



# Agenda

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**Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee  
Parks Division Conference Room  
1142 Siler Road  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501  
Wednesday, February 06, 2008 3:30 p.m.**

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Review and Approval of the minutes of the November 15, 2007 meeting
4. Approval of the Agenda
5. Update on the progress of the Parks and Trails Bond Initiative
6. Discussion / Action Item - Advisory Committee Strategy to support the Initiative
7. Discussion / Action Item - Councilor Heldmeyer resolution regarding parks funding for maintenance. Advisory Committee strategy in regard to the resolution.
8. Update on candidates for the Parks Advisory Committee
9. Public Comments
10. Establish date and time for the next meeting.

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PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

February 6, 2008

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

**February 6, 2008**

**Call to Order**

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 that quorum was present for conducting official business as follows:

**Members Present**

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

**Members Absent (excused)**

Margaret Veneklasen

**Staff Present**

Fabian Chavez, City of Santa Fe

**Others Present**

Councilor Karen Heldmeyer  
Veronica Maldonado, Stenographer

**Review and Approval of Minutes: November 15, 2007**

**Mr. Wallman moved to approve the minutes of November 15, 2007. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion which was passed by unanimous voice vote.**

**Approval of the Agenda**

**Mr. Torres moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion which was passed by unanimous voice vote.**

**Update on the Progress of the Parks and Trails Bond Initiative**

Chair Booth indicated that there is a committee made up of mostly an environmental group and Ms. Hansen has been representing them for the last couple of meetings. Chair Booth said it

would be a very low keyed campaign and strategic and targeted basically to mailings to registered voters. In the last week of February there is a push for letters to the editor and interviews in the media and major radio stations.

Ms. Hansen said she had been going to the meeting and they are very supportive and working hard to get the bond issue passed. Ms. Hansen said there are several people endorsing the bond like Stuart Udall and the community foundations. All of the City Councilors are endorsing it except Miguel Chavez even though he voted for it.

Ms. Hansen said that Martin Lujan and Rosemary Romero who are running for City Council have endorsed it. They have also raised about \$15,000 and have the ability to raise more money. She has seen the first postcard they are getting ready to send out with a nice image of the parks.

Councilor Heldmeyer asked how much public information is going to be given on the donors especially the Trust for Public Lands who has given \$5,000.

Ms. Hansen said she would look into it.

Ms. Hansen said the Santa Fe Chamber has not endorsed the bond and they are under the misconception that Parks has over 1000 employees. She does not know where they are getting this information but she understands that Mr. Chavez has been invited to the February 21 meeting and maybe he could get the correct information to them about the number of employees.

Mr. Chavez said that there are about 1200 acres of developed park land and 76.5 miles of trails which are both soft and hard surface. He is not sure how much arterial surface there is. Mr. Chavez said there are 46 employees in the field if you include the code enforcement officer.

Mr. Chavez said there are 6 temps for 6 to 9 months rotation. The supervisors generally let the temps go after Christmas because even after Fiestas there are a lot of events happening until Christmas. They usually bring them back in batches of 5 or 6 around March and like to be fully staffed by April 15. They bring in 15-18 temps with the park operational budget that is funded through the GRT.

Mr. Chavez said they have CIP so if they are working on a Capital Improvement Fund project they can bring in another 8-10 temps. The temps in the summer can be as high as 23-25 in any given time. Mr. Chavez said a lot of the temps aren't the best employees because they are part time and only make the minimum wage. The turn-over is phenomenal.

Councilor Heldmeyer asked if this included the temps that work with Santa Fe Beautiful.

Mr. Chavez said no.

### **Discussion/Action Item**

#### **a. Advisory Committee Strategy to support the Initiative**

Chair Booth asked if everyone had signed the endorsement form.

Ms. Hansen said she would send the endorsement form via e-mail if anyone needed it. She said she would also send the postcard that they are working on. She said getting endorsements is very important. Ms. Hansen asked how everyone was doing on endorsements.

