



Agenda

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Parks and Open Space Advisory Commission

The Barn at Frenchy's Field

Agua Fria & Osage

Tuesday, July 19, 2011

3:00 -5:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Review and Approval of Minutes: June 2011
4. Approval of the Agenda
5. Old Business
 - Priority Recommendations for Parks, Open Space, Trails and Recreational Facilities Planning Process – Action Item
6. New Business
 - Parks Bond Update and Request of Reallocation of Parks Bond Funds — Action Item
7. Possible Reports:
 - Tom Agard: Organized Youth Sports and Survey / Workforce Development / Trails to Schools
 - Jessie Esparza: Community Gardens
 - Martin Ortega:
 - Anna Hansen: Art in Parks / MPO Meetings and 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
8. Public Comments
9. Confirm date and time for the next meeting

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CITY OF SANTA FE
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION

JULY 19, 2011

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

TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2011**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the City of Santa Fe Parks and Open Space Advisory Commission was called to order by Bette Booth, Chair on this date at approximately 3:00 pm at Frenchy's Field, Osage and Agua Fria, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

ROLL CALL

Roll call indicated a quorum as follows:

Members Present

Bette Booth, Chair
Oralynn Guerrerortiz
Anna Hansen
Martin Ortega
Daniel Coriz
Tom Agard
Sandra Taylor

Members Absent

Patrick Torres (excused)
Joe Lehm (excused)

Staff Present

Fabian Chavez, Parks Director
Ben Gurule, Parks Division
Jesse Esparza, Parks Division

Others Present

See attached sign in sheet (Exhibit 1)
Charmaine Clair, Stenographer

Chair Booth welcomed the Parks and city staff members and said they appreciated it. She called the meeting to order and read the mandate that created POSAC (Parks and Open Spaces Advisory Commission.) She said that was the reason the Commission existed. The Commission was created to provide ongoing advice for all parks and open space related commissions including the acquisition of planning, development and operation and maintenance.

Chair Booth said Joe Lehm indicated that he didn't have the time to serve on the Commission and suggested Carlos Caldwell as a replacement. Chair Booth said she contacted Mr. Caldwell about the position and he would let them know by early August if his schedule would accommodate that.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES-June 19, 2011

Ms. Hansen moved to approve the Minutes of June, 2011 as presented. Ms. Taylor seconded the motion and the minutes were passed by majority voice vote. Ms. Guerrerortiz abstained because she was not in attendance.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

OLD BUSINESS

- Priority Recommendations for Parks, Open Space, Trails and Recreational Facilities Planning Process/ Support for the Southwest Activity Node/Regional Park- Action Item

Chair Booth said a new draft was included in the participant packet. She asked that the background be read into the minutes as a matter of public record of what the Commission was asked to do. Ms. Guerrerortiz read the background information as follows:

In Resolution 2010 - ____, the city Governing Body directed the Parks and Open Space Advisory Commission (POSAC) to "make recommendations regarding priorities for parks, open space, trails, and recreational facilities that have not previously been funded or were under funded in the 2008 Bond:. POSAC responded to this request by committing to conducting a transparent, representative and participatory process to develop these priorities. Specifically POSAC:

- Conducted an inventory / personally visited and reviewed all existing and potential parks and open spaces on the various lists of parks used by the City.
- Interviewed Parks Division staff (all parks supervisors and project directors, several maintenance crew, etc.) for their opinions/recommendations about what was left undone from the 2008 Bond and what might need to be done in the next five-ten years.
- Interviewed the City Councilors and Mayor to identify their priorities and ideas upfront.
- As requested by the Parks Director, organized this information into a complete parks inventory — excel files on each park organized by District. Each park file includes: 1) location, 2) size, 3) description, 4) what was proposed in the 2008 Bond, 4) amount of Bond monies spent as of 12/10 and 6) Parks staff recommendations. This inventory also separates out, for the first time, city owned lots / potential parks (i.e. Santa Fe Estates, Maloof and Nava Ade South) from developed parks. It also makes recommendations about eliminating areas that were on previous parks lists that are not and will never be parks such as Espinacitas, Baca Street Railyard Development and Kiva.
- Actively sought the input from constituents that were not as involved in the development of the 2008 Bond, specifically

