



Agenda

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**Parks and Open Space Advisory Commission
Parks and Open Space Office
1142 Siler Road, Building C
Wednesday August 26, 2009
3:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Review and Approval of the July minutes
4. Approval of the Agenda
5. Old Business
 - Park Rules & Regulations Signs
 - Parks Renovations Update
 - Prairie Dog Update
 - Valentina Replacement on the Committee
 - NW Quadrant Priority Trails Plan
6. New Business
 - Reports: Solar Lighting Update – Bob Wood, Soccer –Marg Veneklasen, BTAC-Anna Hansen, Youth Sports and Little League - Tom Agard, NW Quadrant/BMX / Skate Parks – Daniel Coriz, Tierra Contenta Parks – Oralynn Guerrerortiz, Park History – Sandie Taylor.
6. Public Comments
7. Confirm date and time for the next meeting.

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five (5) working days prior to meeting date

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CITY OF SANTA FE
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION

AUGUST 26, 2009

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MEETING MINUTES
FOR THE
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION

Wednesday, August 26, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the City of Santa Fe Parks and Open Space Advisory Commission was called to order by Betty Booth, Chair on this date at approximately 3:00 pm at the Parks Division Conference Room, 1142 Siler Road, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

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
Patrick Torres

Members Absent

Sandra Taylor (excused)
Marg Veneklasen (excused)

Staff Present

Fabian Chavez, Parks Director, City of Santa Fe
Bob Wood, Parks Division, City of Santa Fe

Others Present

Denis Saccone, PDAWG
Peggene Bishard, PDAWG
Pat Carlton, PDAWG
Charmaine Clair, Stenographer

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES-July 22, 2009

Mr. Agard moved to table the minutes until later in the agenda. Ms. Guerrerortiz seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Under New Business: Discussion of Chair Booth for two more years and a review of the Park and Open Space Advisory Commission resolution were added.

Ms. Guerrerortiz moved to approve the agenda as amended. Mr. Agard seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Park Rules & Regulations Signs**

Ms. Hansen had an issue with the signs for the parks that were being renovated. A sign had been talked about that reflected the bond money at work and she said she had to search to find the sign and she didn't feel the current sign reflected the \$30 million bond money.

Mr. Chavez said a set of signs for the renovated parks was being worked on and he would ask for the language to be added.

Chair Booth said it was an important time to wave the Parks banner and show the bond money was doing good things.

- **Parks Renovations Update**

Mr. Chavez noted that Ms. Esparza was on vacation. He said the schematic drawings had gone to engineering and the *Nava Ade* neighborhood was aware there wouldn't be enough money to build out the park. A survey had been ordered for the entire parcel so a design firm could move forward with the construction documents and RFP for a design firm. He said the neighborhood would choose what would be done first with the money left.

A summary of the park updates follows:

GCC (Genoveva Community Center) would have a small pocket park and would go to RFP.

Ragle Park- construction documents would be ready within a week. Franklin Miles Park and Ragle would be finished by spring to avoid the fields not being ready for Little League.

Patrick Torres entered the meeting at this time.

A big playground/water feature would be in the center of the park and construction was staged in two parts: the fields would be completed so the leagues could start their season and the rest of the construction would be phase 2.

Ortiz Dog Park-Parks worked with the environmental department because the park was on a contaminated land fill. Parks wanted to do all of the improvements and environmental was reluctant for holes to be put into the ground because of possible contamination.

Cornell Park- Richard Lopez and his crew would start on the ADA access, water fountain improvements and tree pruning. A deal with the Rose Society was made to replace roses; they would identify the roses would be ordered for spring delivery for the society to put in.

Perez Park- the park would be renovated next year. The work would be done in-house. There would be a gate access inside the wall and a sidewalk and shade structure. Trees and colorful plantings would belt the wall with an open center grass area and the irrigation would be repaired. A decision was made for a gathering place because of requests for events and would include picnic tables and a shade structure and the work would be done by fall.

Mark Brandt-pruning had started and irrigation upgrades would be done in the fall.

Frenchy's and Larragoite- the 100% documents were available at the meeting and had no major changes and the plans would be left for the commission to review.

(Solar Lighting)

A meeting with Carol Schrader had discussed information signs on Frenchy- who he was, etc. Solar lighting had \$55,000 allocated and only \$18,000 was spent for the prototype and demonstration and that allowed money for the interpretive signs.

