



Agenda

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**Parks and Open Space Advisory Commission
Santa Fe County Extension Office
3229 Rodeo Road
Tuesday, September 21, 2010
2:00 p.m.**

The regular Parks and Open Space Advisory Commission Meeting will not be held this month in order for the Commission to visit parks that have been renovated with the Parks Bonds monies over the last two years.

2:00: Meet at the Santa Fe County Extension Office 3229 Rodeo Road

2:00 - 3:00: Driving tour of the following parks: Villa Linda, Pueblos del Sol, Villa Caballero, Las Estancias, Martin Luther King (formerly Villa Serena)

3:00: General Franklin E. Miles

3:30 - 5:00: Driving tour of the following parks: Marc Brandt, Maclovio, Gregory Lopez, Larragoite, Young, Salvador Perez Patio, Patrick Smith, Power Plant, E. DeVargas, W. De Vargas Skateboard Park, Frank Ortiz Dog Park, Sunnyslope, JF Griego, return to the Santa Fe County Extension Office

Persons with disabilities in need of accommodations, contact the City Clerk's office at (505) 955-6520, five (5) working days prior to meeting date.

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PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION
September 21, 2010

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**MINUTES OF THE
FIELD VISIT
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION
September 21, 2010**

A field visit of the City of Santa Fe Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee began at approximately 2:00 p.m., on Tuesday, September 21, 2010, at the Santa Fe County Extension Office, 3229 Rodeo Road, Santa Fe.

MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Bette Booth, Chair
Daniel Coriz
Oralynn Guerrerortiz
Joe Lehm
Sandra Taylor
Patrick Torres

MEMBERS NOT ATTENDING

Tom Agard
Anna Hansen
Marge Veneklasen

STAFF ATTENDING:

Ben Gurule, Public Works Department
Jesse Esparza, Parks Division
Alexa Schirtzinger, The Santa Fe Reporter
Melessia Helberg, Stenographer

There was a quorum of the membership in attendance. .

1. **DRIVING TOUR OF THE FOLLOWING PARKS: VILLA LINDA, PUEBLOS DEL SOL, VILLA CABALLERO, LAS ESTANCIAS, MARTIN LUTHER KING (FORMERLY VILLA SERENA)**

A. VILLA LINDA – District 4

Mr. Gurule said \$107,490 allocated from the Parks Bond for Villa Linda Park.

Mr. Gurule said people from the development to the east access the park via the bridge, and said the park has been upgraded as follows:

1. There is water to the park and the sprinkler heads have been replaced for more efficiency;
2. The soccer fields have been renovated;
3. The trail connection has been made across the bridge, and the Arroyo Chamiso Trail will go through a box culvert under Cerrillos and connect with the Tierra Contenta Trail.
4. 50% of the park furniture is ADA accessible.
5. Playground equipment has been upgraded.
6. A safety audit was done and the park is consumer safe.

It was the consensus among the members of the Commission in attendance that additional trees and a shade structure(s) is needed in this Park.

B. PUEBLOS DEL SOL – District 4

The Pueblos del Sol Park was built with CIP funds and funds raised by the neighborhood at a cost of \$121,000. The Park was designed and built by the neighborhood, along with labor from the Parks Division. Mr. Gurule said the parking lot was paid with Park Bond funds.

Mr. Gurule said the trail meanders through all of the houses in the subdivision, and the original plan was to crack, seal and overlay the Trail. He said the City went out to bid and awarded the contract. However, David McQuarie of the Mayor's Committee on Disability wanted it to be ADA accessible, so they went back to the drawing board, and have change-ordered all kinds of work in the system so it is ADA accessible with the appropriate signage, and they should be complete within a month.

Chair Booth asked if the Basketball court was funded with Park Bond monies and Mr. Gurule said yes, as well as the drainage improvements, the parking lot and the coyote fence around the storage area. He said they made the trail meander to get less than an 8% grade so that it is ADA compliant.

Chair Booth noted that Park Funds of \$1.1 million dollars were allocated to repave 2.9 miles of the Pueblos del Sol Trail, and asked how the parking lot was funding.

Mr. Gurule said the parking lot was requested through the Governing Body, and they directed staff to build a parking lot with Park Bond funds. He said during the time the project was

on hold because they had to make the Trail ADA accessible, there was a Homeowner's Association ["HOA"] meeting. He said it was planned to use cold millings for the parking lot. He said he and Fabian Chavez attended the HOA meeting, and they requested a basketball court and correction of the drainage as well as the paving of the parking lot.

