



Agenda

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**PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
PARKS DIVISION CONFERENCE ROOM
THURSDAY AUGUST 9TH, 2007
3:00 P.M.**

1. Call to Order
2. Role Call and Introduction of Members / Staff Liaison
3. Review/Approval of the minutes of the June 28 meeting
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Old Business
5. New Business:
 - Parks Master Plan
 - Other
6. Public Comments
7. Establish date and time of next meeting(s)
8. Adjourn

INDEX OF MINUTES

CITY OF SANTA FE

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

August 9, 2007

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CALL TO ORDER/ ROLL CALL	Quorum	1
APPROVAL OF AGENDA	Approved	1
APPROVAL OF MINUTES June 28, 2007	Postponed	1
INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS		1
OLD BUSINESS	None	1
NEW BUSINESS	Discussion	
a. Parks Master Plan		2-5
b. Other	None	5
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MINUTES OF THE
CITY OF SANTA FE
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

August 9, 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.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Elizabeth Booth, Chair
Richard Lopez
Anna Hanson
Lester Wallman
Patrick Torres

MEMBERS ABSENT

Cliff Sisneros
Margaret Beneklasen
Tommy Martinez

STAFF PRESENT

Ben Gurule, City of Santa Fe Liaison

OTHERS PRESENT

Dave McQuarie, Citizen
Veronica Maldonado, Stenographer

INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Agenda was approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No minutes to approve at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Parks Master Plan

Ms. Hanson went thru and reviewed the Parks Master Plan and she has a few issues. She feels that the City has all these parks and a lot of them are in disrepair and not used as much as the other parks. She used Gregory Lopez Park, next to her house as an example. Gregory Lopez Park is well used, it has a great playground and people from all over the city come to use it. The reason they use it is because it has grass and a nice playground. It might need some irrigation improvements but when she looks at that park compared to other parks that really need help.

Ms. Hanson noted that when she was walking the streets running as a City Council candidate, people were asking why they had to drive to the nicer parks. Her thought process is why they spend all the money on parks that are successful instead of serving those parks that really need to serve the community and need work.

Chair Booth noted that what she is hearing is that one criteria should be that areas that do not have parks or are less than adequate should be a priority.

Ms. Hanson said that what is happening that all of those people that live in areas that do not have parks are using Gregory Lopez Park. If every park in the City was as great as Gregory Lopez people would use it. Ms. Hanson said that she asked some of those at the park what their needs were. She said those individuals had come from another part of town because the park in their neighborhood is beat up and has gangs hanging out.

Ms. Hanson said it is interesting to her to be able to talk to people and try to get a sense on how they can help the community be more successful in the park area. She feels they need feedback.

Ms. Hanson said she went through the entire book and looked at every plan and basically she feels that the more parks that the Committee can visit would help to be viable for the community.

Chair Booth said that when she was looking at the criteria she thought that equity and access to the parks in important.

Mr. Lopez's overview is that not all of the parks need improvements. Being a former park employee you need to have a fix for the prairie dogs. Parks and prairie dogs don't mix. You either get rid of the prairie dogs or you don't. You can't keep everyone happy and you certainly can't have both.

Ms. Hanson asked what they do with the prairie dogs.

Mr. Gurule said there was a prairie dog ordinance and they relocate them and he is not allowed to say where because they do not want people to go kill them. The City hires private companies to move them. It cost about \$150 per prairie dog.

Chair Booth asked Mr. Gurule if he would tell those present how the master plan was developed.

Mr. Gurule said the Master Plan was developed and spun from Pueblos del Sol Park and wanting to dedicate more money specifically to the parks. Pueblo del Sol was a big success. It was built on an open space lot. They decided to put some money into it and build a great playground structure on it. There are more open space parcels throughout the City plus there are parks that haven't had any real improvements or monies allocated to them in years. There has always been tax increases throughout the years where they have been raised by half cent or a quarter cent and then the money is cut into little pies. The police department and fire department get the bigger chunk the other areas get a certain percentage of the monies. Councilor Ortiz's idea was to raise the property tax and get money specifically for the parks. The master plan was developed in 2003 and identified the parks at that time and what kind of improvements would be appropriate to put into these parks. Councilor Ortiz's direction to the Parks Department at that time was to talk about what all would be in the master plan. They talked about an adequate section where improvements would be added.

Chair Booth asked how the adequate minimum was determined. Did some person from Parks go out and decide this.

Mr. Gurule said they went out and did an inventory. The minimum was ADA.

Mr. Torres glanced at the master plan briefly. He didn't come up with any questions but can see that some of these improvements are needed.

