



Agenda

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Parks and Open Space Advisory Commission
Genoveva Chavez Community Center – Classroom One, 3221 Rodeo Road
Tuesday, January 18, 2011
3:00 -5:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call Review and Approval of the December 2010 meeting minutes.
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Old Business
 - Parks Division Update
 - Priority Recommendations for Parks, Open Space, Trails and Recreational Facilities Planning Process: Action Item
 - Status to date
 - Recreation Division Presentation and Discussion
6. New Business
 - Partnering with the Trails Alliance of Santa Fe – Action Item
 - Pumptrack bike feature – Action Item
7. Possible Reports:
 - Tom Agard: Organized Youth Sports and Survey / Workforce Development / Trails to Schools
 - Jessie Esparza: Community Gardens
 - Marge VeneKlasen:
 - Martin Ortega:
 - Anna Hansen: Art in Parks / MPO Meetings and the MPO Bicycle Committee meetings /Disc Golf
 - Daniel Coriz: NW Quadrant / BMX
 - Oralynn Guerrerortiz: Tierra Contenta Master Plan
 - Joe Lehm: Bike paths and connections / Skate Parks
 - Patrick Torres: Community Gardens /Tree City
 - Sandie Taylor: Ten Park Histories on the Portal / Tree City
 - Bette Booth: Graffiti / Youth Involvement / Prairie Dogs
5. Public Comments
6. Confirm date and time for the next meeting

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CITY OF SANTA FE
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION

JANUARY 18, 2011

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**MEETING MINUTES
FOR THE
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION**

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2011

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the City of Santa Fe Parks and Open Space Advisory Commission was called to order by Chair Bette Booth, on this date at approximately 3:00 pm at Genoveva Chávez Community Center, Conference Room, 3221 Rodeo Road, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

ROLL CALL

Roll call indicated a quorum as follows:

Members Present

Bette Booth, Chair
Tom Agard (arrived later)
Oralynn Guerrerortiz (arrived later)
Joe Lehm
Anna Hansen
Patrick Torres
Sandra Taylor

Members Absent

Daniel Coriz (excused)
Martin Ortega (excused)

Staff Present

Fabian Chavez, Director of Parks Department
Marg Veneklasen
Jesse Esparza, Parks Department

Others Present

Charmaine Clair, Stenographer

Chair Booth informed the Commission members that Ms. Veneklasen would now be the Emeritus Senior Advisor. She said Councilors from District 4 nominated Mr. Martin Ortega from that district. She said Mr. Ortega was a lifelong resident of Santa Fe and the Bureau Chief of ASD Compliance and Financial Systems for the State Human Services Department.

Mr. Agard entered the meeting at this time.

Chair Booth said Mr. Ortega was active in Herb Martinez Park and she and Mr. Agard were bringing him up to date. She said he sent his regrets he wasn't able to attend because he couldn't free his calendar. She said he would join them at the next meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- December 14, 2010

Mr. Torres said prior to the November meeting he mentioned he wasn't able to attend. Mr. Torres was shown as unexcused and should be shown as excused.

Ms. Guerrerortiz and Ms. Veneklasen entered the meeting at this time.

Ms. Taylor moved to approve the minutes of December 14, 2010 as amended. Mr. Torres seconded the motion and the minutes were passed by unanimous voice vote.

Chair Booth honored Ms. Veneklasen as the Santa Fe Parks and Open Spaces Advisory Commissioner Emeritus Senior Advisor. Ms. Veneklasen was presented with a plaque thanking her for her dedication and support of Santa Fe's parks and open spaces.

Ms. Veneklasen thanked the Commission. She said it was a pleasure to make things work and she was with the Commission 100% on the many things she could do.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Ms. Guerrerortiz moved to approve the Agenda as presented. Ms. Hansen seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

- Parks Division Update

Mr. Chavez said because of time he would update the Commission on three areas: Downtown Skate Park, Southwest Activity Node (Tierra Contenta) and Cielo Vista. A summary follows:

Downtown Skate Park in West DeVargas Park-

- The footprint was 9,000 ²ft. Surroundings, currently under contract to design Parque Del Rio was contracted. About 60 days would be cut from construction using the same firm. Surroundings would bring in a specialty designer.
- Additional money was found that increased the allowance to \$265,000.
- Brian Drypolcher would head the project. The Park would be closed once and construction would be coordinated to avoid contractors destroying each other's sections.
- Action Sport Development was proposed as the contractor. The general contractor awarded would work with the City with the footprint design and that would be presented for the Parks Commission approval and a separate contract issued for construction.
- The contractor of construction would be required to ensure subcontractors had experience in successful construction of skate parks/plazas construction, etc.
- Construction was projected for midsummer and would be a skate plaza concept.

