

City of Santa Fe, New Mexico

November 5, 2008



# Agenda

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**Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee  
Parks Office –  
1142 Siler Road, Santa Fe, NM 87501  
Wednesday, November 5, 2008  
3:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Review and Approval of the October minutes
4. Approval of the Agenda
5. New Business
  - BMX / Skate Parks
6. Old Business:
  - Update/follow up on Action Items and other discussion points
    - √ Community Organizations/Parks Memorandum of Understanding
    - √ Anti-Graffiti Task Force
    - √ Northwest Quadrant
    - √ Caretaker Housing in Parks
  - Update on Parks Renovation and Care
7. Public Comments
8. Establish date and time for the next meeting.

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**CITY OF SANTA FE**

**PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**November 05, 2008**

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**Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee**  
**Parks Office –**  
**1142 Siler Road, Santa Fe, NM 87501**  
**Wednesday, November 5, 2008**  
**3:00 – 5:00 pm**

**1. 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 pm at the Parks Division Conference Room, 1142 Siler Road, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

**2. Roll Call**

Roll call indicated the presence of a forum as follows:

**Members Present**

Elizabeth Booth, Chair  
Tom Agard  
Daniel Coriz  
Oralynn Guerrerortiz  
Anna Hansen  
Sandra Taylor  
Patrick Torres

**Members Absent**

Valentina Gonzalez  
Margaret Veneklasen

**Staff Present**

Fabian Chavez, Parks Division, City of Santa Fe  
Jesse Esparza, Parks Division, City of Santa Fe

**Others Present**

Derek Dorame, Public citizen  
Andres Velasco, Public citizen  
Ben Gurule, Parks Community Liaison  
Charmaine Clair, Stenographer

**3. Approval of the October 15, 2008 minutes**

Approval of the October 15, 2008 minutes was postponed until the next meeting to provide time for review.

#### **4. Approval of the Agenda**

**Mr. Agard moved to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Hansen seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.**

#### **5. New Business**

- **BMX / Skate Parks**

Mr. Coriz said he had been asked by Mr. Chavez if the BMX riders would want to add to the course at Ragle Park. He talked with the riders and came up with a list of recommendations (exhibit A) for Franklin Miles Skate Park that were beginner and intermediate level BMX that he thought would be easy and inexpensive to provide. They asked for more street obstacles and at Ragle Park in particular wanted a bowl, a wall ride and a smaller area than Franklin Miles (Park) to hang out in.

Mr. Coriz said it would be a good idea to create wall rides with banks that would be a street obstacle for BMX riders and skate boarders to use as graffiti walls.

Ms. Guerrerortiz said she thought more skate parks were needed but wasn't sure about Ragle as one; she would like one in the Tierra Contenta area where a lot of younger people lived.

Mr. Gurule asked if the features requested would be added to an existing skate park or incorporated into a new park.

Mr. Coriz said it would be best to add to the existing parks and said it wouldn't take a lot of room.

Mr. Gurule said originally the department had left space and money to expand Franklin Miles Park and the neighborhood opposed the expansion complaining about the parks vandalism and negative element.

Chair Booth asked what a skate park would cost.

Mr. Gurule didn't know the answer but offered to find out. He said they planned to improve West DeVargas and would be looking at expansion of Franklin Miles and possibly Ragle.

Chair Booth asked if there were dollars to the South and when Mr. Gurule said it would have to pass all of the committees to change money to that area, she replied they wouldn't get into that.

Ms. Hansen said she didn't know the master plan but there were children in neighborhoods outside of Tierra Contenta that a small skate park might be possible. She said she saw a lot of beginners on the street looking for a place to go but said it should be smaller than Franklin Miles Park.

Mr. Coriz said most of the communities being developed were including small parks for beginners and intermediates. Mr. Agard and he had discussed the way to involve more kids would be to have more beginner courses rather than be too advanced right away.

Mr. Gurule said the department was past the preliminary drawings for Franklin Miles Park and planned bids in late December, starting construction in early January and being finished by late July and they would

move on to the construction at Ragle. He said the committee had to decide that day in order to have it included in the drawings, reviewed and determine what could be eliminated.

He said to date the scope of work had been to bring the park into compliance in ADA and water conservation and then they would do the neighborhood requests for pavilion shade structures and xeriscaping to prevent the water runoff problem.

