



Agenda

DATE 8/14/13 TIME 8:44a
 SERVED BY Jessie Esparza
 RECEIVED BY [Signature]

Parks and Open Space Advisory Commission
The Barn at Frenchy's Field • Osage and Agua Fria Streets
Tuesday August 20, 2013
3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Review and Approval of Minutes: July 16, 2013
4. Approval of the Agenda
5. Old Business:
 - a. Parks Department Update Ben Gurule

New Business

 - a. Geno Zamora, City Attorney, Open Meeting Act, Legal issue with Boards and Commissions (20 minutes)
 - b. Beer Garden at Ft Marcy Park (Discussion item) (5 minutes)
 - c. Permanent funding for Temporary park workers (2014-2015) (Discussion item) (5 minutes)
 - e. PROPOSED RESOLUTION DIRECTING STAFF TO DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY CODE AND THE ESTABLISHED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES RELATED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMITTED USE IN CERTAIN ZONING DISTRICTS FOR FARM STANDS AND URBAN AGRICULTURE INCLUDING THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH SUCH USES WOULD BE PERMITTED; AND DIRECTING STAFF TO COLLABORATE WITH LOCAL NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS TO DEVELOP A LOCAL FARM STAND PLAN SO THE RESIDENTS OF SANTA FE WILL HAVE THE ABILITY TO PURCHASE FRESH PRODUCE FROM COMMUNITY GARDENS AND ORCHARDS (COUNCILOR BUSHEE) (KATHERINE MORTIMER)
 Resolution will be sent out to all POSAC members (Discussion and Action item) (10 minutes)
 Committee Review:
 Sustainable Santa Fe Commission (Approved) 07/16/13 Food Policy Council (Approved) 07/25/13
 Finance Committee (Scheduled) 08/19/13 POSAC (8/20/13)
 City Council (Scheduled) 08/27/13
6. Possible Reports from POSAC Commissioners — Please let the Chair know what other topics to add to your reports
 - Bette Booth: District 3, Youth involvement, Prairie dogs, BMX motocross, BTAC/POSAC/COLPAC member
 - Daniel Coriz: Youth, BMX, motocross & pump track building and maintenance
 - Orallynn Guerreortiz: District 1, Tierra Contenta parks and trails connections.
 - Joe Lehm: District 1, Skate Parks, Wheel-friendly Trail connections
 - Melissa McDonald: Water conservation, young families.
 - Nic Smith: Youth sports in parks
 - Sandie Taylor: District 2 / Parks History/ Tree City
 - Pat Torres – Extension, Tree City, Community Gardens
 - Anna Hansen, Chair - BTAC/POSAC/COLPAC Coordination, Bicycle MPO Implementation, Art in the Parks, Acequia trail connections to parks, Parks on the City Website, Parks and Trails Co-management.
8. Public Comments
9. Confirm date and time for the next meeting – Sept 17, 2013, 3-5 PM Water History Park and Museum at the bottom of Upper Canyon Road. There will be a presentation about the plans for the Museum-the old power plant building.

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

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CITY OF SANTA FE
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION**

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

TUESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2013

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Roll call indicated a quorum as follows:

Members Present

Anna Hansen, Chair
Daniel Coriz
Oralynn Guerrerortiz
Joe Lehm
Melissa McDonald
Nic Smith
Sandra Taylor
Patrick Torres (arrived later)

Members Absent

Bette Booth (excused)

Staff Present

Ben Gurule, Parks Director
Geno Zamora

Others Present

Charmaine Clair, Stenographer
A sign in sheet is herewith incorporated (Exhibit 1)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- July 16, 2013

An amendment to the minutes reflecting Chair Hansen excused from the last meeting was made previously.

Ms. Taylor moved to approve the minutes of July 18, 2013 as amended. Mr. Smith seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Ms. McDonald moved to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Taylor seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Parks Department Update: Ben Gurule

Mr. Gurule said a draft safety assessment has been received for the MX track from Great Outdoors. A funding source needs to be identified to amend the contract for a design/build and Travelers Insurance will oversee the contract to make sure the track can be insured. The proposal should be done by the end of the week. Funding would come out of the Northwest Quadrant balance.

Ft. Marcy/ Majer's Field and the Cross of the Martyrs- Parks is preparing for the Fiesta events and special projects are being done along the parade route at these parks.

