

Agenda

DATE 4/29/14 TIME 2:00p

PREPARED BY Brian Drypolcher

APPROVED BY [Signature]

SANTA FE RIVER COMMISSION
Thursday, May 8, 2014
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Conference Room (Round House Room),
City Offices at the Market Station Building at the Railyard
 500 Market Street, Suite 200, Santa Fe, NM
 505.955.6840

1. ROLL CALL
2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 14, 2013 and FEBRUARY 13, 2014
4. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS
 - a) Information/Discussion: Updates from staff regarding planning and design activities for improvements to the Santa Fe River Trail. Projects include:
 - Santa Fe River Trail Connections and Improvements: for various, small scale trail connections, plus extension of the River Trail eastward from the Defouri Street bridge area up to Don Gaspar under the roadway bridges at Guadalupe, Sandoval and Galisteo;
 - Santa Fe River Trail Crossing at St. Francis Drive: for a trail underpass at the river and St. Francis Drive;
 - Pedestrian Improvements on East Alameda: to extend new sidewalk eastward from El Alamo Street to Patrick Smith Park (the east end of East Alameda).
(B. Drypolcher)
 - b) Information/Discussion/Action: Review of 2013 – '14 Target Flow report; Review and approval of Target Flow hydrograph for 2014 – '15 Target Flow Hydrograph (B. Drypolcher)
 - c) Information/Discussion: General updates:
 - River Fund status
 - River flows
 - Fishing Derby
(B. Drypolcher)
5. MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS, MATTERS FROM SUB-COMMITTEES
6. MATTERS FROM STAFF
7. CITIZENS' COMMUNICATION FROM THE FLOOR

ADJOURN

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

SANTA FE RIVER COMMISSION
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Call to Order and Roll Call	A quorum was not existent.	Page 2
Approval of Agenda	Move Item 5 to the beginning of the agenda topics. <i>Mr. Buchser moved to approve the agenda as amended, second by Mr. Bove, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.</i>	Page 2
Approval of Minutes, November 14, 2013 and February 13, 2014	<i>Ms. Doremus moved to approve the minutes of November 14, 2013 and February 13, 2014 as presented, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.</i>	Page 2
Information/Discussion/Action Items a. Updates from staff regarding planning and design activities for improvements to the Santa Fe River Trail. (Projects) b. Information/Discussion/Action: Review of 2013 – 14’ Target Flow Report: Review and Approval of Target Flow hydrograph for 2014 – 15’ Target Flow Hydrograph c. General Updates	Informational, no formal action.	Page 3-8
Matters from Commissioners, Matters from Sub-committees	Informational	Page 8
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Citizens Communication from the floor	None – Included in discussion of Santa Fe River Trails above.	Page 8
Adjournment	There being no further business to come before the Santa Fe River Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.	Page 9
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SANTA FE RIVER COMMISSION
Thursday, May 8, 2014
6:00 p.m. – 7:25 p.m.
Caboose Room
500 Market Street, Santa Fe, NM

MINUTES

1. ROLL CALL

The Chair convened the meeting of the Santa Fe River Commission at 6:00 pm, Market Station, Caboose Room. A quorum was not present at time of roll call.

Present

Jerry Jacobi, Chair
Melinda Romero-Pike
Dale Doremus
Phil Bove
John R. Buchser

Excused:

Richard Ellenberg

Others Present

Andy Otto, Audience
Rick Martinez, Audience
Brian Drypolcher, Staff Liaison
Fran Lucero, Stenographer

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Move Item 5 to the beginning of the agenda topics.