Mr. Gurule said he would have Jesse Scott design a beginner and intermediate skate park and he would get construction cost estimates and they could then determine the priority and get bids.

Chair Booth asked him to discuss it with Mr. Chavez since he had talked with the group. She said the committee had facilitated the information between the skaters who used the parks and the Parks Department and she didn't think the advisory committee should vote on it.

Ms. Taylor asked if the term BMX and skate park were being used interchangeably.

Mr. Coriz said yes, everything a BMX rider used would also be used by a skateboarder at the park.

Chair Booth asked if they ran into each other.

Mr. Coriz said it often worked out on its own with one group using one side of the park and then switching.

Ms. Taylor said she worried there might be turf issues with different groups contending for the same space and asked about the age difference.

Mr. Coriz said there were no turf issues and the younger kids would come to the park earlier than the older ones who came about sundown.

**Ms. Guerrerortiz made a motion to direct the Parks Department to add more skate facilities to the Franklin Miles Park and to look seriously at the items the skaters had recommended and said she hoped at least \$5000 would go into the skateboard fixtures. Ms. Hansen seconded the motion.**

Ms. Guerrerortiz said she liked active parks and wanted that to happen and it was wrong to do all passive; more was needed for the kids.

Ms. Hansen said she wasn't sure of the budget for Franklin Miles (Mr. Gurule added it was \$2.3 million) but suggested the committee recommend the Parks Department look at the cost to improve and add features to give the department the leeway to find money without taking it from another project.

Chair Booth asked Ms. Guerrerortiz to clarify her motion.

Ms. Guerrerortiz said she made a motion for the committee to direct the Parks Department to incorporate some new skate facilities in Franklin Miles Park and said she had thrown out a dollar figure since she didn't know how much that would cost.

**Ms. Hansen made a friendly amendment to include the word *recommendation* in the motion.**

Mr. Gurule said he didn't know if the motion would affect the drawings and documents that would be needed for the coming week and was trying to stay on the project schedule and said he would discuss it with his boss and Mr. Scott.

Ms. Taylor said she understood the difficulty of staying on schedule and that many parks phased improvements and asked if it would be reasonable to advise the architect of the committee's recommendation to avoid delay but provide room for a phase II.

Mr. Gurule said that would probably be the direction his boss would take and would make it an additive alternate.

Ms. Guerrerortiz said she was concerned there wouldn't be money for a phase II budget.

Mr. Gurule said preliminary cost estimates could be obtained before the bids were taken on the rest of the work.

Mr. Agard said he would be in favor if it wouldn't take away other features of the park such as the shade structures, ball parks and ball fields and wouldn't alter the plan or the budget. He wasn't sure whether the neighborhood's opinion should be considered since it would be small features added to an existing park and mentioned his concern about the leagues but said they weren't playing that season and were seeking alternatives.

Mr. Gurule said since this was a regional park the weight of the neighbors wouldn't matter as much as the greater good for the community.

**Ms. Guerrerortiz moved that the Parks Department add more skate facilities to the Franklin Miles Park and said that the facilities should include some if not all of the requests recommended by the skaters and for the Parks Department to determine if this would be included in the existing budget or apprise the committee of the costs for their consideration on how to include it. Ms. Hansen seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.**

Mr. Gurule asked how he could get the committee to review it if he was able to incorporate the ideas without delaying the current project.

Ms. Guerrerortiz said it could be a second phase.

Mr. Gurule said if the committee trusted Mr. Coriz's opinion he could review it for them and the committee agreed to that.

Mr. Agard asked if this would be for Franklin Miles and Ragle.

Mr. Gurule said they were barely in the preliminary stages with Ragle and would be able to move at a regular pace when Franklin Miles was finished in July.

Ms. Guerrerortiz asked if a dirt track had been looked at for Ragle and if there had been interest in that.

Mr. Coriz said the BMX trails were off of 599 and would be hard to maintain if they were in the parks.

Mr. Agard said beginning and intermediate courses were needed and as kids progressed they would go to the dirt which was more specific to BMX and much more complicated and almost two different things.

## 6. Old Business:

- **Update/follow up on Action Items and other discussion points**

### a) **Community Organizations/Parks Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**

Chair Booth said the committee had been sent a draft of the community gardens (*exhibit B*) and asked Ms. Esparza to give the committee some background.

Ms. Esparza said this was the first draft and had been based on what other cities were doing. She said Mr. Chavez might explore going to the City Council with the idea.

