



Agenda

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Parks and Open Space Advisory Commission

The Barn at Frenchy's Field

Osage and Agua Fria Streets

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Review and Approval of Minutes: October 16, 2012 (Note: The November POSAC was cancelled due to lack of quorum.)
4. Approval of the Agenda
5. Old Business
 - Parks Department Update: General update
 - 2012 Bond Parks Implementation Plan – Action Item
 - 2012 Bond Trails Implementation Plan – Action Item
 - Water History Park 2012 Bond Implementation - Action Item
 - BTAC/COLTPAC/POSAC Collaborative Meeting
 - Candidates for POSAC – Action Item
6. New Business
 - Climate Change and the Santa Fe Watershed – Claudia Borchert, City Water Resources Coordinator
7. Possible Reports from POSAC Commissioners
 - Oralynn Guerreortiz: District 1, Tierra Contenta parks and trails connections.
 - Joe Lehm: District 1, Skate Parks, Wheel-friendly Trail connections
 - Daniel Coriz: Youth, BMX, motocross & pump track building and maintenance.
 - Tom Agard: District 4, Organized Sports, Safe Routes to Schools
 - Pat Torres – Extension, Tree City, Community Gardens
 - Anna Hansen - District 3 / Bicycle MPO Implementation, Art in the Parks, Acequia trail connections to parks, especially Ashbaugh
 - Sandie Taylor: District 2 / Parks History/ Tree City
 - Bette Booth: District 3, BTAC/ POSAC Coordination, Parks on the City Web site, Youth involvement, Prairie dogs, Parks and Trails Co-management, Planning for the Future.
8. Public Comments
9. Confirm date and time for the next meeting January 15, 2013

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CITY OF SANTA FE
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION

DECEMBER 18, 2012

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8. PUBLIC COMMENTS	None	11
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**MEETING MINUTES
FOR THE
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2012

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
Patrick Torres
Daniel Coriz
Joe Lehm
Anna Hansen

Members Absent

Sandra Taylor (excused)
Oralynn Guerrierortiz (excused)
Tom Agard (resigned)

Staff Present

Ben Gurule, Parks Department
Victor Johnson, Parks Department
Alan Watson, Parks Department
Keith Wilson, MPO Senior Planner

Robert Wood, IPM Manager
Eric Martinez, Parks Department
James Martinez, Parks Department
Isaac Pino, Parks Director

Others Present

Claudia Borchert, City Water Resources Coordinator
Erick Aune, Santa Fe County
Charmaine Clair, Stenographer

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- October 16, 2012

Mr. Torres moved to approve the October 16, 2012 minutes as presented. Mr. Lehm seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Information on the Montano Street connection was added to Ms. Hansen's report.

Mr. Torres moved to approve the Agenda as amended. Ms. Hansen seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

- Parks Department Update: General update

Mr. Gurule said maintenance had slowed but the big issue was graffiti, which was more than normal and crews have been doubled.

A summary of the Parks update follows:

- The golf course bathrooms are being painted and a synthetic pad would be installed at the driving range.
- A minor face lift would be done on the medians on Cerrillos Road because of complaints about aesthetics. Parks will work with Joyce Bond on a PSA.
- Frenchy's was mowed and trimmed.
- The 2008 bond continues; construction documents were signed for Ranchos del Sol. The parks should be finished by the deadline of June, 2013.
- The work is continuing at West De Vargas and Louis Montano Parks.
- The Petry statue at City Hall is 50% complete; Parks staff is monitoring the installation.
- The Annual Plaza Christmas Tree Celebration will be December 24, 2012.
- Snow removal had no incidents accidents or injuries.
- The Parks Christmas luncheon will be held December 19 at 11 a.m.

Chair Booth provided an overview of the 2012 Parks Implementation Plan development and explained that POSAC was directed by City Council to make recommendations regarding priorities of parks, open spaces, trails and facilities not previously funded or unfunded in the 2008 bond.

The priorities recommended were 1) bring the south side to minimum City standards (3 acres of park per thousand people) 2) complete parks underfunded in the last bond (selected by Parks Staff) 3) improve, better maintain and build multi-use fields and 4) make Santa Fe more "wheel friendly."

- 2012 Bond Parks Implementation Plan – Action Item

Mr. Gurule said an electronic file was sent to POSAC members and they received a printed document. The cover page memo specifically highlighted the parks and trails named in the 2012 bond, including how the \$14 million would be spent (\$8 million for parks and \$6 million for trails.)