Mr. Buchser moved to approve the agenda as amended, second by Mr. Bove, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 14, 2013 and FEBRUARY 13, 2014

Ms. Doremus moved to approve the minutes of November 14, 2013 and February 13, 2014 as presented, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

4. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

a) Updates from staff regarding planning and design activities for improvements to the Santa Fe River Trail. Projects include:

- Santa Fe River Trail Connections and Improvements: for various, small scale trail connections, plus extension of the River Trail eastward from the De Fouri Street bridge area up to Don Gaspar under the roadway bridges at Guadalupe, Sandoval and Galisteo.
 - Update: Map views. Explained the pathway across Frenchy's Park. It was noted that in the Bikeways Master Plan from the City, that Master Plan comes up with quite an extensive listing of trail improvements, trail connections, on street improvements. (Available through the website of the MPO). It is a very well developed master plan for improving bicycle transportation, bikeways, bike trails and on street improvements for bicycles throughout the city. Mr. Drypolcher walked the TAB members through a list of improvements.

On all of these trail improvements, the second public meeting has been held and the design team is getting very close to completion. They need to have all of their plans and specifications ready by July 15, 2014, staff said they are trying to get some federal funding and July 15, 2014 is the deadline. Per that deadline, staff will have construction ready documents, work diligently with the NM Department of Transportation, the City of Santa Fe for procurement and then go out to bid.

Mr. Drypolcher clarified that he had been showing them Area A that is on the faster track to apply for the federal funding and Area B is up to the east. Area B is more complex, it will take longer and staff did not feel like they could have it on time to meet the federal funding deadline and the separation between Phase A and Phase B.

Mr. Drypolcher showed the conceptual plans from 2009, which have been reviewed for the current master plan. When you come out of area A transition to Area B, you would come to a cross bridge across the river and then go across DeFouri. The existing walkway to get you up Guadalupe would remain but another alignment of the trail (dropped to the river level) under Guadalupe – along the Southside of the river – go under Sandoval, go Southside of the river under Galisteo and then work its way on river level to street level. At this point this would become the downtown terminus of the Santa Fe River Trail.

A new skate structure has just been completed; a new shade structure around DeVargas Park has also been completed.

Mr. Buchser asked for the status of the DeFouri Bridge reconstruction, which received the City Council approval. Mr. Drypolcher answered that they are moving forward with the design.

Mr. Buchser asked how the placement of the two alternatives for the crossing would be affected. Mr. Drypolcher said that the good news is that the design team working on the DeFouri Bridge is the same team. They will be able to adjust one or the other.

Mr. Drypolcher said that he feels it important for the River Commission to be kept apprised of these updates. He said that there has been a shared concern at some of the public meetings regarding the habitat along the rivers edge, what we want the space to look like, how many trees are going to be taken out and putting in a 12' – 14' piece of transportation structure, what impact does that have on the rivers edge eco-system. Mr. Drypolcher asked for the River Commission feedback.

Mr. Rick Martinez asked if the historic walls along the river would be affected. Mr. Drypolcher said yes, that is the short answer. If only by proximity and you build a foot bridge even with thoughtful design and thoughtful construction techniques, you don't touch those walls, nonetheless there are visual impacts, there is public use impact so at the very least a visual impact in the downtown historic core. Mr. Drypolcher showed on the map where there are no visible remnants of that historic wall and he showed where it starts, West of DeFouri and East of Don Gaspar.

Q: Andy Otto, Audience – DeFouri bridge, I feel by widening the turn it is going to make it faster, no one stops now. I do not like seeing the trail going down in to the river bed, I think that is a natural habitat for everyone that goes down there, I don't feel like a trail deserves to be down there. The walls are 12' high on both sides; people could get trapped down there. I don't recommend putting a trail down in the riverbed. I don't see a need for a river trail down at the bottom; I think people need to start realizing you are in the downtown area. I would think you could continue from Guadalupe to Campos St., that is a 5' trail on the south end of Alameda. It is a 5' sidewalk now and you could increase it to a 10' sidewalk. On the other side it is a 10' path all the way to Galisteo, so you have your trail on top to Galisteo. I feel like the

riverbed is a sacred place. This commission has the power to say no. Thank you for listening to my comments.