Ms. Hansen said before they proceeded it would be good to share the draft with people currently doing a community garden for their experience and input.

Ms. Esparza said the information would eventually be on the website and she would be the contact for anyone wanting to volunteer.

Chair Booth said getting the input of those experienced in community gardens could be used to refine the process and thought it would be worth a visit to the San Ysidro Community Garden also.

Ms. Taylor said the committee had been talking about an MOU (memorandum of understanding) that she assumed would be between the Parks Department and City and the groups who wanted to have a community garden. She said the draft wasn't an MOU and asked if that would be a separate document.

Ms. Hansen said the second part of the draft wasn't an MOU but leaned toward that and defined some of the areas.

Ms. Taylor indicated under Definitions, item # 6 it mentioned the "Garden Council" and asked who would be on that council. She said the members would need to be defined since the group's reference in the document had some accountability.

She was also concerned about 1.3a, "*the city would provide land and water*" and said the City wouldn't be able to provide *free* water for the gardeners and there would have to be some contribution no matter how small.

Ms. Guerrerortiz said she had discussed that with Mr. Chavez and there would be a meter and the gardeners *would* be charged. Ms. Hansen agreed.

Ms. Taylor said that it should be clarified in the document before it was given to the public.



Chair Booth suggested the committee review the rules from the beginning. She asked if everyone would pay the same amount for water even though one person might be more conservative than another.

Ms. Guerrerortiz said she had the impression from Mr. Chavez there would be one meter that would be divided by the number of parcels. She said he hadn't thought it would be a big issue and would be complicated and more expensive to do anything else.

Chair Booth said that would be a question they could ask Mr. Chavez and she continued with item b- "applicant must be 18 years or over" she said she thought there should be a youth garden.

Ms. Guerrerortiz said the issue with age might be because they would need to be 18 to sign a contract.

Ms. Taylor said any youth group would have to have an adult sponsor.

Ms. Guerrerortiz said on item c- "*Produce shall not be sold or put to any commercial use*" that she liked locally sold produce and though it would bother her for people to make a profit from public land a community organization selling pumpkins for Halloween would be different.

Mr. Gurule said a 4x16 plot would produce enough for 10 families and the owner's might take their produce to the Farmer's Market and should be allowed to. He said he didn't see how they would prevent someone taking and possibly destroying vegetables and fruit.

Chair Booth said that would be the big experiment as to whether the food would be safe to leave in the park.

Mr. Gurule said *item c* should be deleted with everyone able to do as they choose with their produce.

Ms. Hansen said she didn't have an issue with the produce being sold and said they would be a great community resource.

Chair Booth said there were no problems with item d and on Item e- *no pesticides* there might be a problem and it would possibly be amended.

The question of how pesticides could be regulated and who would insure they weren't used was considered and some thought pesticides weren't used in any of the parks or gardens. Chair Booth said it would have to be self regulated and by other gardeners.

Ms. Taylor said the MOU could help if it stated "no pesticides."

Ms. Esparza said that Item f- referring to pesticide applications had been put in by Mr. Chavez to comply with the City's IPM (integrated pesticide maintenance) ordinance.

Mr. Gurule said the IPM basically covered *item e*.

Ms. Taylor said she thought Mr. Chavez had left room to ensure the ordinance would be followed and be consistent with the IPM regulations in a situation where a person had applied and been approved for pesticide use by the Parks Department. She said it should be clarified.

Mr. Gurule thought e, f and g were the same thing and Ms. Taylor suggested grouping them.

Ms. Hansen said item j-*City may require return of the garden with 30 days notice*, should state to the "end of the season" and Ms. Taylor thought it should be no less than 30 days notice.

Ms. Guerrerortiz asked if the gardener would have a preferred plot for the following year and said in some cities the plots were handed down for generations.

Chair Booth read under the Applications Procedure that "*the assignment begins date*" would be the assignment date and that the "*assignment ends*" date would be left open.

Mr. Gurule said it would be important because some would put a lot of work into their garden.

Mr. Coriz asked how large the plots were.

Mr. Gurule said they had discussed 4x16 plots but that might change; it was a lot of area for one person to plant.

#### **b) Anti-Graffiti Task Force**

Chair Booth said the task force had asked for the committee's support of their recommendations and asked if it would be a role the committee should take and if they would be able to support the recommendations.