Mr. Wallman said he was waiting for some material to distribute.

Ms. Hansen said the last day for endorsements is February 14.

Chair Booth asked if it would be more powerful if they had an endorsement from the Committee.

Mr. Martinez said they will be having a huge registration at St. Michaels High School with over 1000 people from the city on February 24. This would be a great opportunity but the Committee would have to ask the independent board if they could be there to distribute literature.

Ms. Hansen said most people are supportive. She went to the Farmers Market and got about 25 signatures. She said there was only one person against it.

**Ms. Hansen moved to endorse the initiative as the Park Advisory Board. Mr. Torres seconded the motion which passed by unanimous voice vote.**

**Discussion /Action Item**

**a. Councilor Heldmeyer resolution regarding parks funding for maintenance**

Chair Booth summarized the Resolution from Councilor Heldmeyer. She said that basically the Resolution was to have a separate group to work special events. The second piece is that before construction begins on any particular part that the funds for such maintenance be included in the appropriate section of the city's budget.

Chair Booth said the supervisors came to Mr. Chavez and had a discussion on what they thought of the resolution. Basically the Parks opinion was that a special crew might not be the most efficient solution. Special events are held nine months out of the year, March through December, and that means that staffing for special events will be temporarily employed and every year they would have to be trained. There are already problems with temps and they are probably not the most reliable. Park staff already has the experience and the technical expertise and know how to do the special events. The fundamental issue is that Parks Division is seriously understaffed so that each supervisor is caught in too wide an area plus the special events.

Chair Booth said that if Supervisors have more staff they would have a smaller area to cover.

Councilor Heldmeyer said that people in her district are told repeatedly that the reason the areas downtown do not get the service some of the other parks get, is because those are the crews that are most likely to get pulled to do special events. The reality in doing it this way has resulted in inequities between parks in the system.

Councilor Heldmeyer said if the supervisors think there is a better way to do it, it is fine by her. She doesn't think it is fair that because special events are going on downtown Amelia White or

Councilor Heldmeyer said if the supervisors think there is a better way to do it, it is fine by her. She doesn't think it is fair that because special events are going on downtown Amelia White or Patrick Smith and other parks don't get the upkeep that they need simply because of the geographic proximity.

Mr. Chavez said he met with Park staff and asked them what they thought. Their response was that because the parks division has implemented the reorganization, every district supervisor will get what they call the seven day event, standby duty. If they train everyone in Parks and if they have enough staff they can rotate all the crews. With the exception of Indian Market and Fiestas, they can build a crew with a stand by supervisor of about eight people and their job that week would be calls after 4 o'clock and the special events.

Mr. Chavez said they broke it down from six districts to thirteen and that means fewer people for each district but they are more geographically centered. This was done to cut the travel time and make the division more efficient.

Chair Booth said there was a little concern with the language and that the strategic plan had to be funded before they can move. The resolution supports the strategic plan and the hiring of 19 full time people and increases the budget by \$600,000. It is questionable if they will get it. Rather it will hire 3-4 people each year over the next five years.

Chair Booth said the way the Resolution is worded now the Advisory Board should not move forward unless the parks are supported by the nineteen new people. She asked Councilor Heldmeyer if this was her intent or if there is a way to say it.

Councilor Heldmeyer said it was in the back of her mind but it was not her stated intent. Councilor Heldmeyer said she is really concerned with having a bond issue for capital projects and having no money for an increase. She asked what level of wording the Advisory Board would be comfortable with.

Mr. Chavez said his personal opinion is that he doesn't know where the City is going to find money for nineteen people in the first year.

Councilor Heldmeyer said to forget the reserves and they have been told by economists not to budget for 3% growth in the next couple of years. They have approved a multi-year contract calling a minimum 4% raise for each of the next two years. These are all projections. It might be that the City starts raking in money but it is not like realistic. Annexation will make it worse and will in fact be a very large net deficit to the City.

