**DRAFT MINUTES**

**OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

December 13, 2016

1:30 pm

Open Space Visitor Center

6500 Coors Blvd. NW

**Members Present**

Don Couchman**,** Chris Green**,** Loren Hines (Chair)**,** Rene Horvath (arrived late)**,** Michael Jensen**,** Alan Reed**,** Janet Saiers

**Members Absent**

None

**Staff Members Present**

Brandon Gibson (COA, Parks and Recreation), James Lewis (Open Space Assistant Superintendent), Christina Sandoval (Parks and Recreation); James Sattler (Open Space Assistant Superintendent), Matthew Schmader (Open Space Superintendent), Barbara Taylor (Parks and Recreation Director), Nicole Trujillo (Open Space Division), Matthew Whelan (Parks and Recreation Acting Associate Director)

**Visitors Present**

Tony Anella (Interested Citizen), Nicola Baptiste (Interested Citizen), Richard Barish (Interested Citizen), Don Britt (COA, Real Property), Vicki Dern (Interested Citizen), Ann Dunlap (Interested Citizen), Ike Eastvold (Interested Citizen), Judy Giblin (Interested Citizen), Miriam Hall (Interested Citizen), Beth Harris (Interested Citizen), Brian Hanson (Interested Citizen), Bill Henderson (Interested Citizen), Christianne Hinks (Interested Citizen), Yolanda Howard (Interested Citizen), J.D. Hutton (Interested Citizen), Betsy James (Interested Citizen), Arana Kalwaic (Interested Citizen), Judy Kowalski (State of New Mexico), Kelly McConnell (Interested Citizen), Don Meaders (Interested Citizen), Carrie Miller (Interested Citizen), Stephen Miller (Interested Citizen), Melinda Moffitt (Interested Citizen), Peggy Norton (Interested Citizen), Dave Parsons (Interested Citizen), Joan Robins (Interested Citizen), Ruth Salvaggio (Interested Citizen), Mary Schwartz (Interested Citizen), Susan Selbin (Interested Citizen), Carolyn Siegel (Interested Citizen), Diane Souder (National Park Service), Dennis Vasquez (National Park Service), Adam Werblow (Interested Citizen), Denise Wheeler (Interested Citizen), Jerold Widdison (Interested Citizen), Stephanie Yara (COA City Council)

**Call to Order**

Chair Loren Hines called the meeting to order at 1:31 PM.

**Approval of Agenda**

**Motion: Janet Saiers made a motion to move Item 9, the Real Property Report, to Item 5a, which was seconded by Alan Reed. The motion passed unanimously 6-0; (Note: Rene Horvath was not in attendance at the time).**

**Motion: Janet Saiers moved to approve the December 13, 2016 agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Alan Reed.** **The motion passed unanimously 6-0; (Note: Rene Horvath was not in attendance at the time).**

**Approval of November 22, 2016 Minutes**

Michael Jensen requested several changes: 1) In Real Property report, change to “for their use as a parking lot in a small section of Open Space” to clarify it is the town’s parking lot, not Open Space’s. 2) In Candelaria Farm item, add “Michael Jensen prepared a proposed resolution for the City Council to establish an advisory committee that would develop a new master plan.” 3) Add “Director Taylor stated that Jim Roberts had been farming the fields since May 1st without a contract.” 4) Replace “The public expressed their opinions,” with “The public supported the idea of an advisory committee and a new master plan.”

**Motion: Janet Saiers moved to approve November 22, 2016 minutes as amended. Second by Alan Reed. The motion passed unanimously 7-0.**

**Public Comment**

None

**Announcements**

* **Michael Jensen** volunteered to attend the Open Space Alliance meeting on January 18, 2017, in order to expand the dialogue between the Board and the Alliance.
* **Barbara Taylor** announced that Matthew Schmader and Nicole Trujillo are both retiring this month. Brandon Gibson will be Acting Superintendent of Open Space until the position can be permanently filled.
* **Rene Horvath** reported that the ABC-Z Plan will be heard December 14th again at the LUPZ Committee. One concern she has is that the prohibition of development on 9% slopes will be eliminated because the original goal of preserving the foothills as Open Space was accomplished. Rene believes other West Side areas could be preserved with the 9% slope designation. Christina Sandoval will look into it.