Ms. Guerrerortiz didn't want anything to do with the enforcement.

Ms. Hansen said the only related area the committee had would be the graffiti in the parks and she didn't know how that would be cleaned up.

Chair Booth said the task force had suggested a two team approach to clean up the graffiti but would also do murals on places that were frequently tagged.

Ms. Guerrerortiz said they used adjudicated youth for the cleanup.

Ms. Esparza said a code enforcement person was being hired for the graffiti whose responsibility would be to stay on top of the graffiti and work with the Parks Department.

Ms. Guerrerortiz said she didn't want anything to do with the recommendations in Series I or any voice in enforcement. She said she wholeheartedly supported Series II and said free walls and mural programs should be encouraged; she liked the entire concept.

Ms. Taylor said she was unclear of the purpose of Series I and agreed with others that it wasn't the place of the committee. She said Series II was unfocused and she had mixed feelings; the budget implications were almost a half million dollars with personnel and she said she would be uncomfortable supporting it without clarification.

Mr. Agard didn't agree with most of Series I except for a portion on educational programs about how graffiti hurt. He said in Series II he couldn't tell what they were trying to do and didn't know if it would resolve the problem and said he couldn't support it.

Ms. Hansen agreed with Mr. Agard on the educational programs but said she didn't feel the draft had been focused on that.

Mr. Coriz said the graffiti would happen regardless and had been mostly gang related and he questioned how the task force could enforce it. He said he would like to see free walls incorporated with the skate walls and he was concerned with the Community Youth Programs not finishing what they started; a mural at the skate park had been started and never finished and graffiti taggers had messed it up.

Ms. Hansen said the transformer boxes around town had finished murals on them and rarely had graffiti and were a good plan.

Ms. Guerrerortiz said that was the Community Mural Program and she didn't think they had funding any longer.

Chair Booth said this came about because she had been appalled by the amount of graffiti in the parks and the language the kids were being exposed to and she had asked if she could see what the task force had been doing and they asked her to back their recommendations.

She said their mission statement was to provide innovative solutions and recommendations to the City to assist with the graffiti problem and to engage the community. She said she understood the symbol of graffiti was gang related but could never support the gang registry.

Chair Booth asked the committee if more information was needed in order to support Series I or was it beyond the committee's mandate and could only support Series II.

Ms. Guerrerortiz thought Series I had been beyond the task force's mandate and beyond what would be appropriate in public policy. She said that Series II would need to be a group effort because they should be thinking of providing free walls and encouraging community artwork.

Chair Booth said data had shown taggers didn't usually tag over murals and said there were some fabulous murals and adults with experience in working with the kids to get the murals done.

Ms. Hansen said she thought the task force should go back to their mission statement.

Ms. Taylor said the committee had seen only a small part of the whole package and because of the concern with the first two sections she would be concerned about taking a stand without seeing the entire package.

Chair Booth said she thought the task force was committed to the enforcement section.

Ms. Taylor said there hadn't been anything innovative and creative and in fact it had gone against some of the basic research.

Ms. Guerrerortiz said the free walls were innovative and Ms. Taylor said that free walls had been shown to be detrimental.

Chair Booth said it would depend on how it had been supervised, where it was and who had been in charge.

Mr. Coriz said a free wall could be set up without telling the kids that it was a free wall.

Ms. Esparza said youth who got caught were made to do community service with the task force.

Chair Booth said she would relay to the task force the committee's strong feelings about Series I and that she thought the City Council would probably feel the same.

Ms. Taylor suggested the committee return the drafts recommendations to the task force to avoid them getting to the public. She asked Chair Booth to share the committee's concerns but to extend their appreciation for the time and interest and commitment that had been put into the document.

Chair Booth said she would draft something to be sent from the committee and would get their approval before sending it to the task force.

Ms. Hansen said the task force's response to the gangs seemed it was for a much larger city and was over the top and although they did need to do something they should be more innovative and put more thought into how to channel the kids.

Mr. Gurule said that Series I had been beyond the scope of the committee and Series II should be given to Sabrina Pratt in the Arts Committee and let her run with it.

**c) Northwest Quadrant**

The committee had nothing to add.

**d) Caretaker Housing in Parks**

Chair Booth said there had been a meeting about caretaker housing in three parks, two in Candelario and one in Franklin Miles Park. She said the meeting had been very vocal and the neighborhood of Candelario asked that they be taken off of the list.