- ✓ Youth — interviews/meetings with the Warehouse 21 Youth Advisory Committee, the Mayors Youth Advisory Committee and other youth leaders.
 - ✓ The “wheeled community”: Constituencies who want to increase the use of skate, street bikes, mountain bikes, BMX, pump tracks and skate boards as both transportation and recreation.
 - ✓ Disc golf participants.
 - ✓ Prairie dog advocates.
 - ✓ Community gardens in parks parcientes.
- Conducted a Needs Assessment with 24 organized sports organizations to: 1) describe the current use of Santa Fe parks by organized sports, 2) identify current gaps and issues related to the use of SF parks by organized sports and 3) describe projected needs of organized sports in the next five – ten years.
 - Met with and initiated an on-going dialogue with other related institutions and groups including the County Parks and Open Spaces staff, the Metropolitan Planning Organization staff, the MPO Bicycle Committee and Art in Public Places and Zona.
 - Participated in public meetings for the proposed Southwest Regional Park, La Tierra Trails, the DeVargas Skate Park, Calle Lorca / Southside Park and Herb Martinez Park.

The Commission reviewed the draft: Ms. Hansen suggested Melendez Park should be added to the list of parks that would never be a park. Ms. Guerrerortiz said some parks were left out that had been added to the parks system in the Tierra Contenta area.

Chair Booth said another major change on the new draft was to establish a permanent source of funding for the maintenance of Santa Fe Parks and Open spaces and other priorities were divided into points: 1) bring the Southwest side of town to minimum standards for parks 2) co-manage parks with community users 3) complete the parks that were left out of the last bond 4) plan for obsolescence, i.e. playground equipment 5) make Santa Fe more “wheel” friendly to bring various constituencies together 6) listen to the organized sports organizations 7) resolve the prairie dog issue and create a prairie dog park with space for habitat and 8) plan for the future; in the next year and demographics for Santa Fe in 10 or 20 years and how to plan for climate change.

Ms. Guerrerortiz said park access safety should be added.

The Commission discussed the format of the draft and annex A and B; appendices were suggested after the first three pages.

- Mr. Agard said Herb Martinez, Monica Lucero and Candelero Park in District 4, had a lot of public input and needed more work. He suggested Candelero be added to the list of parks that were incomplete. He noted that Herb Martinez was expanded to include La Resolana and funds in the bond were spread thinner.
- Ms. Taylor suggested that *listen to organized sports* be Appendix C, etc.
- Ben Gurule said Ft. Marcy wasn't included and needs new irrigation, fence repairs etc. as well as Patrick Smith Park that needs irrigation.

Chair Booth said the Excel files contained all of the supervisors' suggestions. Ms. Hansen suggested the Excel files be attached electronically to the draft when sent to the city staff and City Councilors.

Ms. Hansen moved that the list be sent to the Parks staff. Ms. Guerrerortiz seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

- Parks Bond Update and Request of Reallocation of Parks Bond Funds- Action Item

Chair Booth provided background on the request. She said on June 27 City Manager, Robert Romero presented the bond update and the Commission was not informed or given an opportunity to advise or comment. She said she received a lot of questions and had asked the Finance Committee to postpone their review. They agreed and gave the Commission until August 22 to report back.

Chair Booth said the mandate to Parks was to get the projects built and they had worked hard to do that. She said she would first give her personal position so she could adequately facilitate the discussion.

She said during the (bond) campaign people were told money could not be used for maintenance and salaries. She said she gave people her word if anything looked funny it would be brought to their attention. She said the situation was difficult for everyone because everyone worked as a team and as family. She said Parks staff did an amazing job to implement 26 projects in one summer, while maintaining parks and medians, setting up events, helping firefighters and finding time for kids like Henry Lenman.