Mr. Drypolcher offered a point of clarification; in terms of what is happening now and the process if it will be built or not, this is part of the City approved Master Plan. This particular process is not asking the question if it will get built or not, that question has already been answered. During the design process, that question may be able to be asked again. This information was offered to the commission for clarification and to advise that this is not at a point where the River Commission is being asked to say whether the Bike Master Plan is wrong. Better said, this was a decision that has been made by the governing body and it is moving forward.

Mr. Otto asked how does this process get changed and asked if this commission submits recommendations.

Mr. Drypolcher said that it gets changed through the governing body and that the River Commission could make recommendations. Mr. Drypolcher said that this is part of the reason for a public process of presenting; we have had a public meeting.

The Chair asked Mr. Otto if he has spoken to the bike trail people and he responded that he has. Mr. Otto said that he wanted to be assured to share with his feelings to those entities that could make a difference.

The Chair asked if anyone on the Commission wanted to make a motion or take a position on this matter and asked Brian if they could even do so.

Mr. Drypolcher explained that the River Commission is an advisory body.

The Chair asked if the commission could voice Mr. Otto's concern back to the governing body and city council.

Mr. Drypolcher said that his position needs to be neutral and he respects both areas of concern from Mr. Otto and from the Chair. The decision and direction that the River Commission takes fall under the responsibility of the commission. Mr. Drypolcher said it is important for the city staff to share this information with the commission.

Ms. Doremus asked if there would be more public meetings?

Mr. Drypolcher said yes, there would be at least one more dedicated public meeting to share the design work. There will be other meetings, as the H-Board has to look at it; there will a lot more public meetings.

Mr. Drypolcher said that what will be going to the public is proposed design solutions for the implementation of the Santa Fe Bike Trail Master Plan.

Ms. Pike asked what is one of the biggest concerns Mr. Otto has to not have people at the river level; is it in the event of a flash flood?

Mr. Otto said his concern is more the natural trails and the habitat that is down in the riverbed, this is the only part of the trail that drops down in to the riverbed. It doesn't make sense; I have seen that river run really high. There are no gates down in the river and there are no ways of warning people who are already down in the river that a flood is coming. Gates are put up in bigger cities; I don't think there is one in Santa Fe.

Ms. Pike said there is one at San Isidro crossing.

Mr. Drypolcher said that the design team is looking at other communities; for example in Colorado there are Front Range communities that have extensive trail systems in their flood ways and their rivers come up. There are a lot of examples where there are bikeways and trail systems in the flood ways and rivers are coming out of the mountains. Design team is looking at that.

Mr. Bove asked if this plan had suggestions for trails? Mr. Drypolcher said yes and showed Mr. Bove on the map.

Mr. Drypolcher said that this is a council approved plan. We are now in design phase.

Mr. Buchser said that he believes what is being communicated is the safety concern. Signage is very important; the locals may not even pay attention to the signs. Mr. Buchser said he commutes through all of those areas every day and he would find it helpful to have all of those underpasses. In the last five years the DeFouri bridge area has been the most dangerous and it is not necessary due to the narrowness of the bridge, it is to the poor driving habits of drivers and probably the behavior of the bicyclist crossing the street unpredictably when there is also traffic there. The church

parking lot is also a very busy place. The intersections around there have signage and are slower. Historically the DeFouri Bridge has been a homeless shelter and possibly with the path changes it would become an unlikely place for the homeless. Mr. Buchser said he would like to know what critters would be impacted.

- Santa Fe River Trail Crossing at St. Francis Drive: for a trail underpass at the river and St. Francis Drive;
Mr. Drypolcher informed the commission members that they should be seeing preliminary schematic design level and cost estimates very soon. There will be preferred alternative for making that crossing. The Council allocated \$2 million dollars for the development of an underpass to take the river trail underneath St. Francis.

- Pedestrian Improvements on East Alameda: to extend new sidewalk eastward from el Alamo Street to Patrick Smith Park (the east end of East Alameda).
Mr. Drypolcher said that they are starting the design initiative. With the work recently done at the Santa Fe River Park, they took new sidewalk from Don Gaspar up Alamo, a point east of Delgado St. Mr. Drypolcher's division is now working on taking that sidewalk further east; it will go from del Campo up to Patrick Smith Park. More information to follow.