Responding to a question from the Commission, Mr. Gurule said the funding for the parking lot came out of the funds for Trails. He said the parking lot has 2 inches of asphalt and 6 inches of subgrade.

Chair Booth asked if Pueblos del Sol will get more funds for the trail, Mr. Gurule said no, because there are still funds left for the Trail.

Ms. Guerrerortiz said there were complaints about the basketball court and the neighborhood expressed fears that people would hang out there at night, and Mr. Gurule said he had not heard those complaints.

C. VILLA CABALLERO – District 4

Mr. Gurule said nothing has been done at Villa Caballero, although they do have the plans.

Chair Booth said her understanding is that this park will stay natural.

Mr. Gurule pointed out the site of the proposed DOT ramps and ADA parking, as well as the accessible pathway which goes toward the arroyo, which will connect with another pathway, noting there will be a table at the other end, all of which will be ADA accessible. He said it will be a very passive park with some furniture – tables and chairs – but no trees because there are no funds for a water meter for this Park.

D. LAS ESTANCIAS [FORMERLY LA VILLA SERENA] – District 4

Chair Booth said this is a brand new Park. She said a gentleman attended a Commission meeting to talk about this, and he sent out a questionnaire to all of the residents, and asked what kind of park they wanted, and then they voted on it, and brought the design to the Park Commission. She noted there are two HOA's associated with this neighborhood. She said this was an empty field formerly.

Mr. Gurule said the entire Park is ADA accessible – playgrounds, shade structure, drinking fountain and such. He said the current shade structure was homemade, and he doesn't recall the

cost, commenting that people try to burn them. He said the only thing which is cheap on the shade structure is the lattice, and they don't use those anymore.

Chair Booth asked Mr. Gurule his recommendation for shade structures in the parks, and Mr. Gurule said it depends on the neighborhood.

E. MARTIN LUTHER KING – District 4

Mr. Gurule said they used to call this the “Rock Park” because someone did a lot of art work on the rock walls and the stone paths, noting those have been here “forever.”

Mr. Gurule said all of the grass is blue gramma, sideoats gramma, and buffalo grass and will get green quickly when there is moisture. He said the butterfly bush will take over the split rail fence in a couple of years. He said all of the park is on irrigation.

E(1) HERB MARTINEZ – District 4

The Herb Martinez Park is on the back side of MLK Park.

Mr. Gurule said they have done nothing to the Park, except prairie dog removal, and the scheduled improvements will be done next year. He said the cottonwoods have been removed, and the tennis courts have been resurfaced.

Chair Booth said work to be done includes installing 8 picnic tables and converting the baseball field to passive open space turf area.

Ms. Guerrerortiz asked if anybody uses the baseball fields.

Mr. Gurule said, although the leagues want to play here, the neighbors don't want it, noting all of those leagues now play at the MRC. He said they will modify the field and bring turf all the way to the fence.

Mr. Gurule said in addition to what is on the list, the Park will be made accessible, and there will be DOT ramps and signage indicating an accessible parking lot, and there will be pathways to 50% of the features in the Park.

E(2) LA RESOLANA – District 4 – [PART OF HERB MARTINEZ PARK]

Mr. Gurule said this park has a manual irrigation system, and the playground isn't accessible. He said they will be putting in wood fibers and upgrading to an automatic irrigation system. He said the improvements to this Park will be done with Park Bond funds in 2011.

Chair Booth said the Park could use more trees, noting you can walk across the bridge to Herb Martinez Park, and commenting that it is a very nice neighborhood park.

Mr. Gurule said there used to be a lot of prairie dogs in this park, noting they are removing prairie dogs from all of the parks.

2. TOUR OF GENERAL FRANKLIN E. MILES PARK – District 4

Franklin E. Miles Park is a Regional Park.

Mr. Gurule said this Park got a brand new irrigation system and a perimeter pathway. A turf reduction was done against Siringo Road, and they put all of that area into crusher fines and native shrubs. They built a perimeter pathway, shade structures, furniture and infrastructure for the concession, because the concession didn't have a main line, so they put in a main line and drain to the concession for water and sewer. He said the water and sewer came from one pot of money, and the concession and the restrooms were funded with CIP bond funds.

Mr. Gurule said improvements were made to the Skateboard Park, a lot of trees were planted, the backstops were redone, and brand new fencing was put up. It has a mow curb throughout the park separating the turf from the crusher fines. He said the only thing left to do are the gates, noting the poles have been installed where the new gates will be placed. He said when the gate is closed it cuts off the sidewalk which cuts off accessibility, so the pole will be on the street level.