The Plaza- has bandstands this week. In the past the turf was roped off, but not this year and the turf has taken a beating. Cost estimates are sought to sod one triangle and possibly others.

DeVargas Middle School has a new football league called the Santa Fe Sting and Parks will provide port-a-potties and special maintenance, such as cleanup etc. YAFL (Young Adult Football League) will use Salvador Perez.

Parque del Rio- still has a lot of work the deadline for tomorrow might not be made.

Tierra Contenta Pilot Project- the City is coordinating with the Tierra Contenta neighborhood volunteers headed by Brigitte Wolfe. Purple Sage Road was selected to be done on 22 September and the volunteers will mow and trim arterial right of ways that have visibility issues. Parks will provide traffic control and personal safety protective equipment and haul refuse.

Ortiz Dog Park- complaints have been received about dogs off leash and dog bites and more signage would be put up. A private property owner has asked the boundary be secured because people let their dogs go onto the private property.

Chair Hansen said she met with Councilor Calvert, Chris Ortiz and a number of neighbors at the Ortiz Dog Park. She said Mr. Gurule is referring to a private road used to cross into the dog park. Additional signs will be placed along that road so people know the road is private. She said residents were happy with that.

Mr. Torres entered the meeting at this time.

Alto Park- the maintenance request to the pump track was done.

Las Acequias- cameras were installed and no vandalism has occurred since; the same is true at the Litch (?) Conservancy, a Dale Ball Trail head.

2008 Bond - small projects of paving and a concession stand would be done and the Parks Department portion of the bond will be complete. Trails should be finished by the end of October.

The 2008 Audit- Mr. Pino and Councilor Wurzbarger are working on a resolution to present to the Governing Body. Chair Hansen added there would be a meeting after the resolution goes to Public Works and it would be on the agenda for City Council in two weeks (September 11.) She and Ms. Booth, Mr. Pino and Councilor Wurzbarger would meet after the resolution goes to Public Works.

Mr. Gurule said a request was made for variants for herbicide application at Fort Marcy, Franklin Miles Park and City Hall. A group of chemically sensitive people have asked to have a meeting and hold off the application until everything is vetted.

Chair Hansen said she wanted to discuss the issue now, but would put the item on the agenda for possibly September or October.

Ms. Guerrerortiz said City Council passed a resolution. She asked if the resolution had flexibility.

Mr. Gurule said there is an ordinance in place that allows the IPM (Integrated Pest Management) Program to use herbicides through a variance, if approved by the Division Director or Department Director of Public Works and Parks. The ordinance contains language about posting and the types of herbicides that could be used. He said as part of the IPM Program, Parks has used all of the cultural and mechanical practices possible and is now down to the need for additional staff. The district has 16 to 17 parks, but only five workers and to maintain the area Parks wants to incorporate the use of herbicides.

Chair Hansen said Councilor Bushee directed the issue come to Parks so it would be on the September agenda. She said this is a time when Parks is looking for "Friends of the Parks" and volunteers. She said the volunteers and the community would need to help because Parks is understaffed.

Mr. Gurule said there was a request in June for a disc golf course at MRC and to find a funding source. The City and Parks does not have funding, but would approve the course be laid out and installed according to the schematics.

Chair Hansen asked if this should be an action item on the September agenda or if Commissioners would approve of Mr. Gurule working with Mr. Flahive without a vote.

Ms. Guerrerortiz asked if there was money for that in the 2008 bond. She was told there was none.

Chair Hansen said in September the members could have a full discussion. She said possibility after the audit there would be money that could be allocated.

Ms. Guerrerortiz said Romero Park would have a meeting that night at 5:30 and they have schematics with a disc golf course. She suggested Mr. Flahive attend.

Mr. Gurule added that Romero Park would not be part of the annexation and remains part of the Village of Agua Fria; but the trail would be City owned and maintained. Ms. Guerrerortiz said she understood the County had agreed to build a trail from Frenchy's to Siler Road and the plans are ready for construction and the funds are available.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Geno Zamora, City Attorney, Open Meeting Act, Legal issue with Boards and Commissions

Mr. Zamora passed out information and said he would address ethics and what is called "the Sunshine Laws," of which the Open Meetings Act is a component.

Mr. Zamora reviewed the ethics laws from the Santa Fe Ethics Ordinance and the New Mexico Governmental Conduct Act that apply to the Commissioner's service as a governmental body.