An overview of the file provided as follows:

Attachment 1 is the Parks and Trails Implementation Plan Summary identifying park and trail improvements

Attachment 2 breaks down specific parks of each district and regional parks and how the three million dollars would be spent

Attachment 3 is the 2012 Trails Implementation Plan

Attachment 4 is the Santa Fe MPO Master Bicycle Plan that highlights projects approved by BTAC and options.

Chair Booth thanked Staff for their hard work and putting the information together and for everyone that attended.

Chair Booth said Ms. Guerrerortiz couldn't attend but had asked why there wasn't a schedule for the SWAN design and construction and the cost of the design stage. Mr. Gurule replied that \$500,000 was re-allocated from the 2008 Parks Bond in addition to \$100,000 from the 2012 bond that is dedicated to project construction administration.

Chair Booth said Ms. Guerrerortiz mentioned that Councilor Dominguez would expect, if there is savings, for the money to go into the construction of the skate park and for the skate park design to be part of Phase One.

Mr. Isaac Pino said the intent is to build the roundabout and the extension of Jaguar and go north into Tierra Contenta. He said it was not budgeted as previously stated and would be subtracted from the budget and the City was fortunate that the developer would honor their obligation because the City wouldn't have to spend money on the design and construction of the road to the East.

Chair Booth asked about the SWAN design schedule.

Mr. Gurule said the design is part of the Implementation Plan and the City is scheduled to begin implementation of the 2012 bond in July, 2013.

Chair Booth said Ms. Guerrerortiz had noted in the memo it stated the park (SWAN) work is scheduled between July 2013 and 2015. She said the Implementation Plan states the Parks work began in September and the memo should agree.

Mr. Lehm asked if the skate park was in Phase One. Mr. Gurule replied he wasn't sure and would review the preliminary construction schematics.

Chair Booth recalled the skate park was never a part of Phase One and said the memo stated approval in October but the date should be changed because it would probably be approved at the meeting. She said \$463,250 is earmarked for skate parks with contingencies (De Vargas \$136,250; Franklin Miles Park and Ragle each with \$163,500.)

She asked if a motion should be made to ensure the funds are used for skate parks.

Mr. Gurule said *Attachment 2* under Regional Parks in column one and two specifically identifies the money is for skate parks.

Mr. Coriz asked how the dollar amount for the skate park would be identified when funds are allocated for SWAN Park *and* the skate park. Mr. Gurule told him he wasn't aware of funds for the skate park currently, but would review the Phase One schematics.

Chair Booth said the amounts are in the master plan and Councilor Dominguez hopes to get funds to build the second phase from other sources like the State once construction documents are done.

Mr. Lehm said Attachment 2 lumps the skate park renovation. He asked how much of the money would be for the water feature and how much for the skate park renovation.

Mr. Gurule said \$150,000 was allocated for Franklin Miles and the same for Ragle and reflects a 10 percent contingency.

Chair Booth asked if a motion should be made to add language to the document that would be sent to City Council to advise them the funding dedicated for skate park features is a placeholder to be spent in consultation with the skate park community. That would eliminate changes having to go back to City Council.

Mr. Gurule suggested wording for the memo: "Parks would design/build the skate parks with communication from the skate park community."

Ms. Hansen moved to approve the memo with language incorporated that "the skate parks would be designed/built with communication from the skate park community." Mr. Lehm seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

- 2012 Bond Trails Implementation Plan – Action Item

Mr. Lehm said a crossing was identified from St. Francis Drive to Gilmore from the Rail Yard Park (Attachment 4, page 2 of 2, #9, crosswalk to Gilmore Street) that he understood wasn't an option. Mr. Eric Martinez explained the previous page shows the projects that made it and the crossing did not.

Mr. Lehm moved to approve the Trails Implementation Plan. Mr. Torres seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

- Water History Park 2012 Bond Implementation - Action Item

Chair Booth said the Park's new name is the Water History Park and Museum. She said she asked Mr. Pino to attend because the Commission wants to ensure nothing jeopardizes the next bond and everything is transparent.

Mr. Pino said the 2008 Bond had \$700,000 for the Water History Park and the building would get improvements to the parking lot and the roof was repaired with additional funds not from the Park bond. He said the next phase would be funded with the 2012 GO (General Obligation) Bond for the inside of the Water Park building.