Mr. Agard said there had been confusion over the caretaker housing and it was an important issue but left a lot of questions. He said the affordable housing program was to provide homes for police academy graduates within the park space and the responsibilities of those who would be living in the homes was

unclear, such as if they would oversee the use of the park; when they would start and stop; and what happened when they weren't there.

*Patrick Torres entered the meeting at this time.*

Chair Booth said the idea approved by the City Council was that a caretaker would live in parks where there were gangs or problems and somehow that became an affordable housing issue. She said several City Councilors were unhappy about the meeting and the community had argued there were a lot of affordable houses on the market and the benefit to the presence of a policeman or fireman in the park had gotten dissolved by the focus on affordable housing.

She said Mr. Chavez had been in support of having caretakers particularly in MRC, Ragle and Franklin Miles Parks and added there was a petition circulating that asked that park land not be used for housing.

Mr. Agard said his neighborhood association had drafted that petition and he explained they were strongly in favor of caretaker housing but were opposed to homes being built in the parks; it couldn't be done at the same cost.

Mr. Gurule said the objective was security in the park and having a person live in the park would definitely be a deterrent to crime.

Chair Booth said the Councilor's had voted to continue to look at the issue and to hold community meetings for each park because they had been grouped at the last meeting.

Ms. Hansen said there was a huge benefit to having a caretaker in the park and said people who lived there felt very safe.

Mr. Agard said other things should be explored.

*Mr. Chavez entered the meeting at this time.*

Mr. Chavez said they were just looking at Ragle, MRC and Franklin Miles. He said a three hour meeting with a professional facilitator would be held and each hour a different park would be the focus.

Chair Booth urged there be more community meetings to provide input.

Mr. Chavez suggested if the committee testified they identify themselves as a member of the Parks Advisory Board and state they weren't there in that capacity.

Chair Booth said she didn't think the committee needed to take a stand; it was a neighborhood issue.

Mr. Chavez said statistical data and literature had been sent to Ms. McCormick at her request and added that people had been living in parks since 1899 in London and added the State and National Parks had housing in them.

Mr. Chavez said the presentation made caretaker housing sound more like it was about providing affordable housing than a safety issue and because of that misconception Ms. McCormick had asked him to speak first at the next meeting. He referred the committee to the website and said it had a lot of information about the deterrence of crime by increasing presence in the parks.

- **Update on Parks Renovation and Care**

Mr. Agard said he wanted to discuss the caretaker housing further because he thought it was something people should be aware of and knowledgeable about. He said the parks in question were servicing a large area and were regional and asked if neighborhoods should be taking positions against one another or looking at the greater good of the community and said it was a much bigger issue than it appeared.

Mr. Chavez said these houses would not be for sale or owned by anyone but the City and the idea was to provide someone for safety and constantly rotate them. He said the City had lost \$200,000 worth of goods because it was easy for thieves since no one was there. He said the debate had a lot of merit but because of the diversity should probably be debated individually.

Ms. Guerrerortiz said she grew up in a town where an old house had been converted and used for the community to check out equipment and she hoped that the housing would evolve over time to meet the community needs.

Mr. Chavez said when he had asked why the housing had a square design he had learned it was so it might be used for other purposes such as equipment storage or a recreation center.

Chair Booth asked Mr. Chavez to let the committee know the meeting time and place.

## **7. Public Comments**

Andres Velasco said he was at Franklin Miles Skate Park every day and it was smaller than some of the other parks and had become congested and that often led to violence.

Ms. Guerrerortiz asked how many people were there when it was most crowded.

Mr. Velasco said the most congested and frustrating time was right after school when about 25-50 people were there.

Ms. Guerrerortiz asked what he would like to see and if he would want to double or triple the size.

Mr. Velasco said he would like it to be larger and more street oriented with ledges, rails, banks and stairs so it was all right there instead of having to ride elsewhere.

Mr. Dorame said he had been riding BMX for six years at Franklin Miles and the biggest issue had been the park became crowded and then violence would occur. He said it was frustrating and the smaller kids would get hurt and the riders and boarders ran into each. He said extreme sports were really a sport and it was

good to have a place for kids to do it but they needed a better design, a better layout and a dedicated place. He said some of the designs currently in the park shouldn't be there and if they could extend the park it would be great.