A summary of Mr. Zamora's presentation follows:

Santa Fe Code of Ethics (page 3) - general rules state public officials/employees should be independent, impartial and responsible to the people to ensure decisions and policies are made without conflicts of interest and the public position is not used for personal gain. Standards of behavior are laid out.

Conflicts of Interest (page 4) –Commissioners should understand what a conflict of interest is and what to do if they feel they have one. A conflict of interest is defined under the code as a "specific and identifiable prospect of pecuniary gain or loss (not shared with the public) from an official act of any public official or employee that relates to self, family members, businesses owned by self or family member, an employer/customer or a nonprofit where the public official/employee/household member is an officer or director and contributors to political campaigns."

Mr. Zamora said an example is he is a nonprofit board member for Big Brothers Big Sisters that interacts with the City and in some cases has City contracts. He said in his official capacity as the City attorney, he cannot engage in acts involving the nonprofit. He should declare a conflict, not participate in an activity or use his position for influence, on a decision toward that activity.

Mr. Zamora said his rule of thumb is to err on the side of caution and disclose if a possibility of conflict.

Chair Hansen asked about a loss of quorum due to a person leaving the room because of a conflict.

Mr. Zamora said there is still quorum; the individual with a conflict is *abstaining* from an item, not removing the quorum. He stressed that a majority of quorum is needed for action.

Members discussed personal situations in their official capacities that potentially could be a conflict.

Mr. Zamora said the Commissioners should not impose their will on another. He said board members are usually on the board because of their special knowledge or expertise and to provide input on a broad and general basis that benefits the City. The board members need to balance the conflict issues where they directly vote on their interest.

Mr. Zamora said there are shades of gray and the Ethics Code should be viewed from how the public would perceive the action.

Political Campaigns (page 6): "a public official or employee shall not knowingly request or authorize another subordinate to make a campaign contribution or provide service to a campaign." City resources

cannot be used for campaigning; POSAC or POSAC staff cannot be used for political purposes and no City e-mail can be used for campaign purposes, such as sending political materials through City e-mails. Mr. Zamora pointed out that documents with City business are a matter of public record and Commissioners should use great discretion and diplomacy with those.

Honoraria/Gifts (page 5): Mr. Zamora advised governmental body members to use the general rule on gifts: the public official should not accept non pecuniary gifts from people that do business with them. Exceptions were noted such as an occasional meal under 50 dollars.

The members discussed various situations and their questions about conflicts of interest.

Representation of Private Interests (page 8): presentations should not be made to the board for approval as a representative of private interests; campaign buttons should not be worn at meetings or ribbon cuttings etc. Mr. Zamora addressed enforcement and penalties, which include monetary and reprimand and removal or suspension.

New Mexico Governmental Conduct Act (the State Statue-page 9): is enforced by the District Attorney and the Attorney General (AG). Mr. Zamora said he included the Act to let members know there is a state statute and it includes criminal penalties.

Mr. Zamora said if a member is invited to speak at a conference about the parks initiative and what POSAC has accomplished etc. and travel and food would be paid; that is permissible, however must be disclosed.

The Open Meetings Act (page 12): a change in the law now requires meeting notices to be posted 72 hours in advance and cannot be amended except in extreme emergencies. Mr. Zamora gave the purpose behind the Open meetings Act: a representative government is dependent on an informed electorate and therefore all persons are entitled to the greatest possible information; and the government should be conducted in an open manner and the public shall be able to know, hear and understand the official acts of the officials/employees that represent them.

Mr. Zamora said the third rule under the Act is the most important: that the public should be advised of all meetings of any public bodies and the business that would be discussed and all meetings of any public bodies shall permit persons from the public to attend.

Ms. McDonald asked about meetings held prior to the official public meeting in which there may or may not be a quorum present.

Applicability of the Act (page 13) is "All meetings by a quorum of members of any board, commission, administrative adjudicatory body or policymaking body of the municipality or political subdivision held for the purpose of formulating public policy."

Mr. Zamora said the meeting held before the official meeting would be in violation of the Act if a quorum is present. A gathering of quorum for public policy invokes the Act and the meeting has to be noticed. He said there are exceptions for social events such as a ribbon cutting.

Mr. Zamora explained that a subcommittee could meet with less than quorum for discussion, but to take action would have to present their findings before a quorum. A meeting of a quorum for the discussion of public business could occur in a restaurant, park, by phone or e-mail, etc. and could be problematic and susceptible to a complaint of a violation of the Act. He cautioned members to avoid replying to an e-mail "reply to all," which could be perceived as a violation.