Chair Booth read a letter from Rici Peterson, a member of the Parks Bond Campaign Committee: Ms. Peterson said it was brought to her attention that parks monies were being used for parks salaries, and maintenance and it was her understanding that the money couldn't be used for anything other than capital outlay. She said also there were questions regarding the proposed new allocations of the parks bond money. She asked that POSAC look into the questions and if necessary that an audit of the money be done for clarification.

Chair Booth asked Mr. Chavez to summarize his answers to the questions posed. The first question was if bond money could be used to pay salaries.

Mr. Chavez introduced Mr. Pino, the Parks Division Director and Eric Martinez in engineering and Jackie Martinez, contract analyst. He said it was proper to pay salaries from bond money but the Finance Department would have a city attorney look at the issue. Mr. Pino added that a call was expected by the end of the week.

Ms. Guerrerortiz said she understood bond funds have more flexibility. She asked when the city made the crossover or if money was used for maintenance from the first.

Mr. Chavez said it was from the first. He said Robert Romero's direction was for implementation and Parks was asked at that time to pull 10% from each park project to pay salaries for in-house construction and maintenance.

Mr. Chavez explained the formula for assigning labor costs. He said the first \$4 million was for parks construction workers and maintenance workers and Parks salaries. He said the Payroll Monitor was allowed to move a big block of money from all of the parks into a separate account and pull the maintenance and contract workers, construction crew etc. from that.

Mr. Chávez said expenses for each individual park were tracked and Ms. Martinez kept a spreadsheet on each park. He said payroll sent a report to her and she added the payroll in to the expenses.

Ms. Guerrerortiz said she was concerned long term. She said if Parks staff was paid by shifting people from the general bond to the Parks bond it would run out in a year. She asked how Parks staff would be supported; another bond wasn't in place. She asked if that set them up for a serious issue.

Mr. Chavez said that question has been asked and a solution would have to be found. He said the Parks in-house construction crew realized they are temporary and maintenance is classified as such.

Mr. Pino added that Mayor Coss made attempts to come up with revenue sources and his proposal for a property tax increase wasn't adopted by City Council. He said City Council would have to deal with the issue at some point because people expect the parks and trails and facilities to be maintained.

Ms. Guerrerortiz said people were sold a bond with certain capital improvements and it was very specific about what would be paid. She asked if the people got what they paid for or was the money used from the bond to cover daily maintenance on parks that they would have regardless. She said if the city went for another bond that question would have to be answered.

Mr. Gurule said everything in each park was done exactly to the Master Plan and all improvements to be done were complete and within budget. He said parks that were planned in the future would get everything the Master Plan stated and in fact be over and above that. He said the Master Plan had not taken into consideration that accessibility and cultural resources were extremely expensive. He said consumer safety required an audit and vendors for furniture in existing parks wasn't free. He said reports were done and all of the parks were brought into standard.

He added the prairie dogs were extremely expensive to capture and relocate and when relocated most of the neighbors wouldn't cooperate and their prairie dogs would move into the parks. He said all of that has impacted the bond and Parks still did what they said they would under or at budget.

Mr. Gurule said the question on why a park could go from \$20,000 to \$40,000 was that the money took them through payroll to the end of the bond in December 2012. Mr. Chavez added that the salaries were not just for parks but also facilities and trails and designers etc.

Chair Booth asked how parks could be charged that were already completed and that don't exist. She noted two parks where one was an empty lot and the other had been a playground and was now a building.

Ms. Jackie Martinez explained she was trying to determine labor and unfortunately several parks that she was unaware that didn't exist were in the mix. She said the maintenance for projects completed

was still maintenance that had to be done to fix the irrigation systems and plant trees, etc. even in a completed project.

Mr. Ortega said he continues to get e-mails about the 10% used for Parks staff, salaries, maintenance etc. He asked where that percentage came from and how it was generated and how salary was allocated for staff. He asked how they could be assured it wouldn't turn into 15 or 20%.

