, the Mayordoma at El Milagro.

Ms. Amy Hetager said she works with local food in many ways, mostly with gardening. She has Homegrown New Mexico, a nonprofit that teaches people to garden and has been working for four years with Milagro Community Gardens on private land with people that don't have space to garden in their homes.

Ms. Hetager said she recently worked with Mr. Chavez, Ms. Esparza and Chair Booth to complete a grant application with the New Mexico Centennial Foundation. Different levels of grant money are available and she hopes to get \$10,000. The grant includes several parks with neighborhood groups looking for community gardens and one is in her neighborhood.

She should find out if she will receive the money by the beginning of March and would meet with Ms. Esparza and Mr. Chávez to see how much and what to do next.

Ms. Hetager said she also works with Earth Care who works with the Santa Fe Public Schools and part of her job is to teach them to garden and part is for community gardens. She would look for funding opportunities to help other groups of neighbors who want a community garden.

Mr. Chavez said he wrote a letter of support for Ms. Hetager. He told about the receiving \$1200 from the New Mexico Centennial to buy trees without applying and said the money was given to Gilda Montano with Keep Santa Fe Beautiful.

Chair Booth thanked Ms. Hetager and said they would see more of her.

POSSIBLE REPORTS:

- Jessie Esparza: Community Gardens

Chair Booth said there was a meeting at Frenchy's Barn on December 7 with representatives from community gardens at El Milagro, Rail Yard, Maclovía, Frenchy's, Sunny Slope and the future Cerro Gordo garden orchard.

She said Ms. Hetager has talked about having a follow up meeting in February to talk about how different gardens would function; it was clear each would be different. Each garden would then have a meeting.

Mr. Chavez said staff had cleaned out Frenchy's house and he needed to know who to give the key to. Chair Booth agreed to follow up on that.

- Anna Hansen: Art in Parks / MPO meetings & Bicycle / Disc Golf

Ms. Hansen said she hasn't heard when, but hoped the sculpture is coming and there could be a spring dedication. The MPO bicycle hadn't met.

- Oralynn Guerrerortiz: Tierra Contenta Master Plan

Ms. Guerrerortiz said she was asked by Councilor Dominguez to look at the Phase I plans for SWAN to see if the skate park could be included in that design. She left a message for Claudia Horn.

She asked what the schedule was for the SWAN engineering design work funded by CIP.

Mr. Chavez said that Parks Allocation funded it and there were a lot of questions. He would meet with Ike Pino. He said the project would go out to bid.

- Sandra Taylor: Ten Park Histories on the Portal / Tree City

Mr. Torres said he had nothing to report but wanted to commend staff for getting the additional funds for planting trees, etc. to keep the Tree City status.

Chair Booth said new committee members were discussed at the last meeting for their Board. She asked Mr. Torres if there was a complete list. She was to have forward an e-mail but it was lost with the holidays.

Mr. Wood said he hadn't received anything so he hadn't moved forward.

Chair Booth confirmed that one more interested person was needed. She said the two interested people could be approved.

Ms. Taylor said the Botanical Garden installed the 1913 bridge across the Arroyo de Los Pinos at Museum Hill. The bridge was sandblasted and a sealer put on that appeared red and she thought tourists would enjoy the bright red color of the bridge.

Ms. Taylor gave background on the bridge; it was the Carney Gap Bridge donated by the City of Las Vegas and a private family to the City of Santa Fe. A family in Santa Fe underwrote the transportation and refurbishing of the bridge.

Chair Booth added that the portal is full and would be redesigned. She asked Ms. Taylor to check on the status before the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Margaret Alexander said she is a member of the Trails Alliance of Santa Fe that does maintenance work on trails. She invited POSAC to their lunch meetings at the Lucky Bean on the first Monday of every month.

Ms. Alexander said in 2011 the Trails Alliance put in just shy of 1800 hours of volunteer work on trails in two entities; the City of Santa Fe and the Forest Service. Most trails were in the La Tierra Trails but they also did a lot of work on Forest Service trails.

Ms. Alexander said the Trails Alliance of Santa Fe is a tiny organization and reach out to other groups to provide man power and the Alliance would provide tools and training. She said the group was driven because Santa Fe got the International Mountain Biking Summit (IMBA.) She met with the County that morning that would spend \$600,000 on the Rail Trail from Santa Fe toward El Dorado.

Ms. Alexander said she was also on the race committee for the La Tierra Tortiere that would be held April 28-29 and was an annual mountain bike race. She said the race committee is volunteer and there is a lot of work to do. She said if a profit is made it would be given to a not-for-profit group in Santa Fe. She said they need help and ways to get discounts.

She said last year there were about 200 riders and that was down from 225 and they want to get the numbers up again. She thought the numbers were down because no one on the race committee knew how to write a press release and Chair Booth said she might help. She would also ask the Convention and Visitors Bureau to do a press release through their contract.

Mr. Lehm congratulated Ms. Alexander on the IMBA group coming to Santa Fe. He asked if it was possible to get IMBA signage (etiquette signage) on the Dale Ball Trails in time for the event. He was disheartened that people are not aware of the etiquette.

Ms. Alexander said the Trails Alliance of Santa Fe has a program called "Give a Darn, Give a Ding" and hand out bells to mountain bikers to ring on tight corners to make people aware. They also hand out cards to the mountain bike shops on etiquette. She would bring up IMBA signs at the next meeting of the Trails Alliance.

Ms. Hansen said she is the art director for the Green Fire Times and if Ms. Alexander would write a story and send that and pictures to her, it was possible an article could appear in February, March or April.

Chair Booth said volunteer hours included Daniel Coriz and his volunteers. She said in the last couple of years there is a nice connection between the mountain bike and BMX community.

Chair Booth said she agreed to share that a seminar would be held Tuesday, January 31 on "how to create play stations beyond accessibility to provide a higher level of inclusive play for children." The seminar is free for anyone interested with an RSVP and lunch would be provided.

DATE AND TIME FOR NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, February 21, 2012 at Frenchy's Field

Chair Booth said she would try to keep the agenda clear for the Commission to have the opportunity to think about how to move forward in the next year.

ADJOURN:

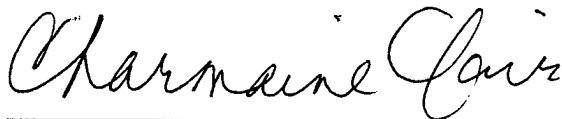
Ms. Hansen moved to adjourn. Mr. Lehm seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

Having no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Approved by:

Bette Booth, Chair

Submitted by:



Charmaine Clair, Stenographer