**Real Property Report**

* **Carolino Canyon Access -** Don Britt gave an update on the request for a 30’ x 33’ access to landlocked private property through Carolino Canyon. The Board recommended that the easement require that the driveway only be for personal use and that the property owner build and maintain a fence along the south boundary of the driveway so there’s no potential for vehicles to access the Carolino Canyon Major Public Open Space property.

**Motion: Alan Reed moved to authorize Mr. Britt to enter into an easement with the above restrictions; second by Chris Green. Motion passed unanimously 7-0.**

* **La Cuentista -** Don Britt updated that the Real Property Division received the appraisal. His next step is to negotiate a process with the property owner. He requested a closed session with the Board to discuss; the Board agreed to move this to the end of the meeting.
* **Juan Tomas -** Don Britt gave an update on Juan Tomas. The final reconciliation with the Academy School is $2,315.34. The appraisal and settlement have tentatively been approved by the Academy School. No further action is necessary.

**Discussion of Visitor Use Management Plan update**

Dennis Vasquez of the National Park Service gave an update on the Petroglyph National Monument Visitor Use Management Plan. The National Park Service and City of Albuquerque Open Space Division staff collaborated in a week long workshop to develop visitor capacity and visitor use information for the draft plan, which is intended for public availability July 2017. The public scoping comment period was extended beyond federal requirements to 2.5 months, which will end December 16, 2016. As of December 13, they had received 51 comments from local and national citizens and organizations. There are currently 49 access points; both concept maps reduce the number of local access points and user/social made trails. The plan is intended to be finished in September 2017. Funding proposals are being developed to implement projects over a four-year cycle.

**Public Outreach/Film Presentation**

Open Space Staff mentioned again to the Board that there is an educational film that can be easily searched for on YouTube about the City of Albuquerque’s Open Space Properties. The Board intends to encourage the Open Space Alliance to utilize this for their outreach efforts.

**Update on Status of Army Corps Recreation Projects**

Michael Jensen provided an update on the Army Corp’s Middle Rio Grande Restoration Project for Lynnette Giessen, who was absent. Because they had issues with their contractor and have to start the process over, Mr. Jensen would like to work with neighborhoods along the *bosque* to incorporate local information and history into any planned entry kiosks.

**Candelaria Farm**

Chairperson Loren Hines gave an overview of the discussions that have occurred at board meetings over the past several months. Director Barbara Taylor explained that the City has an on-call contract with landscape architecture and design firm MRWM, which could be a possibility to reduce the typical length of time it takes to hire a contractor. She distributed documents that can be used as a basis for moving forward, including the original Predock plan outlining the uses for the Nature Center and farm; a copy of the May 2003 letter with State of New Mexico MOU and Rio Grande Nature Center Management Plan attached; and the 2004 Open Space Resource Management Plan for the Candelaria Farm Preserve. She presented ideas for future use, including farming a combination of cash and forage crops; farming for the zoo; and landscaping entirely for wildlife habitat. It will be determined if the farmer will continue to farm into the new year of 2017 with more oversight to ensure the farmer follows the scope in any signed or binding contract between the farmer and the City of Albuquerque. Director Taylor stated that the farmer does have a fully signed contract through the end of 2016. Furthermore, whatever is decided, the City must be brought into compliance with the requirements of the Land and Water Conservation Fund or they will no longer be eligible to receive those funds. Judy Kowalski explained that land paid for with LWCF may have agriculture only as a secondary use to outdoor recreational use as the primary purpose or us. Judy sees the main issue with Candelaria Farm Preserve being that it is intentionally closed to the public (for wildlife preserve), except for guided tours that Open Space Staff occasionally organize therefore not having adequate public access.

A draft document referred to as a resolution was written and provided to the Board by a neighbor of the Candelaria Farm Preserve, Dave Parsons. Open Space staff has not seen any scientific studies to supplement this.

**Motion: Michael Jensen moved to present the resolution to City Council; second by Alan Reed. Motion passed unanimously 7-0.**

Public comments included general support of the resolution. The San Patricio Homeowners Association requested that their unanimous vote in support be recorded.

Michael Jensen suggested using a group of volunteer experts rather than a consultant to develop a new resource management plan. Director Taylor supported the idea of hiring a consultant due to liability issues.

**Adjournment:**

Chairperson Loren Hines moved to adjourn the open meeting at 4:03 pm. All in favor to move to a closed session.

**Closed Session**

A closed session discussion was limited to next steps in negotiating with the La Cuentista property owner.