Chair Booth said she spoke with Fabian Chavez about lights for the Skateboard Park and he said they were out of funds, but Daniel found a safety issue which had to be addressed at the Skateboard Park.

Responding to a question from Mr. Torres, Mr. Gurule said this park has 27 acres and 7 sports fields – two Little League fields, two fast-pitch softball fields and three T-Ball fields.

Chair Booth pointed out the mural which was done by the kids.

Joe Lehm, a member of the Commission, joined the group at the Skateboard Park, along with Alexa Schirtzinger of The Santa Fe Reporter

The Commission went on a walking tour of the Skateboard Park, and commented as follows:

- The Skateboard Park has a lumpy finish, it is uneven. Mr. Lehm said it is important for someone to be there when they put the finish on.
- The bowls dead-end at the wall, which makes its use essentially in only one direction.
- The angle iron on some of the small walls isn't smooth.
- Some of the small walls are at the wrong angle and aren't used.

3. DRIVING TOUR OF THE FOLLOWING PARKS: MARC BRANDT, MACLOVIA, GREGORY LOPEZ, LARRAGOITE, YOUNG, SALVADOR PEREZ PATIO, PATRICK SMITH, POWER PLANT, E. DEVARGAS, W. DEVARGAS SKATEBOARD PARK, FRANK ORTIZ DOG PARK, SUNNYSLOPE, JF GRIEGO, AND RETURN TO THE SANTA FE COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE.

A. MARC BRANDT – District 4

Mr. Gurule said all of the irrigation heads have been replaced. He said the plan called for improvements to the drainage, which were much more expensive than “could be handled,” so there was nothing they could do about that. He said 30 new trees will be planted – Shademaster honey Locust, Patmore Ash and such.

Mr. Gurule said a new irrigation system was installed about 10 years ago, but it was the old style sprinkler heads which they changed to the current rain technology and every sprinkler head has the same flow of water.

Chair Booth expressed concern about the grass, and Mr. Gurule said he will find out what is being done, commenting this park should be greener than it is. Mr. Gurule said the Park is about ½ mile long. He said there used to be a playground, but it was removed when it became a liability.

Mr. Gurule said the Park was once full of elm, but there are now very few elms in the park.

Ms. Guerrerortiz asked what were the drainage structures they wanted to build.

Mr. Gurule said two structures were planned. He said previously, while maintaining the Park they pulled up or damaged the riprap structure. He said the structures need to be removed and redone below grade, noting it is very expensive at more than \$8,700 apiece. He said they are looking at doing one, but can't do both.

Responding to the Chair, Mr. Gurule said \$34,800 was spent on this Park.

B. MACLOVIA – District 3

Mr. Gurule said this park is accessible, the playground is accessible, it has a shade structure and a community garden. He said Frenchy's Park is across the way just beyond the subdivision. He said this Park was constructed with ½ CIP funds and ½ Park Bond funds. He noted this shade structure is one of the ones people tried to burn, but it is very sturdy and only the lattice work burned, noting one of the supports of the shade structure is burned.

C. GREGORY LOPEZ – District 3

The committee complimented the City for its work on this Park which was in bad shape.

Mr. Gurule said this Park had the old style irrigation system, and it now has a brand new irrigation system which is controlled from his office. It has accessible parking, sidewalks, tables, swings, drinking fountain, playground, benches – everything is accessible. He said the neighbors use this park a lot.

Mr. Gurule said they spent a lot of money on seed at this park, noting the prairie dogs don't like horehound, but they eat everything else that grows.

D. LARRAGOITE – District 3

Mr. Gurule said the first phase of improvements to this Park was done with CIP funds, and the second phase was done with Parks Bond funds, noting the new bridge was done in phase 1.

Mr. Gurule said, in the second phase, they installed a brand new irrigation system. He said the sand lot was pull of thorns which they removed and put in new sand, and reseeded all of the areas where the puncture vine once grew. The tennis court was resurfaced, the parking lot is now

accessible with signage and there are accessible sidewalks and ramps. He said all new trees were planted.

Mr. Gurule said almost all of the prairie dogs are gone, but they get stragglers from the Indian School. He said there used to be burrowing owls, but they left when the subdivision was built, commenting that they were the “coolest” little birds.