Qnuru would make the solar lights and fabrication locally and the only thing coming from outside of New Mexico would be the solar collectors. The contract was approved and the engineers would mount the solar lights on a mock up pedestal on Wednesday, September 9, at 8 p.m. POSA, the press and the councilors would be invited to the mock up. A demonstration would be done at Frenchy's while they waited on the prototype.

Frenchy's construction was planned to start within 20-30 days and one zone would be worked on at a time and the park would be able to remain open. Frenchy's house would also have a permanent prefab storage building for the District Two crew.

The River Parkway- Surroundings received the RFP and there would be a meeting with them to launch the project for the work along the river channel. The area was broken into eight sections and work on two would be done in-house. Planting had been done with the grant money; the grant was due that week and Parks would apply for additional money. Design could take 4-6 months because the area was in the historic district; construction would begin in the spring.

A meeting was held with police and fire, the city manager and the city attorney to discuss the day laborers. There were issues with constitutional rights to gather and the park had to be engineered differently if the day laborers stayed. Parks would do as much in-house as possible because of the expense and Mr. Wood would identify trees and their locations for the design firm.

John F. Griego- would be done in house.

The Dog Parks at *Villa Linda* and behind *Perez Pool* were almost finished and were waiting on the trees to come in and then irrigation would be done.

Pueblos Del Sol - the trails had to be 100% ADA accessible and were difficult with grades that had to be changed or ramps had to be cut or having to go into private yards. The intent was to wrap up by fall.

Pueblos Del Sol Trail, Las Estancias and Martin Luther King and McClovvia would receive an over-seed of grass for the bare areas that had been damaged by construction.

MRC Complex- repair work had been done in the fields and more irrigation work had to be done; major construction would be done in the spring.

Power Plant Park-work had started. The building was gutted and irrigation lines had been started and would be done by late fall. Chair Booth noted there would be public access to the park area and limited access to the building and Mr. Chavez said the building could be rented and the park would be open regular hours.

Patrick Smith Park- the dog run had been pulled and new irrigation and turf had been added to the parking lot and gravel and wildflowers would be done. The chain link fence would be replaced with a split rail and the park would be finished in another week and one shade structure would be put in.

Cathedral Park- A request was made for a permanent memorial to be built at the park for the four children killed in the car accident. Councilor Dominguez sponsored a memorial for all youth that have died tragically and Prince Park had been looked at for that. Mr. Chavez had been given a drawing of the design and would take to the H-Board (Historic Design Review Board.) If Prince Park wouldn't work Rail Yard Park would be used.

Ms. Hansen asked if anyone had checked the playground equipment and if the trees had been trimmed at *Gregory Lopez*. Neighbors had offered to design signs but Mr. Chavez said there was money for park signs and the signs would be put back. Mr. Chavez agreed to check with Mr. Neil about the playground equipment the next day.

Ms. Hansen said she hadn't heard anything about *Cielo Vista Park*. She asked if that and Ashbaugh were on the list and was told they were on next year's list.

Chair Booth requested that one of the committee members look at the weekly agendas and said the person could be alternated so that was always done. Mr. Agard agreed to check and e-mail the group if there was anything specific to POSA.

Prairie Dog Update

Mr. Wood provided an update. A summary follows:

- The prairie dogs at Nava School had the plague and were taken care of by dusting the fleas and the areas of the park sealed prior to construction.
- Prairie dogs had all died at Franklin Miles Park; a few were euthanized.
- Ragle Park was in the process and all prairie dogs had been removed.
- Nothing had been done to relocate the prairie dogs at Herb Martinez Park and would probably wait until spring.
- Two prairie dogs at Rail Yard Park had to be trapped.

Chair Booth suggested the next year a dark material be put up and said if prairie dogs couldn't see in they wouldn't go into the garden and people could learn to coexist with the prairie dogs. She said the corn, potatoes, tomatoes were fine and things could be planted that prairie dogs wouldn't eat.

▪ Valentina Replacement on the Committee

Chair Booth had talked with Anthony Gonzales who was on an extreme sports tour. He was very connected to skate board promotion and she thought he had a lot of energy and wanted to interview him and would like Mr. Coriz to interview him also,

Mr. Agard said Mr. Joe Ruiz was interviewed and he had been asked to write a letter to Chair Booth. He described Mr. Ruiz as older, and said he ran the indoor skate board park and was good with the kids and went to skate board tournaments all over the country.