He said he was approached by advocates to find funding for a design meeting and heard that a water historian from South Carolina was available for a week. He tried to help and asked Dr. Morgan if money could be advanced from other funds and then reimbursed and the money was taken from the Water Fund for that purpose.

Mr. Pino said he wanted to attend the POSAC meeting to explain what actually occurred and ensure Commissioners understood there had been no intent to circumvent the process and to make it clear that the City had never initiated anything.

Mr. Pino said bonds had not been sold and there is no implementation plan or funding for 2012 projects yet and nothing suggests that the project has priority. He said the last POSAC meeting minutes

seemed to have a different interpretation and suggested the City had initiated and encouraged the action, but the City did not.

Mr. Pino confirmed that once the bond is sold and money is available and projects are officially initiated a budget adjustment would be done to move the money back into the Water Fund.

Chair Booth said both Ms. Taylor and Ms. Guerrerortiz who couldn't attend, had questions. She asked that the normal process be followed in the future. She said some of the advocates are paid by the City, which could cause problems in future bonding and it is important certain groups are not favored above anyone else and the process is transparent.

Chair Booth said the Commission would like a presentation on the master plan.

- BTAC/COLTPAC/POSAC Collaborative Meeting

Erick Aune was introduced. He said he started with Santa Fe County in September as the Transportation Planner.

Chair Booth read COLTPAC's work summary: their official mission is to create a network of cultural, historical, recreational and natural open space and trails throughout Santa Fe County that achieve the goals outlined in the Open Land and Trails Plan to benefit current and future generations. COLTPAC originated in 1998 with a GO Bond and advises the Board of County Commissioners (BCC.)

The BCC approved an open space plan in 2000 with a focus of the acquisition of land the first 10 years. Currently there are 6,000 acres and 34 miles of trails throughout Santa Fe County.

A bond passed would continue the trail from Frenchy's Field to Siler and build Romero Park. There is interest in the park having a skate feature and funds have been approved for 2013 for a full-time volunteer coordinator.

Chair Booth said Romero Park was decided to be a project that POSAC and COLTPAC could work on together and would need someone who wants to be on the subcommittee. Ms. Hansen volunteered.

Ms. Hansen talked about meetings on the Montano Street extension. She said residents on Velarde want emergency access and propose the extension be from the back of Ashbaugh. The proposal has been brought up at City Council and Councilor Bushee was aware of the request.

Mr. Gurule said he was opposed to access through Ashbaugh because that would require a road and a bridge and take a lot of easement and be an eyesore to the park.

Chair Booth asked that Ms. Hansen keep the Commission informed.

- Candidates for POSAC – Action Item

Chair Booth said five candidates had applied and were interviewed. The candidates were assessed on criteria such as their knowledge of City parks; their ability to attend meetings and volunteer and their ability to gather information and speak for other constituencies not currently represented on POSAC.

Chair Booth announced Melissa McDonald as the candidate with the most points. She said Ms. McDonald knows and regularly uses a number of parks, has two children under the age of 10 and talks to a lot of parents; she has networks in the community and is on the Water Conservation Committee.

Ms. Hansen moved to approve Melissa McDonald as the new POSAC Commissioner. Mr. Coriz seconded the motion.

Mr. Torres added a friendly amendment for the candidate to be recommended to the Governing Body.

The friendly amendment was accepted and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Chair Booth announced that Tom Agard had resigned and she read his letter of resignation (Exhibit 1.) She said she was very sad about his resignation and he would be missed and she would send a letter from the Commission.

Chair Booth suggested the Commission look for an organized sports representative and she would e-mail youth sports to ask who they would like as a voice. She said she e-mailed the second choice candidate and encouraged her to apply at COLTPAC and more the candidate's interests.

NEW BUSINESS

- Climate Change and the Santa Fe Watershed-Claudia Borchert, City Water Resources Coordinator

Chair Booth said City Water Resources just completed a study she thought would affect everyone and have an impact on how the City thinks about the design of parks and plantings. She introduced Claudia Borchert.

Ms. Borchert said the study is the first in a series. She explained the report could be found on the web if "*climate change in Santa Fe*" is Googled.