Mr. Gurule recommended that the committee should set a special meeting at the end of August to review the master plan and make a decision. He suggested that every member bring in their recommendations on each park.

Mr. Gurule noted that the parks are set up in Districts. He thought that if the members are in support of seeing their taxes raised then they need to take it forward to the governing body as a recommendation.

Chair Booth recommended using this meeting to go over some of the criteria and pull back from the details. She presented a copy of a map where all the parks are. She also presented a map of the trails.

Chair Booth asked the members what are the criteria or what lenses would they as a group look at to make a decision.

Ms. Hansen would like for Gregory Lopez Park set the example for the other parks. What is important to her is live in a neighborhood and to be able to walk in her park and use it without the worry of gangs.

Chair Booth said she would like to prioritize what are the equities of each park.

Mr. Gurule suggested going through the list of parks and writing down what each park needs.

Mr. Lopez noted that he thought they had too many parks for the size of the city. When he was employed in the Parks Department he said every time they had an open space it was used for a park. They only have so many employees and they can't maintain all the parks. If there is a large park and you have to drive to it so be it.

Chair Booth said the money is only for capital improvements and her personal strong opinion is if they don't the man power don't add a lot of improvements.

Mr. Lopez said it is impossible to maintain all the little parks. His suggestion is to put the money into the bigger parks like Frenchy's or parks that serve several neighborhoods and stop building so many little parks. It is impossible for maintenance to cover each and every park. He knows that the bigger parks that are taken care of is where the majority of the people go.

Chair Booth said another issue of importance is parks that have youth activities in them before ten o'clock.

Mr. Gurule said capital improvement funds cannot be used for FTE. This recommendation is only a five year tax increase.

Mr. Torres asked if the monies would become available for capital improvements would they be purchased in-house or are they contracted out.

Mr. Gurule said it would be both. There is work being done to thirteen parks right now that is being done in-house.

Mr. Gurule noted that the process should be a report be produced with recommendations to Councilor Ortiz from the Committee to give him a gage on what the public feels about the raising of taxes. This will go to a vote in March.

Chair Booth said it is very important that they have their own due process because it will be on them as a committee on the decisions that they make. They need to be considerate and thoughtful in the process and have good back as to why they made some of the decisions they made.

Chair Booth asked about the priority for the parks that are along the river. She agrees with Mayor Coss trying to bring the river back to life. This also seems to be a criteria for some decision making.

Ms. Hansen feels that adequate equal advantage to the parks for the entire community is her priority.

Mr. Gurule suggested that the Committee should make the recommendation on the master plan on each individual park on what improvements they see. There should be a summary sheet that says the tax increase should include some maintenance costs.

Chair Booth said that basically what they are talking about now what is the criteria they are going to use to make the decisions for each park.

Chair Booth said they are basically going to have another two weeks to go through the master plan in detail and go out and visit the parks and come back with their ratings. They are literally going to go park through park and come up with some decisions.

Mr. Gurule said he would provide a copy of a map with all the parks in town.

Ms. Henson asked why the developers are not paying for parks.

Mr. Gurule said they do and they are actually making the developer build a park in their development.

Committee members will each visit the parks in their District. Mr. Wallman will visit District 1. Chair Booth will visit District 2. Ms. Hanson will visit District 3. Mr. Lopez will visit the parks in District 4.

Chair Booth said to consider that the government will never be able to take care of all the parks. She feels that community involvement is important.

b. Other

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dave McQuarie said that when you go visit the parks look through the eyes of small children and the disabled. It makes a big difference and make sure it is ADA. The city is liable to bring it up 100% to ADA compliance. Federal courts say it's this or nothing. A lot of parks did not consider ADA when being built.

Regulations must be considered with accessible routes to the tables. It has to have two components. Nobody has really paid attention to this. Books with all the requirements are on-line.

Pueblos del Sol is a good park but the contractor did not even think about ADA. He feels that it would take \$60,000 to bring it in compliance.

Not a single park that could make ADA requirements. He said it would take another 11 million just to bring 72 parks into ADA compliance.

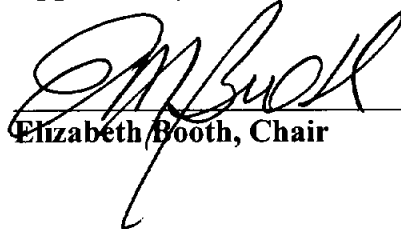
ESTABLISH DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, September 5, 2007 at 3:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Its business completed, Ms. Hansen moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Torres seconded the motion which passed unanimous by voice vote. Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Approved by:


Elizabeth Booth, Chair

Submitted by:


Veronica Maldonado