Closed Meetings: there are exceptions; however none apply to POSAC.

Mr. Zamora discussed a "rolling quorum" where a meeting has one less member than quorum and has a discussion with a member who then leaves and another member enters the discussion and leaves, etc. He advised members to have an open discussion and raise issues in a quorum, so the public is aware.

Requirements for Meeting Notices (page 14) and the specifics for agenda items were noted and that the statute requires minutes to be kept.

Inspection of Public Records Act: public documents are public records; any documents that discuss city business in the role as a public official are public documents and draft documents are now public record. Every person has a right to inspect public records. Public documents could include personal e-mails in the conducting of business and would be required to be turned over, if asked in a Public Records Request.

Chair Hansen said Ms. Booth sent a question about whether the Act requires the minutes be published within 10 days of the meeting.

Mr. Zamora replied the 10 day requirement is more for the City Clerk and stenographer and the requirement is for the minutes to be *available for review*. He said that could be a *draft* of the minutes; the minutes do not have to be sent to the Committees within 10 days. The minutes are made available for review by the public and approved at the next meeting. Mr. Zamora noted that the City Clerk would do their best to turn the minutes over, but probably would not be subject to fines and fees.

Mr. Wood asked about record retention for e-mails.

Mr. Zamora said there are two laws; one the record retention laws and the other is public records. He said if a person is asked in a Public Records Request they should provide an e-mail. To delete an e-mail because there was a request for public records is a criminal act. He advised members to keep e-mails related to the business of the committee.

Mr. Zamora said members could call the City Attorney's office at any time with questions.

Chair Hansen thanked Mr. Zamora for taking the time to speak with POSAC about the Open Meetings Act.

b. Beer Garden – Ft. Marcy Park

Chair Hansen said she asked where beer would be served at the games. Ms. Esparza replied that she thought Councilor Trujillo wants to have beer served in the concession *building* instead of the beer cart, but he has not replied back to her yet.

c. Permanent Funding for Temporary Park Workers for 2014/2015

Chair Hansen said Mr. Gurule asked for this to be on the agenda so members would start thinking about a solution for permanent funding for the 2014/2015 temporary Park workers. She said a funding source is needed and members should let her know if they have ideas.

Ms. Guerrerortiz said she and Ms. Booth met with the previous Finance Director about ongoing maintenance and bond opportunities. The options they were given are controlled by the Governing Body, who would have to raise the GRT. She said political support is needed to make that happen.

She suggested that members meet with the current Finance Director to discuss options for permanent funding for Parks maintenance.

Ms. McDonald said Parks has an opportunity to get grants, but she doesn't know what the best process is to match grants. She suggested some of the Commissioners visit the Finance Director with questions and then invite him to a POSAC meeting to address the questions in a public forum.

Ms. Taylor agreed and said that would be more efficient and productive and if the Director knows the questions in advance, would have time to research, if necessary.

Chair Hansen said that would be put on the agenda. A subcommittee was created for permanent funding that includes Chair Hansen, Ms. McDonald, Ms. Booth and Ms. Guerrerortiz.

d. Proposed Resolution directing Staff to Draft Amendments to the City Code re Permitted Use in Certain Zoning Districts for Certain Farm Stands/Urban Agriculture, Including Conditions of Use Permitted; and Directing Staff to Collaborate With Local Non-Profit Organizations on a Local Farm Stand Plan ((Councilor Bushee) (Katherine Mortimer)

Cindy Padilla, the Division Director for Environmental Services said she represented Katherine Mortimer, the coordinator for the Sustainable Santa Fe Commission and staff for the resolution.

Ms. Padilla said the resolution was pulled indefinitely from the Finance Committee by Councilor Bushee and would not proceed to City Council as originally proposed. She explained that the Santa Fe Food Policy Council (SFFPC) is creating a Food Plan which would look at how to address food issues and food insecurity within Santa Fe City and County.

Ms. Padilla said Councilor Bushee thought it best to address the resolution in that arena and possibly be part of the Food Plan. The item would be discussed Thursday at the SFFPC meeting. She noted that a subcommittee of the SFFPC meets and anyone interested could contact the Food Council.

Ms. Padilla said the item would come back to POSAC if it affected community gardens/orchards. She

thought a vote on the resolution would be premature because the resolution might not resemble the current resolution.