She said the systems looked at were the water supply, ecosystem, agriculture and food security, land-use, water quality, energy, transportation, economic and sociological systems. The report looked at the vulnerabilities of the transportation system, the recommended solutions and the current actions that would make the City more resilient. She explained the report is still in draft and invited comments from the Commissioners.

Ms. Borchert said section five of the report had solutions and current actions. She learned there hasn't been a lot of linking and sharing of information and a monthly brown bag meeting on climate change was recommended so people could network and communicate on the issues.

Ms. Borchert said the second part of the report would look specifically at the water supply sector over the next year and a half. Matching funding was received from the Bureau of Reclamation to work with the County and the plan would address the future water needs and incorporate the projected climate change and result in a new long-range water supply plan.

Ms. Borchert said the precipitation in climate change predictions is not well defined; some say there will be more water in the atmosphere and more monsoonal activity and severe storms. The Upper Rio Grande and the Santa Fe Watershed are projected the same and would be looked at as well as the San Juan/Chama Watershed within the Colorado Basin, where projections are not as dire and might not be a reduction.

Ms. Borchert said the Executive Summary summarized the basic impacts of climate change, vulnerabilities, recommended activities and current action. She offered to provide a copy of the report to Mr. Gurule and noted the information is also on the web.

Ms. Borchert said Chair Booth told her about the Reclaimed Wastewater Resource Plan that allocates reclaimed wastewater among the various users who need it. She said parks on the southwest side of town (such as Marty Sanchez, MRC, the SWAN Park, and the Downs) rely on reclaimed wastewater as part of their irrigation.

Mr. Gurule said Parks has kept data on their water use for the last few years and he thought it would be interesting to get together. Ms. Borchert replied that was also done for the reclaimed waste water.

Mr. Wood noted that planning a water budget doesn't take into account the annexation.

Ms. Borchert agreed. She said it is time to start the conversation of a reasonable way to use water in parks and track that. She thought it would be interesting to see if their expectation was true that there would be more water use because of their hottest and driest weather over the last couple of years; and if the usage in that period of time could be an indicator of what might be needed in the future.

Ms. Borchert said SWAN future use and the current users are supported but they would like the Downs and the Country Club to get off. She said things have changed and the contract with the Downs made in 1957 is in question. The Downs doesn't pay for reclaimed wastewater in exchange for the golf course to be open to the public.

Mr. Gurule said new construction codes require rain catchments to harvest water residentially and he thought that could happen over time with water harvested from the GCC (Genoveva Chavez Center) for the Genoveva Park. Mr. Lehm added that skate parks are excellent water catchment and new parks should consider a skate park for that benefit.

Mr. Gurule said the Rail Yard has a cistern that harvests rainfall and waters the Park (Rail Yard) and when it doesn't rain, bypasses to a potable water system. He said Parks is moving toward water harvesting techniques incorporated with medians and parks.

Chair Booth said in the 2008 bond, irrigation systems were put on satellite. She asked the number of parks that are state of the art compared to those that are not and how efficient the systems; if there is a way to measure system efficiency.

Mr. Gurule said there has been huge improvement in the efficiency of the irrigation systems and sprinkler heads were changed to current technology; a high percentage of parks were upgraded to the central controller with a high flow alert alarm and about 70-80 percent of the parks have the irrigation system in place. He offered to bring the actual numbers to the next meeting.

Ms. Borchert said an irrigation efficiency study was recommended for facilities that use reclaimed wastewater. She thought that could be broadened to include the larger irrigated areas and could take into account the amount of area irrigated, the type of grass, temperature and the annual weather patterns, to develop a range of water needs.

Mr. Torres asked Mr. Gurule if the sub surface drip at the Plaza was considered for other parks.

Mr. Gurule said Frenchy's has a subsurface irrigation system but it was a flop. He said the Rail Yard also has a subsurface system; the pro is there is no ET (evaporative transpiration) but the con is when there is a problem no one would know until the area dries out.

He asked Ms. Borchert if she had ever asked Fabian Chávez about an irrigation system audit for the golf course or sports complex. He thought that would be a good idea.

Ms. Borchert said that was recommended but only in the plan. She wasn't sure that was a good idea; Las Campanas paid a half million dollars for a state-of-the-art irrigation system and the parks of the reclaimed facilities were not more than 20% off of Las Campanas. She said a better way to get information from the study is needed.

Mr. Gurule said he would support looking at the level Parks is and that could be improved. He said Parks could get the Governing Body thinking about how much money it would take to be more efficient.