Chair Booth said the committee just voted for the Franklin Miles Skate Park to be extended.

Mr. Gurule said they would review drawings on Monday and he would request conceptual drawings and cost estimates but he wanted to avoid slowing the other project schedule down and would need to stay within the budget so something would have to be eliminated.

Ms. Guerrerortiz said she had heard it said before and again that day that the users thought the facilities hadn't been designed appropriately. She said she would like the engineers to have additional time to get the assistance of the BMX riders and skaters in the design and asked if it would be possible to phase the project.

Mr. Chavez said they wanted to move forward with the improvements that had been voted on.

Mr. Gurule said skate park design had evolved since the first couple of parks and there was a mass of new technology.

Mr. Chavez said he would hold off on the footprint of the skate park and continue with the rest of the project. He said he would ask the designer to hold back on contingencies and other addition requests to put this project as the first additive alternate if money became available. He added there were companies who specialized in the business of park designs and worked with the kids who would be using the parks.

Mr. Gurule said earlier they had discussed the different levels of parks and said this might be a beginner and intermediate project level and Franklin Miles could be an upgrade with more rails and ledges.

Mr. Dorame said an issue with BMX riders had been the skate boarders wanting to eliminate them from the park because they thought the BMX riders weren't supposed to be there and it created conflict.

Mr. Coriz said that there had been arrests of BMX riders because of the park being classified as a "skate park" and he thought the park was crowded because of the fence and the sidewalk around the park. He said it didn't leave open space and made it difficult to stop and to roll into a bowl and would be better with a ledge rather than a fence for a barrier.

Ms. Guerrerortiz was concerned there wouldn't be budget money available after the existing plans and said the younger people were often under represented and that money from the existing budget should be set aside for the BMX riders and skateboarder's improvements.

Chair Booth said that had been her reason for recruiting Mr. Coriz and Valentina Gonzalez.

Mr. Coriz said the issues between the BMX riders and the skateboarders' would occur when a park initially opened and usually worked itself out after that.

Ms. Taylor asked if it bordered on a sidewalk and if it did it would become a safety issue.

Chair Booth said the youth had not been represented in the committee and asked if there would be a way the Parks Department could respond to the youths' requests.

Mr. Chavez said to make changes would require going through the governing body and the Parks Department could only advise them. His recommendation would be that Council moved forward with the building because they had \$20 million dollars in bonds but said through resolution or amendment the Councilors Trujillo or Ortiz could direct the Parks Department to hold off on building a portion of the park and reserve money for the amendments. He said the committee could request the governing body revisit the master plan specifically in Franklin Miles Park and direct the staff to include a cost analysis of expanding the skate park structure.

He said he and Mr. Gurule would work out a cost estimate and pull money from something else or phase it in and he said the designers would know how to do that.

Chair Booth asked if Mr. Chavez had already been asked to look at Ragle Park for expansion.

Mr. Chavez said no, they had been asked to do that because Councilor Trujillo had begun hearing from BMX riders. He said he had just answered the question of how they could get that done and it didn't have to happen at Franklin Miles but there was room to do it there.

Mr. Coriz said they should start a project in the South end of town near Tierra Contenta because there were a lot of users and they were the ones using the parks and Ms. Guerrerortiz agreed.

Mr. Chavez said that was District 3 and belonged to another Councilor and he said using *this* pot of money was possible but would only work by going through the governing body with a recommendation for a change.

Ms. Hansen asked since the money was allocated would it be possible to go to the Councilor's for additional money or have a community fund raiser for help in the funding.

Mr. Chavez said they could but in order to get it designed it would need to be *phased* in for 2009, 2010 and he doubted money would be redirected from the city's budget. He said the City had been making plans to cut specific projects and he didn't think additional features would be approved now but might be for three or four years down the road.

Ms. Guerrerortiz said the committee would have to omit line items and then ask for that money to be used for the skate park/BMX and it would happen if Councilors Trujillo and Ortiz approved it.

Mr. Chavez suggested a neighborhood meeting heavily attended by the skate park kids and their parents to let the neighborhood decide what should be omitted.

Mr. Gurule said they were moving forward the following week and thought the project director wouldn't deviate from the plan schedule since they were well past the planning stage and at most a couple of amenities could be removed and estimates could be obtained and it could be made an additive alternate.



Mr. Dorame said having the skaters available for input would be easy for him; he could just call his friends and get them to the meeting.