Ms. McDonald said the issue should be a high level of importance, because growing food and food security is very important and overlaps a number of committees.

Ms. Padilla said the SFFPC did a presentation to City Council at their last meeting. She said the Councilors are very interested in the work.

Ms. Padilla said she is very excited to publicly announce that she just received approval from the State Historic Preservation Office for the trash and recycling containers for the Plaza.

REPORTS

- Daniel Coriz: District 1-Youth, BMX, Motocross/Pump Track Building & Maintenance

Mr. Coriz said he is interested in Franklin Miles Park, DeVargas bike track and MRC; the technical areas at Northwest Quadrant and pump track at Alto. He said there is nothing new to report since the Santa Fe Trail Jam and as mentioned, the improvements were made to the motocross.

Chair Hansen asked Mr. Coriz to go with her to the BTAC meeting the following night. She said Leroy Pacheco is organizing an event on the La Tierra Trails on September 26 and did not include POSAC or Mr. Coriz. Mr. Coriz agreed to contact Chair Hansen by e-mail regarding his schedule.

- Oralynn Guerrerortiz: District 1, Tierra Contenta Parks and Trails Connections

Ms. Guerrerortiz said she would again mention the meeting at Romero Park tonight at 5:30.

- Joe Lehm: District 1, Skate Parks, Wheel-Friendly Trail Connections

Mr. Lehm said he has been attending a lot of meetings about skate parks and has learned there is enough money left from the 2008 bond to build a skate park.

He said he met with Frank Archuleta and Jason Kluck and learned there is money to extend the apron at Miles and improvements could be done in-house. They would discuss the location of a skate park at Ragle and what that would include.

Mr. Gurule corrected Mr. Lehm that the money is from the 2012 bond not the 2008 bond and is in the Implementation Plan to enlarge the existing skate features at Miles and identify safety concerns and include a skate feature at Ragle.

His understanding was that the skate community preferred to do minor improvements to the existing features at Franklin Miles and to use the balance for a larger feature at Ragle.

Mr. Lehm said that was discussed. He said also he and a few of the skateboarders met with Councilor Dominguez over concerns with the relations between the Police Department and skateboarders. The

City ordinance states skateboarding is not allowed on Santa Fe public streets or sidewalks. Mr. Lehm said some of the police officers expressed they might enforce the law and/or confiscate skateboards. He said that would make it difficult for kids under 18 to get to the skate park.

Mr. Lehm said Councilor Dominguez would look at the verbiage of the ordinance and he sent the Councilor a link of resolutions around the country. He said POSAC could then invite a representative from the Police Department to a meeting for discussion.

Mr. Gurule said the issue is one of public safety; there was an accident downtown where a skateboarder ran into a patron coming out of a store.

- Melissa McDonald: District 2: Water Conservation, Young Families.

Ms. McDonald said she is working on interviews for the Water Conservation draft recommendations and they would be presented at the next meeting. She offered copies to anyone interested.

She said she is meeting with the Trust for Public Lands at their office on August 28 at 8:30 a.m. She wants to know about the scoring and the information they have about parks and how Santa Fe could fit. She plans to do a report on her findings. She said Councilor Ives has been invited and anyone interested is also invited.

- Nic Smith: District 4: Adult and Youth Organized Sports

Mr. Smith said his interest is in *Adult* and Youth Organized Sports and he plans to contact other organizations. He has talked with Councilor Dominguez a number of times about issues with the MRC and the availability of space. He said the availability of parks space is an issue for both organizations he represents and he is interested in that. He would report back.

Mr. Gurule noted that St. Mike's soccer, Waldorf soccer and rugby are played at MRC. He said the fields are heavily used. He noted that the new league Santa Fe Sting would play at DeVargas.

- Sandra Taylor: District 2: Tree City

Ms. Taylor asked that the Parks History be removed because it has run its course and research would now take more time. There are three parks on the City website and the website would be redesigned.

- Pat Torres – Extension, Tree City, Community Gardens

Mr. Torres said the MTB (Municipal Tree Board) is scheduled to meet after the POSAC meeting.

- Anna Hansen, Chair - BTAC/POSAC/COLPAC; Art in the Parks; Acequia Trail to Parks; Parks and Trails Co-management.

Chair Hansen said she tried to follow up on the BTAC/COLTPAC coordination and there would be a meeting soon. And she would like more art in the parks.

Chair Hansen said Cielo Vista is interested in a wall mural around the perimeter and would need permission. She asked Mr. Gurule who permission should come from.