Mr. Lehm explained skate plazas looked like a normal plaza but were also skate able as opposed to a skate park which couldn't function as anything else.

The Southwest activity node (Tierra Contenta Park)-

- Proposals were being evaluated and would be finished by the end of January. Robert Rodarte would be the contact person for any questions.

The Cielo Vista property-

- McClovio Park was looked at and purchase of property adjacent to McClovio Park had been discussed. Money was available in the Parks Bond. The property was land locked and could be a challenge to get vehicles in and out and have parking.

Chair Booth suggested the Commission meet at the property and would propose a time in an email. Mr. Chavez agreed they should walk the property to understand the potential.

Chair Booth asked Mr. Chavez if the Commission should be at his presentation to Public Works on 24 January.

Mr. Chavez thought that a good idea and said the Commission could answer questions from constituents and questions he couldn't answer.

Ms. Guerrerortiz said she feared money would be moved from one park to another.

Mr. Chavez said a few big parks and a lot of little parks were still under construction. He said it was premature to discuss the potential of what was underfunded or not funded.

- Priority Recommendations for Parks Open Space, Trails and Recreational Facilities Planning Process: Action Item:
 - Status

Chair Booth said she, Mr. Agard, Mr. Chavez and Ms. Guerrerortiz met with Mayor Coss. She said the idea that the Parks Bond could be extended without raising taxes was not true and this would need a bond or CIP bond. She said the Mayor was supportive of some parks being in the bond.

She said they heard that some Councilors would want streets, broadband, roads, bridges, etc. and the bond would not be only a Parks bond.

Ms. Hansen said she talked with Councilor Chávez whose big concern was that too much money had gone into Alto and Ragle Parks and not enough into the small and medium size parks. He thought too much money was spent in sports and fields and not enough on trails to connect the parks.

She said Councilor Chavez wants to improve trails that connect with parks. She gave an example of the Acequia Madre Trail. She said parts were really nice but closer to District three areas should be purchased and were in need of attention. She said a complete trail could connect it to McClovio. She said another place was near Larragoite Park.

Mr. Agard said he met with Ben (Gurule) who made an alphabetical listing of each park and the status. He also met with the District 4 supervisor, David Archuleta, who suggested the commission hold off with the Councilors until Martin Ortega was on board.

Mr. Agard said he would tour District 4 parks that weekend and invited others to join him.

Chair Booth said headway had been made with the supervisors and project managers and would continue. She would prepare an excel file for Ms. Esparza.

Ms. Veneklasen said she contacted Councilor Bushee but hadn't received a call back.

Chair Booth asked if Ms. Veneklasen would continue her efforts to reach Councilor Bushee, or should an email be sent to the Councilor on behalf of the Commission.

Ms. Veneklasen said she would make the call *and* Chair Booth could send an email. She said as far as CIP funds; she was on the board and said there wasn't the money that was once there. She said her main concern was a park in Tierra Contenta.

Ms. Guerrerortiz said she met with Councilor Dominguez. His focus was on:

- The Tierra Contenta Park and he would like several other parks in Tierra Contenta that had been planned but not constructed to be built. She said Colonial Prisma was designed and they knew the costs.
- Other issues were: possible funding for the water sculpture at the Southside library; a reclaimed water line that would go down to the valley and up to feed the schools as part of the Tierra Contenta Park. There was a budget of about \$2 million.
- The Councilor also brought up the large tract of State land that he wanted to trade something the City owned for to be part of a future park in District three.
- He mentioned the Country Club off Airport Road was having issues and might need to be turned into a City Park and he wanted the Commission to look at a park (South Meadows) being built to see if augmentation would be needed because the developer would put in minimal.
- Councilor Dominguez wanted the Commission to focus on crossing connections across Cerrillos Road and Airport Road to link the Tierra Contenta Trail system with other areas and to focus on getting to the Nava Ade Trail off of Jaguar.

Mr. Lehm said he met with Councilor Calvert. He said Councilor Calvert wanted to see what it would take to get the existing connection along Gonzales Road going; it was cleared, approved and was shovel ready. He said Councilor Calvert also mentioned the possibility of the Country Club being turned into a park.

He said he and the Councilor discussed Parque Del Rio and DeVargas Park and what was going on and he was shown some tiny pieces of land that had money. Chair Booth added that Councilor Calvert wanted more information on the tiny pieces of land and she had requested that from Mr. Chavez.

Ms. Taylor asked if Councilor Rosemary Romero was heard from and was told no. She said she and Mr. Agard and Chair Booth met with three supervisors and went over parks. She said many of the parks issues seemed to be normal upgrades; things like irrigation upgrade and straightening sidewalks, etc. as opposed to a big project.

Chair Booth asked Ms. Taylor to send the list to her to organize.

Mr. Agard said it would be helpful to know the parks that Martin Valdez worked on to see what district they were in. Ms. Esparza agreed to get that information.