Chair Booth said the idea was to have a skate board voice.

Mr. Chavez said there was a resolution to the park impact fee the committee had passed for \$335,000 and was to go to finance next week.

- **NW Quadrant Priority Trails Plan**

Mr. Agard volunteered to attend the BTAC meeting the following evening.

Mr. Coriz said he wouldn't be able to attend and was to have any kids who were interested go because the kids made a difference and their presence would help ensure there could be a jam in five years.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Reports: Solar Lighting Update – Bob Wood
Discussed previously.

Soccer –Marg Veneklasen
No report.

BTAC-Anna Hansen

Mr. Coriz said he went to the previous month's meeting and most of the discussion was about trail connections. He said trails from the dog park to the Northwest Quadrant were planned.

Ms. Hansen said attending the meetings was difficult for her and Chair Booth suggested she think about whether she wanted a different topic.

Chair Booth said she no response had been received to the letter about BMX and Moto-Cross. The issue was brought up at the BTAC meeting again and was said to be included in the master plan.

Youth Sports and Little League - Tom Agard (Exhibit 1)

Mr. Agard passed out a youth report with information on the prairie dogs, the leagues and the state tournaments. He requested Brian Brigham be included on the agenda next month to present a soccer

report and the need for soccer fields and the tenuous situation with the Downs and was told it would be added to the agenda.

Parks budget paid for the water through this year and that could change since pueblo administrations changed annually.

Mr. Agard thought it important to hear from YAFL (Young American Football League) also and asked that the following meeting Ruben Lovato be put on the agenda.

He discussed the action taken on the prairie dogs and said Wendy Blackwell with the Land Use Department would put together a report and develop an action plan that identified hazards and allow park staff to take necessary action.

Mr. Agard said two state tournaments were sponsored at Alto Park and nine teams statewide had participated. He said six teams were at Salvador Perez of Junior Girls Softball with 84 girls from 12-14 years old. He said the leagues wanted that kind of activity to continue and wanted round robin tournaments in addition to state championships to utilize the parks.

NW Quadrant/BMX / Skate Parks – Daniel Coriz

Mr. Coriz said the Franklin Miles Park skate park had opened and when closed many kids had gone to Albuquerque and some still were. He hoped to see a new ledge to keep the kids in Santa Fe and he was asked him to tell the kids the park would be closed temporarily when that started.

A trail jam from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. would be held Saturday and the guys had built new obstacles they hoped to have done by the. The New Mexican had been contacted and would possibly send a photographer.

Tierra Contenta Parks – Orallynn Guerrerortiz

Ms. Guerrerortiz said permits had been received for a small tot park to the northwest of the South Side Library. She said Councilor Dominguez had pushed for funding to build the South Side Library plaza and she had the original plans to show the committee.

The committee discussed grass at the park and because this park had been scheduled to be built and ran out of money that wouldn't happen there but as additional parks were designed grass would be included.

Ms. Guerrerortiz said Councilor Dominguez also looked for \$75,000 funding for master planning of two other park areas; one near Capitol High School for a 2 1/2 acre park and a regional park with a skate park, dog park, water feature, fields and structures for play.

- **Park History – Sandra Taylor**
There was no report
- **Discussion of Commission Resolution and Chairperson/ Betty Booth Re-election**

Chair Booth said a copy of the resolution had been received that established their commission and she cited the specifics of the resolution.

Ms. Guerrerortiz moved the mayor re-appoint Betty Booth as Chairperson of POSA. Ms. Hansen seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

Ms. Guerrerortiz moved that Chair Booth be re-elected as chairperson to POSA. Ms. Hansen seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

A discussion of the resolution reflected that Ms. Taylor had been noted as Vice Chair in the previous meeting minutes and was *acting Chairperson* not elected Vice Chair.

Ms. Hansen moved that the minutes of July 22, 2009 be amended to reflect Ms. Taylor was *acting chair* not vice chair in the last meeting. Mr. Agard seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Denis Saccone said Mr. Agard's discussion with Ms. Blackwell spoke of the hazards of prairie dogs; she wanted to clarify the plague was an isolated incident and prairie dogs posed the least hazard to humans and were not carriers or hosts and died quickly within hours once bitten by a plague carrying flea.