Mr. Gurule suggested approval come from the private property owners. He referred chair Hansen to Ms. Booth. He said she knows who did the wall at Frenchy's and the group would probably have an avenue for permission.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Poki Piottin said he runs Gaia Garden Farms and is also a member of the Farmers Market and on the board of the Farmers Market Institute and they have concerns about the farm stands not being regulated. He said he was there on the same topic as Ms. Padilla, but the resolution has been postponed and he had been referred to the Food Policy Council (SFFPC.)

Mr. Piottin said the resolution addresses the farm stands being in the community gardens and parks. He wanted to make POSAC aware that he sent a letter to the City Council yesterday (Exhibit 2) and would e-mail a copy to Ms. Booth. Chair Hansen asked that a copy also be forwarded to Ms. Esparza.

DATE AND TIME FOR NEXT MEETING: Sept 17, 2013, Water History Park and Museum

Chair Hansen said people at the Water History Park have requested the Commission meet there to give a view of what is happening at the Museum. The Museum received money from the 2012 bond and would begin restoration of the old power plant. She said the meeting cannot be held inside the building, but a canopy could be put up outside. She asked for feedback from the Commission.

The Commission discussed the meeting and their concerns; power for the stenographer; the weather and possible cancellation with changes to the agenda, location, etc.

Chair Hansen explained there could be power with an extension cord. She suggested the meeting could be held at Frenchy's in case of inclement weather; or a field trip after the meeting at Frenchy's.

Ms. Esparza offered to contact the City Clerk about the concerns.

The Commission decided to postpone the next meeting location until Ms. Esparza checked with the City Clerk.

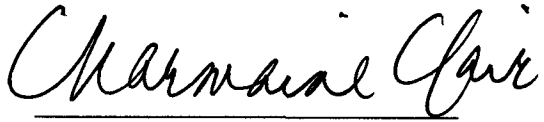
ADJOURN:

Having no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Approved by:


Anna Hansen, Chair

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Charmaine Clair". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Charmaine Clair, Stenographer

Parks and Open Spaces Advisory Commission Meeting Sign-in Sheet

August 20 ~~February 19, 2013~~
 Frenchy's Barn

Name	Address	Email	Phone	Topic of Interest /Reason for Attending
Ryan Flahive		rsflahive@gmail.com		Disc Golf
Poki Piotin		poki@NODILUS.ORG		URBAN FARMING Resolution
Sharon Wirtz		sforw@yahoo.com		# 2013 IPM, use of pesticides

EXHIBIT 1
 Parks and Open Spaces Commission
 August 20, 2013

SANTA FE FARMERS MARKET

8/14/13

Dear City Councilors,

The Santa Fe Farmers Market Board of Directors would like to express their concerns regarding the resolution put forward by Councilor Pattie Bushee which asks for amendments to the city code to allow for farm stands in Santa Fe.

The Santa Fe Farmers Market, hereafter known as SFFM, has a long history of preserving and protecting local agriculture. Through the concerted efforts of a large body of farmers and community members, rigorous rules and regulations, as well as inspection and oversight procedures have been developed to ensure that the Santa Fe community will receive only the best local produce that northern New Mexico has to offer.

Although having farm stands in Santa Fe which are placed directly on farms, community gardens or orchards whose produce they would represent is not an idea we are adverse to, the idea that farm stands *without regulation and oversight* would be allowed throughout the city is a direct danger to the SFFM and the quality and integrity we have long brought to this community. The allowance of farm stands without any body to oversee their quality or to ensure that their product is sourced locally would allow for vendors to set up and sell product without any accountability.

Although the organizations mentioned in Patti Bushee's resolution, such as Earth Care and Youth Works, are organizations that we would like to voice support for and to stand in solidarity with, they are not governing bodies who could legislate the standards and qualities of the products sold around the city. While the SFFM Board of Directors would like to see measures in place to support and protect local agriculture in the city of Santa Fe, we believe that this resolution is too broad and ungovernable to be passed.

We, the SFFM Board of Directors, would like to ask that this resolution be amended with more specific language indicating how the allowance of these farm stands would be governed and in what manner the city would have jurisdiction over them.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

The SFFM Board of Directors
Heather Harrell - Board Chair
Donna Lockridge - Vice President
Avrum Katz - Vice President

Nina Yozell-Epstein - Secretary
Serafina Lombardi - Treasurer

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