Chair Booth reviewed supervisors she had met with and those they would still need to see. She said she would set up meetings and inform everyone.

- Recreation Division Presentation

Mr. Lujan welcomed the Parks Commission and thanked them for the opportunity for the Recreation team to introduce themselves and talk about their ideas.

Mr. Lujan said he had been involved since 1982 in Parks and Recreation in Santa Fe and currently ran the Marty Sanchez Golf Course and MRC fields and worked a lot with Mr. Chavez to identify the needs of the project managers. He said he was recently asked to be the interim Recreation Division Director over the recreational sites as well.

Mr. Lujan said currently the GCC, Salvador Perez, and Fort Marcy had a lot of indoor programming and leagues, etc. and they looked at outdoor recreation as well. He said they discussed how to take programs in regards to trails and parks on the South side and maximize their use. They also discussed what the Parks Commission might be working on that Recreation hadn't considered.

Mr. Lujan said the goal for Recreation was to provide something for everyone and tie that into the City vision, the lifestyles and outdoor recreational opportunities.

Mr. Lujan Introduced Liza Suzanne, the GCC Director of Operations.

Ms. Suzanne said she grew up in Santa Fe and had been at the Chavez Center more than seven years. She offered a tour of the facilities to those interested and passed out an activity guide.

Ms. Suzanne said her interests were in public health and public safety. She said the outdoors had added appeal because it was accessible to youth and gave them something healthy to do and both childhood obesity and diabetes would be less and kids would be healthier if engaged.

She was interested in how to contribute to the hardscape design factor of the parks or connection of trails or things that made it easier for kids and/or grandparents with kids, to be active. She passed out a brochure with different national organizations (Last Child in the Woods, the Children's Nature Network and the Natural Learning Initiative) that worked to get kids outdoors. She said grant money, presentations and community building was available.

She talked about studies on the nervous system, muscular/skeletal system, etc. and how all of that works together. She said at a conference with the New Mexico State Parks and Recreation she attended they talked about autism and kids with disabilities in public parks and ways certain forms could be put in place to increase the number of people who went to the park.

Ms. Guerrerortiz said where she grew up there was a small room a person could check out tennis balls and racquets, basketballs etc. She said she wanted to incorporate that to encourage outdoor play as a combination of Parks and Recreation.

Ms. Suzanne said a mobile van with supplies and equipment that would go to parks was discussed and kids could check out equipment they don't have. She said a storage unit would be needed.

Ms. Veneklasen said her son was on the Off-Roads Commission and was very interested in bringing appreciation and knowledge of resources and how that could be kept in the schools. She wanted him to meet with Ms. Suzanne to brainstorm.

Mr. Chavez said he supports the opportunities that exist to do something outside of a recreation facility. He said it was about how to coordinate activities. He said tennis, as an example, had no program to organize kids in groups and leagues and many sports were "a recreation for life" meaning they could be played from childhood on.

Mr. Lujan said programs were being revived for sports and a program worked with tennis out of GCC.

Chair Booth said this was the beginning of dialogue. She suggested the Commission consider a committee on recreation and for someone from Recreation to be on the Parks Commission.

Ms. Hansen said she was excited about the playground structures (form and function) and about developing smaller parks. She said the smaller parks had leftovers and nothing for adults. She gave Gregory Lopez Park as an example. She said that was also true in other parks around town.

Ms. Suzanne said Ft. Marcy had outdoor hydraulic exercise equipment and some places had exercise stations for adults. She said the Recreation Division could recommend those features be put in during the construction phase of parks.

Mr. Agard said much of it was about teaching people how to play and that doesn't require a lot of capital. He said society had lost that art. He thanked Staff for what they do and for getting people outside in the environment.

Chair Booth said another meeting could be planned in March with more time. She thanked the Recreation Division and said there was a lot of interest and the dialogue would be continued.

NEW BUSINESS

- Partnering with Trails Alliance: Action Item

Chair Booth said she forwarded the Trails Alliance of Santa Fe Annual Report. She said it was suggested that the Commission be on the Alliance's list of partners.