Mr. Gurule said the kids can play baseball and soccer here, but the leagues can't play here, because the neighbors didn't want the leagues because of all the people that would be in the neighborhood. He said the playground is accessible, and engineered wood fiber replaced all of the sand. On the other side, it now has an irrigation system and turf where it once was just dirt. He said all of it has been drill seeded with native grass, so as soon as we get moisture those seeds will pop.

Mr. Gurule said there are 11.52 acres in this Park.

Ms. Taylor said she has really noticed a change in this Park, commenting that this was a very large project.

Mr. Gurule noted the Parks Advisory Commission recommendation was to renovate the playground area at the SW side, construct a sand volleyball court, expand the irrigation system and pave the parking lot.

Mr. Gurule, responding to a question about the trail system, said the Acequia Trail will go all the way to Tierra Contenta and catch that part of the Trail. He said all of the Trail is built from Frenchy's Park to downtown, and that Trail is going to continue west. He said the Trail will go under Airport Road through a box culvert. He invited the Commission members to stop by his office and he will show them the proposed BTAC Trail, noting the proposed BTAC Trail is what they are trying to bring to fruition.

Chair Booth said she would like this on the next Commission meeting agenda, and would like Mr. Gurule to bring the map to the meeting and update the entire Commission on this effort.

Ms. Guerrerortiz said she was told there was no funding for this trail and that funds to complete the connection would have to come from any future Parks bond.

Mr. Gurule said he is speaking about what was proposed and what they said they were going to do originally with this bond, but observed that Ms. Guerrerortiz may have more recent information than he has about this.

E. YOUNG – District 2

Mr. Gurule said the basketball court was resurfaced, the playground was upgraded and made accessible. He said they installed accessible furniture and updated the irrigation system which is controlled at his office. He said they put in DOT ramps and sidewalks.

Chair Booth said this is a real neighborhood/community park, and on the weekend people and their families will be cooking. She said two young football teams practice here – the park is just jammed on the weekends.

Mr. Gurule said dogs are not allowed in the playground area, but dogs are allowed in other areas of the park.

F. SALVADOR PEREZ PATIO – District 2

Mr. Gurule said Salvador Perez had two pots of money, one for the Perez Patio and the other for the Perez Park. He said the design is complete for Perez Park and will go out to bid in November, to City Committees in January, awarded in February and, hopefully, they will break ground on the work in March 2011.

Mr. Gurule said there will be an opening to the right which will go into the parking lot which will be paved. He said it will take a lot of modification, including the drainage. He said the playgrounds will be accessible. He said this Park just didn't have enough money.

Mr. Gurule said the Patio has doors to the swimming pool, and can be rented for parties at about \$50. He said the Patio has a shade structure, a barbecue pit, commenting everything is accessible – it has an accessible picnic table. He said an irrigation system was put outside the wall with trees all around it.

G. PATRICK SMITH – District 2

Mr. Gurule said this is another Park that didn't have enough money.

G(1) ORLANDO FERNANDEZ – District 2

Mr. Gurule said this park had a manual irrigation system. He said there were plans to make the Park accessible – curb cuts, a ramp, a sidewalk and a table. However, everyone in the

neighborhood was opposed to it. The neighborhood wants only a passive park.

H. POWER PLANT – District 2

On the way to the Power Plant, Mr. Gurule talked about the River Parkway. He said this Park is finished. He said the river bed itself won't be accessible. The rock walls above the River were built by the CCC and they will remain in place.

Responding to a question from the Commission, Mr. Gurule said the coyote fence around the Power Plant is the only kind which is allowed in this Historic District.

The Commission walked around the grounds of the Power Plant.

Mr. Gurule said there are plans to turn the power plant structure itself into a museum.

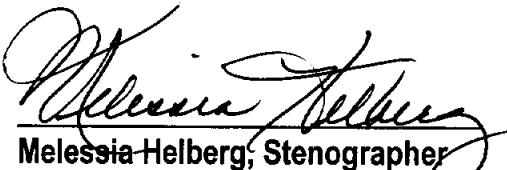
4. CONCLUSION OF PARKS FIELD VISIT

After the visit to the Power Plant, it was the consensus among the Commission, in view of the lateness of the hour, to return to the Extension Office, and to visit the following parks at a future date: E. DeVargas, W. DeVargas Skateboard Park, Frank Ortiz Dog Park, Sunnyslope and J.F. Griego.

The Parks Field Visit concluded at approximately 5:40 p.m. at the Extension Office.



Bette Booth Chair



Melessia Helberg, Stenographer