She discussed that the concrete for the house and back road at Frenchy's would be done zone by zone and the prairie dogs would be removed and returned to their zone. She and Mr. Chavez discussed the capture process and what should be done with the dogs and how to move them. Paula Martin would be consulted and if not available, Ms. Huff would be contacted.

Ms. Saccone asked that the record show it was agreed there wouldn't be another incident like Franklin Miles Park and that no legal measures would be taken to clear the site and Mr. Wood reassured her.

She and Mr. Chavez discussed the River Parkway and Councilor Bushee's request for the prairie dogs to be relocated. Mr. Chavez said the Parks plan wasn't to move them and would be up to the councilor if that decision was made. He suggested Ms. Saccone determine costs for fabric barriers because the figures would be needed.

Ms. Saccone asked if the prairie dog wards along Zia Street at Ragle Park would be kept together and was told the all would eventually be removed and the intent was to remove them together.

She asked if the commission would be open to having a prairie dog subcommittee in regard to the parks and Chair Booth said that would be taken into consideration.

DATE AND TIME FOR NEXT MEETING:

September 23, 2009 was agreed to be the next meeting.

ADJOURN:

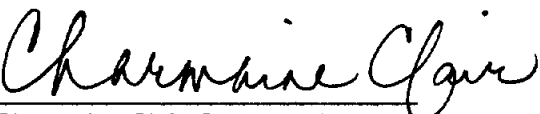
Mr. Torres moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Hansen seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

Having no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

Approved by:


Elizabeth Booth, Chair

Submitted by:


Charmaine Clair, Stenographer

Youth Sports Report 8-26-2009 by Tom Agard

- 1. Could we please put Brian Brigham (982-1777) of Northern Soccer on the agenda for our next meeting to give a soccer report and their need for soccer fields?**
- 2. Could we also put Rubin Lavato of YAFL on the agenda either next meeting or the meeting after that for a football report?**
- 3. Prairie Dog update:**
 - a. The little leagues went to the Land Use Subcommittee and requested the Prairie Ordinance 14-8.12 be amended to allow for the health safety and welfare of people in the parks. The prairie dog ordinance effectively hand ties the Parks Department from taking action in situations where the prairie dogs present a clear danger to people in the parks. There are two hazards 1.) The physical damage from burrowing activity, 2.) Infectious disease, plague.**
 - b. We have met with Wendy Blackwell from the Land Use Office. She is drafting a report for the city manager with input from all stakeholders. From the youth sports perspective, we hope the report will outline appropriate protocol and operating procedures for the parks department to follow in the event that the Prairie Dogs present a clear hazard.**
- 4. State Tournaments: these tournaments mean revenue**
 - a. Boys Majors 11-12 years old were held at Alto Park 9 teams from all over the state participated. 110 boys, 80 parents, coaches and chaperones, 65 hotel rooms for the week.**
 - b. Junior Girls 12-14 years old fast pitch softball held at Salvador Perez Park 6 teams, 84 girls, 60 parents, coaches and chaperones 40 hotel rooms.**

08/13/09

Youth Sports Concerns with Prairie Dog Ordinance 14-8.12

Our primary concern with the ordinance is that it does not include any provision for the health , safety and welfare of the citizens of Santa Fe in the event that the Prairie Dogs create a clear and undeniable hazard.

From our perspective there are two obvious hazards:

First, the physical hazard of the burrows on and around the ball fields, play structures, and schools:

For this we feel the ordinance should establish a perimeter zone around the active sports fields, play structure, and schools of 100 feet to allow the city to remove Prairie Dogs any time of the year. In this way if the Prairie Dog burrows present a physical hazard the city could relocate Prairie Dogs any time of the year, through any means deemed necessary.

Second, the risk of infectious disease, such as the plague:

In the case that Plague is detected in the parks or school grounds, we feel it is imperative that the city have an emergency plan in place that would include the immediate closure of the park or school, and posting of the hazard. Euthanization of all rodents in the infected area would be mandatory. Immediate treatment of the infected area with the appropriate insecticide to knock down the fleas, which spread the bacterium, and then retreatment as needed.