Ms. Hansen moved for the Parks and Open Space Advisory to partner with the Trails Alliance. Ms. Guerrerortiz seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

- Pumptrack Bicycle Feature- Henry Lenman

Henry Lenman said he had been racing and building trails since age six and had recently gotten into dirt jumping. He said he came up with the idea on the pumptrack. He said he had built a few and ridden a lot of them. A summary of his presentation follows:

- The pumptrack was defined as a series of rollers and burms that create a closed track. They could vary from 1-2 turns to 3-4 and was a great source of exercise and a way to get youth outdoors.
- The landscape could blend with the environment.
- The benefits were exercise, increased bike handling skills; kids were outside and improved their skills.
- Sustainability could be done with landscaping.
- The liability was the jumps were safer than the jumps off of La Tierra Trails and the BMX track at MRC and at Skate Parks.
- The dimensions for a small pumptrack were about 20 by 40 feet. A pumper was usually 2-3 feet long from the bottom of one basin to the next and burms 2-3 feet high. The track could be 1 to 3 feet wide. Photographs were shown of pumpers.
- Building a pumptrack: dirt was laid down and watered and packed to a firm surface and the process was continued until the desired height was achieved. The track would be extremely sustainable.
- Costs: Mr. Lenman said he worked pro bono as a community service project; there would be costs for the dirt to be brought in and landscape needs such as rocks, trees, bushes, etc. Mr. Lenman said he would use friends and could contact people to help fund the project.
- Location would be central. The Rail Yard was considered but not possible. Ft. Marcy was discussed with Mr. Chavez as a definite possibility.
- The time frame to build the track was 1-2 weeks depending on what was wanted.

Chair Booth said she wanted Mr. Lenman to present to the Commission to get their thoughts. She said the tracks were small and she thought two could be done.

Mr. Chavez said he would meet with Mr. Lenman to look at an area at Fort Marcy and discuss the process; how the track would be built and maintained etc. and he would have something laid out. He would send the design to Chair Booth with bulleted features and a timeline to present to the Commission.

He said he supported the idea and wasn't concerned with liability because people who went to a park accepted *inherent risk*; a certain amount of risk.

Ms. Hansen said she considered Larragoite or Ashbaugh the center of town and wanted something there. She said there were more kids there without transportation.

Chair Booth suggested that Mr. Lenman widen the construction to a wider group to have a wider constituency. She thanked Mr. Lenman for his presentation and said the Commission supported him.

REPORTS:

- Anna Hansen: Art in the Parks

Ms. Hansen said she invited Sabrina Pratt to give a presentation of Arts in the Parks for the February meeting and she would also invite the man who built the BMX track at Ragle to thank him for building the track as a community service.

- Bette Booth: Youth Involvement

Chair Booth passed out a picture of a skater dropping into a bowl at DeVargas Skate Park. She said the Parks Commission was mentioned in the collaboration of the project.

She said she and Ms. Hansen attended a meeting of the Northwest Quadrant. She said it was proposed that motocross be given 30 acres in the bottom corner and motorized would not be allowed in the top section. Motocross riders were upset that out of 1700 acres they were given only 30 acres when they were the first users.

Chair Booth said she wanted to write a letter to support expansion in an area where the noise wouldn't affect anyone. The letter would make three points: motocross was a small user group, the group had historical roots in the area and the group wasn't as empowered in the public process as the others (BMX, dirt bikes, horse riders, etc.)

A map of the area was passed around and the Commission discussed the proposals. The consensus of the Commission was support for Chair Booth to write the letter.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mike Lebbon, a Friend of Candelero Park, said they appreciated their concerns about maintenance and the refurbishing of the basketball courts and re-seeding being addressed.

He said he was there to mention the big arroyo and that it was very dangerous. He said they asked that a bridge be built. He said one woman had slipped and was hurt badly.

Mr. Lebbon said he would like to see the tennis courts turned into a small off leash Dog Park. He thought it could be done with minor modifications.

He said lastly a picnic table had been unbolted and moved by kids to the top of the hill and he asked that a new table be put on the cement pad or the table to be welded; possibly another table placed on a pad at the top of the hill.

Chair Booth said the idea was to have multiple tennis courts in one spot but was stuck in archaeological review. She said she would discuss money for those items with Mr. Chavez.

Ryan Lawless and Pete Gardini said they wanted to leave a drawing for Mr. Chavez on items for obstacles from the bone yard. Mr. Lawless and Mr. Gardini discussed what they would like to have done.

Chair Booth suggested the two meet set up a meeting with Mr. Chavez. She thanked them for their ideas and said some things wouldn't take money and should be done to give them a successful experience of working with Parks Staff to create something together.

Mr. Lehm said he was encouraged by the meeting; it had been very productive and he thought something could come from it.

Chair Booth said she would meet with Councilors Bushee, Romero and Wurzbarger and send a formal email to them. She said Mr. Agard would set up a meeting with Councilor Ortiz and District four.

DATE AND TIME FOR NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting was decided as February 15, 2011 at GCC if possible.

ADJOURN:

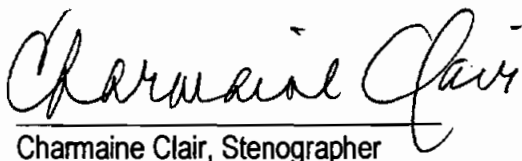
Ms. Hansen moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Torres seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

Having no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Approved by:

Bette Booth, Chair

Submitted by:



Charmaine Clair, Stenographer