Chair Booth suggested a meeting after the first of the year to follow up on the items. She asked Ms. Borchert to put POSAC on her list.

Mr. Coriz asked if a study was ever done on how displacing oil from the ground affects global warming. He said thinking mechanically, if a motor doesn't have oil to cool the motor, but water to cool the engine, the water would heat up without the oil. He asked if the earth would heat up without the oil.

Ms. Hansen noted that extracting natural gas has an effect and is called fracking.

Ms. Borchert said the Water Conservation Department inherited files from PNM that might have something worth looking at. Chair Booth replied she would have Mac and Vic contact Ms. Borchert.

REPORTS

- Daniel Coriz-BMX/Motocross

Mr. Coriz said the City is trying to figure out if motocross is a liability and if so, if it could be insured. He said he would question if BLM has insurance for their open space. He said a park attendant or park ranger was discussed and one idea was they would be a volunteer/coordinator/maintenance worker dedicated to the Northwest Quadrant.

Mr. Lehm said motocross /ATV use in California was declared a hazardous and dangerous activity. He said that was different than "ride at your own risk" and freed California of liability, but he wasn't sure if that could translate for motorized sports. He said that wouldn't cost the City to make the declaration.

Mr. Coriz said he searched for a company to insure them; to go through AMA (American Motorcycle Association) would come with membership fees. He said in Aztec, New Mexico the property was turned over to BLM and left as open space and private companies that use the land for races would pay insurance for each event.

Mr. Gurule said different insurance riders the City could oversee, or a nonprofit to cover insurance and also how other cities/counties/states do this is being looked at.

Mr. Coriz said the BMX dirt jumps at the Northwest Quadrant were on hold. Mr. Gurule explained that he had signed the construction documents a few months ago and the project would probably go to bid.

Mr. Coriz asked if the West DeVargas Skate Park would be completed before August. Mr. Gurule said he would check but thought that was part of the 2012 implementation plan.

Mr. Coriz said Red Bull planned an event in June, 2013 and is negotiating with a ski resort and wants Albuquerque and Santa Fe to be a stop before the big event. He asked Red Bull about funding for the dirt jumps; normally they match the city funding. He gave Mr. Gurule as a contact.

He said Red Bull would shoot a commercial in the next two months and include the Albuquerque Double Ditch Jam and the Santa Fe Trail Jam.

- Tom Agard-organized sports

Chair Booth said Councilor Dominguez would present an alternative idea (on fees) at the beginning of the year and return to POSAC for review and comment. Mr. Gurule added that Parks sent their financial reports; about 50% responded.

- Patrick Torres: Municipal Tree Board

A meeting would be held after the POSAC meeting.

- Anna Hansen: Bicycle MPO/ Art in the Parks

The art sculpture and lighting was damaged at Ragle Park and a dedication would be held when the repairs are completed.

Ms. Hansen said part of the reason the Montano Street situation came up was that the Acequia Trail connection has to go through property behind the Indian School where the Montano Street would connect. Part of the dilemma was that owners want a road and residents do not.

Ms. Hansen said on the other hand, the end section of the Acequia Trail at Ottawe into Ashbaugh is beautiful and the bridge is close to completion but probably wouldn't happen until after the first of the year.

She reported that Gregory Lopez Park had broken valve boxes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS -There were none

DATE AND TIME FOR NEXT MEETING: January 15th, 2013

ADJOURN:

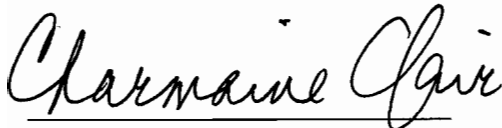
Ms. Hansen moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Torres seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

Having no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Approved by:

Bette Booth, Chair

Submitted by:



Charmaine Clair, Stenographer

Bette,

Please accept my resignation from the POSAC commission dated today, December 18, 2012. At this time my community volunteer efforts are needed elsewhere. The commission is in the fortunate position to have a good number of highly qualified and eager candidates to fill open positions.

I want to thank each of the POSAC commissioners and the City of Santa Fe parks staff and employees for their dedication to our community and the very successful improvements to our parks and trails over the past four years.

There are very exciting times ahead and I greatly look forward to hearing about the new parks initiatives in the future through the public process.

As always, my best regards,

Tom Agard