Mr. Buchser made mention that there are no facilities at Patrick Smith Park, people use river corridor as bathroom.

Mr. Otto and Mr. Martinez expressed there thanks to the River Commission.

- b) Information/Discussion/Action: Review of 2013 – 14' Target Flow report; Review an approval of Target Flow hydrograph for 2014 – 15' Target Flow Hydrograph.

No formal report available. In order to prepare the report Mr. Drypolcher would like to have in the Water Division is this – last years forecast was at 32% and this years' forecast is at 32%. What they have talked about doing is tweaking this hydrograph because we have so much water going down the river now, that would give us an opportunity to take these pulses and move them farther out in the calendar. Allan is the master in generating these hydrographs and is also working on a hydrograph that the commission can look at to review last years target flow and what really happened. Mr. Drypolcher needs that data, but he doesn't have it yet. Mr. Drypolcher explained the status on Nichols and McClure and the schedule for the water to fill the reservoirs.

Mr. Drypolcher said that it is so nice to have so much water in the river and the commission agreed.

c) Information/Discussion: General Updates

- River Fund Status – Several hundred responses were received and the accounting piece remains with the city. Mr. Drypolcher will provide dollar amounts once the City Finance Department does their reconciliation.
- River Flows – Very wet.
- Fishing Derby - Meanwhile, the City thinks, maybe; they would like to do the Derby on May 14th. You would then need to have the system closed before the derby and closed after the derby to keep the fish alive so they can be caught. You need a 2-week window to keep it closed for the derby. Allan in the next week or so will have a better picture of the variables.

5. MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS, MATTERS FROM SUB-COMMITTEES

The Chair made mention that Max Coll the esteemed legislator and first Chairman of the Santa Fe River Commission died recently. There was a very nice memorial for him on April 7th. The Chair spoke with Max' wife and she communicated to Mr. Jacobi that he really loved the river and at the request of the family in lieu of flowers that donations be made to the Santa Fe Watershed Association.

Mr. Jacobi met with the Mayor's transition team, Mr. Harwood and Mr. Patricio Guerrero-Ortiz. They were interested in what is being done, both the Watershed Association and the River Commission and both gave a presentation. The Mayor is in a 100 – day learning phase and yesterday an email was received by Chair Jacobi from someone representing the Mayor asking for a review of all Committees and Commissions, a 2-year report which has been done. Mr. Jacobi will work to put something together by next Friday starting with the target flow passage, which was done on February 29, 2012.

Ms. Romero Pike said it is important to communicate that they have been repairing and planting the river. The Chair will incorporate this as well.

6. MATTERS FROM STAFF

Other work being done: Improvements on the Arroyo Chamiso, about \$1 million dollars of erosion fix it work being done up by Santa Fe High all the way down to Santa Fe Place Mall in the trouble spots. It is where the arroyo is getting too close to the trail or to the sewer line so they are working on that.

Identified some storm water projects; one at Arroyo Chamiso, a big storm water infiltration basin done at Calle don Jose. The grass seed put in north of Frenchy's Park is doing really well. Also doing additional seeding projects.

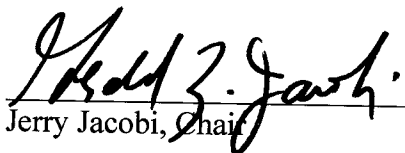
7. CITIZENS' COMMUNICATION FROM THE FLOOR

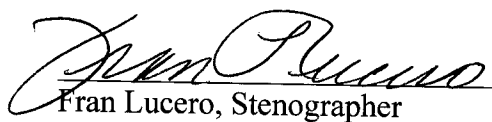
None

8. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the River Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Signature Page:


Jerry Jacobi, Chair


Fran Lucero, Stenographer