Mr. Chavez said the 10% pulled out the first year was a guess and salaries and benefits were based on a specific formula. He said the idea was that the 25% set as a contingency the first go would carry the salaries with inflation etc.

Mr. Chavez said after the first year they were aware 10% wouldn't be enough. He said Councilor Ortiz asked that more projects be done and faster and to do that, more staff was hired and that tapped into the contingency money more deeply.

Mr. Chavez said each project has a sub account and when there wasn't enough money Ms. Martinez could transfer from one account to another area of the budget.

Chair Booth asked Mr. Chavez about his reference to a *resolution* by City Council regarding the salaries being charged to the bond money.

Mr. Chavez said it was not a resolution but a decision made by the Governing Body. He said the direction was implicit in the implementation plan and was not as a separate motion. He said the direction was to build parks and hire as many people and local contractors as possible by utilizing the parks bond allocation. He said implicit was that if you are designing, building and constructing or maintaining a project, salaries have to be paid.

Ms. Guerrerortiz said she was bothered by the mixed reports and had heard that some parks that were said to be complete had a question if they were. She asked how they could have a clean report of what was completed.

Chair Booth said she went on the tour and the situation was awkward and difficult. She said the Commission should not be the judge. She said her personal opinion was that some parks were 75% complete and in other parks other decisions were made. She said the Excel files showed money left and things were not completed and it appeared the money would go to salaries and not for things in the parks.

Ms. Hansen said she went on that tour and thought that many of the parks were improved. She said she agreed with Mr. Gurule that the public got their money's worth. She said ADA took so much more money than was actually seen.

Ms. Guerrerortiz said she would like to have seen that- 4 benches crossed out and that ADA was done instead.

Mr. Chávez said he reminded the Governing Body and the Parks Commission at the start of the process that recommendations were just that and priorities would be the detailed survey of what was needed. He gave an example where the plan stated ten benches and five were replaced. He said all were required to be ADA and the cost to install was three times the cost of a regular bench. He said he made it clear that ADA or cultural report requirements could not be ignored and watering had to be efficient. He said in some cases some improvements in the park didn't happen because of the cost of what was required.

Chair Booth said she talked with Judith Amir (?) who said the bond money could be used for improving acquired land and improving parks and she said that bond money could not be used for maintenance. Ms. Amir suggested the Commission could talk with the Auditing Committee.

Chair Booth asked the Commissioners what the next step should be.

Mr. Ortega suggested the Commission take a step back and look at the budget and the variances and what was ADA. He thought an audit was more financial.

Ms. Guerrerortiz said the Commission had a responsibility to advise City Council they were made aware that Park bond monies were used for maintenance and had a question about appropriateness. She said it should be left to City Council as to how to go forward. She said she was happy with what had occurred and understood the movement of money but mowing the lawn and pulling weeds wasn't capital improvement.

Mr. Agard agreed with Ms. Guerrerortiz and Mr. Ortega and said there was a gray area. He thought the public had received their money's worth. He said the Commission's job wasn't to oversee but to recommend and the Governing Body should resolve the issue. He said it should be clear in the future that maintenance and salaries could come from the bond. He said it was imperative the Commission stand behind the work done and focus on renewing a bond.

Ms. Hansen agreed the public got their money's worth. She said an audit was not her responsibility but it was to make sure the public gets good parks. She said the parks are in much better shape than in 2008 and the trails were great and now there was a bicycle trail system.

Mr. Coriz said the bottom line was that the parks did get done. He said the skate parks had some help and Parks and Recreation helped more than he had ever seen. He said he was happy with everything done and thought most people were and to move forward the issues and questions need to be addressed for the next bond.

Ms. Taylor agreed with everyone's points but said she feared 2013. She said if there is no bond money, dedicated park employees might not get paid.

Chair Booth opened the discussion to the public.