Mr. Chavez asked the committee what specifically they should do the next day.

Mr. Gurule said space had been allowed around the park for future growth and he would ask Jesse Scott to contact the skate board design company who worked with kids. He said he would measure the space and request preliminary costs for beginner and intermediate improvements and then they could determine where costs could be shaved.

Mr. Chavez asked what the contingency would be on the plan and Mr. Gurule explained there wasn't any so something would have to be eliminated but he would stay in touch and move forward with the concepts and determine if they were affordable.

Mr. Gurule said Ragle Park had a better chance for improvements and nothing permanent had been done yet except the water conservation, parking and lighting so there would be time to make changes to the features.

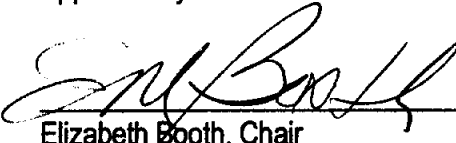
**8. Establish date and time for the next meeting.**

December 3<sup>rd</sup> at the same location and time.

**9. Adjournment**

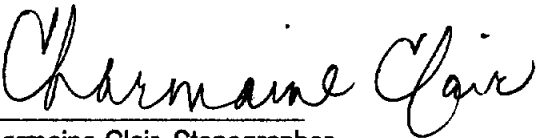
There being no further business to be conduct the meeting was adjourned at 5:14 pm.

Approved by



Elizabeth Booth, Chair

Submitted by



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**BMX, Skate Park recommendations**

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I am at the skate park a few nights a week and I asked BMX people, what would you like to have at Ragel Park or Miles if a BMX course was built? The same answer arose, "more street obstacles."

- Banks with ledges
- More rails
- Manuel pad with long ledges
- Extended deck, more area
- Full pipe
- Slant wall ride
- Sub ledge
- Fix rail and ledge and Miles park

Most people took the question as a Miles park upgrade so I asked specifically what they thought about Ragel Park.

- Another skate park, with a small bowl and a wall ride
- Ledges and banks

I think the idea of skate park orientated obstacles would be best. Not only will BMX, but skate boarders can use as well. Of all my years of observing the sport I think parks should start with:

- A beginner, intermediate level obstacles at Miles Park and Guadalupe park. Manuel pad, ledges, and banks.
- Build a small bowl with a wall ride and a bank surrounded by a ledge at Ragel Park.
- Start a small skate park on the south end of town. Most of Santa Fe's youth exist there.
- Build wall rides with banks in selected parks and dedicate them as Graffiti walls. I think these walls would be really affective.

Other ideas for supplementing thin budgets might include donations of gardening tools by a local hardware or home improvement store, or the contribution of seeds or plants from a local nursery.

### **For Parks, an Integral Role**

Once a location is established, there should be a plan for incorporating the organization and maintenance of the site. This is where the help and guidance of a local park and recreation agency can be crucial. The skill sets of park professional county extension services and the resources they have at hand can offer the community garden planner a wealth of information, knowledge, and support.

“Volunteer garden managers, elected by the gardeners, help track the use of plots, arrange work parties, and work with on-site social participation,” highlighting the importance of the community stepping up to the challenge of maintaining the gardens. The responsibility for creating and sustaining a healthy working environment in which the gardens can thrive depends “primarily on the effectiveness of the program coordinator and volunteers” they need to be willing to reach out to other groups and departments for assistance. City agencies can also come together by creating compost.

Parks, Open Space, Trails and Watershed, initiatives in community gardening programs are a win-win scenario. An increased presence in the park will be another measure in reducing criminal activities and vandalism.

With public interest and awareness of green living at an all-time high, there’s never been a better time for partnerships among public parks and community gardening advocates. Of course, these neighborhoods require hard work, coordination, and thoughtful planning. But the payoff for the Park, Open Space, Trails and Watershed division and the communities they serve is immeasurably valuable for everyone involved.

## PART I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

### 1.1 Applicability and Scope

a. These regulations shall apply to the operation and management of all community gardening programs under the Public Works Department, Parks, Open Space and Trails Division. These rules and regulations would benefit the residents and volunteers of the City of Santa Fe whom would like to get involved with a Gardening program.