Councilor Heldmeyer said people's expectations will increase if they become city rather than county. Public safety cannot be provided at the level that the county does and consider it be appropriate. Annexation will be a net economic loss for least the first five to ten years.

Councilor Heldmeyer said the only realistic place to get money for city services is to tap the untapped property tax that can be used for operational. It is the only place to get money. There is an additional one and a quarter gross receipt tax that could be put in place if voted by the voters.

Councilor Heldmeyer said the quality of life tax is an arts tax and is for specific cultural and art facilities and it also has to be passed by the voters. Technically if they wanted to get money they would have to cut something else the City does

Mr. Chavez said if they were to get one supervisor and an additional four employees over a period of time this would be reasonable in his mind. If the bond issue passes most would go to the existing parks. If he can get an infusion this year to try to address the special events and taking care of the rail yard, things would be pretty tough for the first year but then next year he could get another batch and so forth. Mr. Chavez said that maybe with the construction of the budget they could do this over a four year period.

Councilor Heldmeyer said she had left out another source with the non-profits. They come in saying that they can be another source and then at the last minute ask if the City can kick in the money because of the economy.

Mr. Chavez said the in the previous two years the CIP budget has been eighteen and a half million dollars and this year it is twenty two million. In the past years parks received 2 million dollars for rehab, park repair, water improvement and conservation irrigation. Because there were so many requests this year of genuine needs and a lot of non profits were funded this year, his allocation for the next two years is down to one million. If the bond issue doesn't pass he has one million dollars to work with out of CIP. He has seen the CIP budget at his end take a hit.

Ms. Hansen said the non-profits should raise their own monies.

Councilor Heldmeyer said not to do anything about it and leave it as an open question and hope the bond issue passes. Another possibility is after the bond issue passes get a Councilor to introduce during the budget process something more specific whether it be four or five people. A resolution is not fool proof but what it gives the Committee, if it does pass, is something when the budget comes up. The Committee can say since the Resolution was passed they now have to do what the resolution says.

Chair Booth asked what if they say that over the next five years, Parks would add a minimum of so many people until they were fully staffed per the strategic plan.

Mr. Torres said he came up with language to amend the Resolution to read as follows:

***Now, Therefore be it resolved by the governing body of the City of Santa Fe that the City Manager is directed to provide a funding allocation to the Parks Division on an annual basis for the next 4 years to hire 4-5 permanent employees per year in order to keep up with the workload expectations of the Parks Division as a result of the Parks strategic plan being implemented.***

Councilor Heldmeyer said if something was approved today she would try to get on the Public Works agenda by Monday.

**Ms. Hansen moved to approve the Resolution. Mr. Martinez seconded which passed by unanimous voice vote.**

**b. Advisory Committee strategy in regard to the resolution**

Councilor Heldmeyer said in terms of the special events change, the wording should rather say, a “*dedicated crew*” instead of “*develop a system*” such that no one region of the park system is unduly impacted by the demands of special events. It would give it more flexibility about how specifically they want to deal with it.

Mr. Chavez said a system be established so that no single park district will be overly impacted by the demands of special events.

Chair Booth asked for a motion for part two of the resolution which reads as follows:

*“A system will be established so that no single park district will be overly impacted by the demands of special events.”*

**Mr. Martinez moved to approve Part Two of the Resolution. Ms. Hansen seconded which passed by unanimous voice vote.**

**Update on Candidates for the Parks Advisory Committee**

Chair Booth said that Mayor Coss has the names of the candidates and will present them to the City Council at the next meeting.

**Public Comment**

None

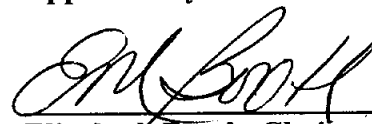
**Establish date and time for the next meeting**

The next meeting was scheduled for March 19, 2008 at 3:30 p.m.


**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Torres moved to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Ms. Hansen. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Approved by:

  
Elizabeth Booth, Chair

Submitted by:

  
Veronica Maldonado, Stenographer