Charlie O'Leary, Executive Director for the Santa Fe Trust said he knew there had been clarification that funds would only be used for certain purposes. He said to move forward with another bond would be extremely difficult without the trust of the public.

Rici Peterson, former Director of the Santa Fe Trust, said she was proud of what has been accomplished and of the improvements. She commended Mr. Chavez and his staff in what they were able to do and said she saw improvements everywhere.

Ms. Peterson said it was extremely important to market to the citizens that this tree, this bench, etc. was part of the 2008 bond money. She said people don't know that and it should be clear before 2013. She said it takes a long time to build trust and a short time to destroy it.

Mr. Agard said he liked Mr. Ortega's idea of a report to show how the money was spent.

Chair Booth asked Mr. Ortega to work with the Parks staff on a public document.

The Commission and Parks staff discussed what the report should include and how it could be done.

Chair Booth said the Commission could decide at the next meeting what to report to the Finance Committee. She noted that the Master Plan for the Northwest Quadrant would be presented to City Council on July 27 and on the August agenda for approval by the Commission. She also noted that the second De Vargas Skate Park meeting held was well attended.

Ms. Guerrerortiz said Tierra Contenta planned a meeting the last Wednesday in July at the Southside Library at six o'clock.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Wren Propp said she lived 30 yards from the Las Acequias Park. She invited the Commissioners to the park between 7:30 and 9 PM Sunday through Thursday evenings. She said the noise from the car stereos was incredible. She said the gates weren't locked and that was a huge problem and another problem was the signs were all in English. She said it was hard to enjoy the park because of the loud car stereos.

Justine Witlox-Becker asked for clarification on an equipment operator at Frenchy's Field on June 23 who moved back and forth over the prairie dog burrows. The operator told a neighbor he was seeding the field with rye seed. She said she submitted a list of plant species and looking at the soil the next day, it wasn't watered and there were no seeds. She said 25 burrows had collapsed from the equipment weight and something should be done.

Ms. Ruth Ortiz said she grew up across from Frenchy's Field and there had always been prairie dogs. She said the park was owned by her father (Tony Sandoval) who intended that the land be natural and sustainable. Her hope was that the prairie dogs would remain and the land would be kept natural. She thought it sad to see the state the park was in. She said her father had worked with City Council to keep the land a park and as natural habitat.

Israel Cruz said his friends visit from out of town and walked through the park and e-mailed pictures of the prairie dogs back home. He said he has seen bull dozers, etc. at work and thought it disruptive.

Victor Tory said he saw some improvement with the solar lighting and beautification of the children's section but the prairie dogs were a part of the park. He said it was sad to see such a drastic change of the park.

Chair Booth told about the Friends of Frenchy's Field with about 600 members. She gave her e-mail address and said she would send the website link to Mr. Tory.

Mr. Chavez said he has received calls about rumors of the removal of the prairie dogs. He said there was no intent to do that. He said on the issue with the plants; three years ago the vegetation wasn't prairie dog food and a reseed effort to replenish things the prairie dogs could eat was done. He said the water conditions were not seen before and he had a quantified amount of money and water he could use.

Mr. Chavez said he talked to Paula Martin about the drill seeders being run over the field and was told many times that wouldn't disturb the prairie dogs if the equipment was run slowly. Ms. Martin said not to worry about the burrows that closed because they could be opened back up. He said he does have the list of seed supplied by Ms. Witlox-Becker and Plants of the Southwest and would check to see what was being seeded.

DATE AND TIME FOR NEXT MEETING: August 16, 2011

ADJOURN:

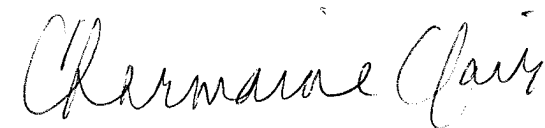
Ms. Hansen moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Guerrerortiz seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

Having no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Approved by:

Bette Booth, Chair

Submitted by:



Charmaine Clair, Stenographer