### 1.2 Definitions

1. "City" means the City of Santa Fe.
2. "Department" means Public Works Department City of Santa Fe.
3. "Division" means the Parks, Open Space and Trails Division.
4. "Garden Plot" means land assigned to an individual or group to be used for gardening purposes.
5. "Garden Organization" mean the collective gardeners in any one City garden organized to deal collectively with that garden's business.
6. "Gardens Council" means the Community Gardens Council.

### 1.3 Rules for Individual Gardeners

- a. The City shall provide land and water. All other improvements and services shall be provided by the gardeners.
- b. Assignment of garden plots will be issued by the Garden Organization subject to approval of the Department/Division and shall be on the basis of one plot per family of household. Each applicant must be 18 years or older. The plot must be worked by the person(s) or family whose name is on the application.
- c. Produce shall not be sold or put to any commercial use.
- d. Walkways, surrounding areas, and the garden plot must be kept clean and neat; trash and debris must be put in appropriate containers if available. If no containers are provided, each gardener must remove his own trash.
- e. No pesticides which are poisonous to humans or are in poisonous concentrations, before or after application, shall be brought to or used in the garden area.

- f. Pesticide applications, if requested, shall comply with The City IPM Ordinance.
- g. No herbicides shall be used in the garden area.
- h. The garden plot shall be returned in as good or better condition than when it was let out.
- i. No illegal drug plants shall be grown.
- j. The City may require return of the garden plot, by giving 30 days notice, if the garden area is required for another use.
- k. The gardener is subject to all applicable rules of the City.
- l. All gardeners become members of the garden organization upon assignment of garden plot.

#### 1.4 Applications Procedure

- a. Applications for garden plots will be issued by the garden organization's plot Application Officer on a first come, first served basis. Assignment will be issued by the Garden Organization subject to final approval of the Division.
- b. The Application Number will indicate the order of plot assignment. Each applicant is allowed to choose from available plots.
- c. The Application Officer will provide a plot map showing the location and identifying symbol for each plot. As applicants choose their plot, their names will be entered on their application.
- d. The "assignment begins" date shall be the assignment date. The "assignment ends" date shall be left open. A gardener may keep his plot indefinitely if he follows these rules and regulations and makes intensive gardening use of the plot.

## PART II METHODS WHEREBY PUBLIC MAY OBTAIN INFORMATION

### 2.1 Where Obtained

The public may obtain information as to matters within the jurisdiction of the Director of Parks, Open Space and Trails Division or his designee, City of Santa Fe, by inquiring at:

- a. The Office of the City Clerk, City Hall.
- b. The office of the Parks Division. All rules, related documents are on file and are available for public inspection at said office. Copies of compilation of rules and supplements thereto are available to the public at a price to be fixed by the agency to cover mailing and publication costs.
- c. City of Santa Fe, Public Works Department, Parks Division Web site.

### 2.2 Submittals or Requests for Information

Such inquiry may be made in person at said offices during business hours, or by submitting a request for information in writing to the Director, Division of Parks, Open Space, Trails and Watershed, 1142 Siler Rd. Bldg C., Santa Fe, NM 87504.

## **CITY OF SANTA FE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

### **COMMUNITY GARDENING PROGRAM**

#### **Gardens Giving Back**

A garden tended by a community's residents brings out the best in that community, becoming a source of physical activity recreation and civic pride for all who participate. Community gardens tend to foster relationships among residents, which in turn, makes neighborhoods safer by reducing crime. Used as outdoor classrooms, these gardens teach children about healthy foods and how plants grow, creating young stewards who will care and develop a respect for our future environment.

The primary and perhaps the most daunting decision facing those planning a community garden is where to place it. As urban sprawl intensifies in many communities, finding available green space that isn't already set aside for building or development is the first hurdle faced by would-be gardeners.

The City Council could vote on allowing Santa Fe Parks, Open Space, Trails and Watershed to enter into land-use agreements with other bureaus and private property owners as part of launching the community gardens program. The management of the program relies on community volunteers to provide much of the labor-intensive work of keeping the gardens beautiful.

The needs of local citizens must be foremost in any garden's plan. The best garden design or concept foisted upon a disinterested or poorly informed community is bound to fail. "It is important that community gardens remain a community-driven process. There must be genuine demand and interest from the local community in order for the community garden to be successful."

Surplus produce harvested from community gardens can be a welcome boon for food pantries and soup kitchens. Fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables are a nutritious and healthful addition to the usual nonperishable goods donated to these programs.