

**Candelaria Farm Preserve
Technical Advisory Group**

Rio Grande Nature Center State Park • 2901 Candelaria Rd NW

Education Building

March 15, 2018 • 2:30pm – 4:30 pm

Minutes - final

Participants

Members: Brian Hanson, Chairman; Christianne Hinks, Peggy Norton, Carolyn Siegel, Jeannie Allen, Kent Swanson

Additional Technical Assistance: Dave Hutton, Nate Todd

Community – Kathleen Hall, Linda Shank, Jonathan Siegel

Review of Agenda – approved

Minutes March 1, 2018: Approved

Announcements from TAG Members

- Carolyn Siegel mentioned that Brian will give a summary of Candelaria Farm Preserve (CFP) at a neighborhood meeting on March 24
- Christianne mentioned that Judy Liddell, NM Audubon does weekly bird counts on Wednesday and sent an email to Allen Reed making some observations about bird use in the croplands.
- Peggy Norton wanted to know what to do about notes of Bosque Del Apache field trip. Brian will look at her notes, combine with his and send to Bernard at Bosque to review.

Status of hiring contractor for the development of a Resource Management Plan (RMP):

- Nate said that responses to the RFI were due last Friday.

Recreation

Jonathan Siegel, who lives on Veranda, says during a community meeting they discussed improving the area along the fence to the croplands. The group is ok with putting benches, or other structures to encourage people to gather. The residents sometimes take their chairs and watch the sunset on the Sandias. Jonathan said they talked to Barbara Taylor with Parks and she is ok with it, but the community decided not to move forward because the City wanted the neighborhood to assume financial liability. He also thought the elms at the west end of Veranda would be a good gathering place, but the house owner there does not want any people there because of noise. The community is willing to buy materials and construct benches. Brian said the Land and Water Conservation Fund wants recreation so that is why we are exploring ways to do that. Viewing cranes from Veranda would be good. We can put this idea in our recreation plan for Candelaria Farm Preserve (CFP).

Interpretive signs –

Maybe at Trellis and Veranda, and at the east end of Veranda

Maybe at Arbor and the gate to the farm

Maybe at the west side of the Albuquerque nursery

If signs were in Open Space, on the interior of the fences, they would be protected

Brian said we have discussed removing the elms along the eastern fence of the cropland and replacing with cottonwood, so during that process, we could create opening so wildlife could be viewed from the ditch area.

Trail –

Present trail along eastern fence and Duranes ditch appears to be ok and the group did not want it improved. The Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District has management authority there.

Parking –

Attracts more use and trash

The group didn't want too much use at the east entrance to the farm, there is some parking there now.

Possible to convert present Albuquerque Nursery to parking

Maybe have a sign about viewing hours. Kent said Open Space hours are sunrise to sundown.

Benches –

Nate said that there are problems with destruction of structures, but simple, wooden benches would be ok.

Blinds –

Could be constructed that would allow viewing and not disturb wildlife, maybe west of the Albuquerque Nursery

Woodward House –

Could be a place to meet for guided tours and environmental interpretation. Presently does not have bathrooms or heat, but does have electricity. If it was improved, it would cost for utilities, water and other maintenance. The group had no opinion of what to do.

Westside of Cropland, trail –

There is a bridge over the Drain that connects the levee, asphalt trail to a small dirt path that goes north along the fence from the bridge. There is a locked gate there that prevents access to the south along the fence. The group wanted to keep the south part for wildlife and not allow access. An interpretive sign there, on the east side of the fence would be ok. A blind located there was also an idea. The group did not want to improve the dirt trail along the fence.

Funding –

We briefly discussed how to fund our ideas. There are many ways to fund projects and Brian suggested that the contractor explore that.

Site Specific Management

Peggy wanted to know what this topic was. Brian said we need to review and conclude our ideas for management in all areas so we can summarize them so they can be in the final RMP. An example would be - Do we want to move the Albuquerque Nursery and create wildlife habitat, or parking lot, or leave it as it? We haven't formed an opinion yet. The group needs to discuss and give recommendations. We ran out of time and will discuss this issue in later meetings.

Next Meeting:

March 29 - speaker Wes Brittenham (prior manager of Plants of the Southwest)
recommendations for native plantings

Other topics - Contractor status, Site specific management

April 12 - will include Dan Collins with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service talking about sandhill crane habitat, distribution and biology

Other topics - Contractor status, Site specific management

Questions or Concerns - Contact Brian Hanson at bhanson5@comcast or 505-856-1386

Minutes and agenda can be found at <https://www.cabq.gov/parksandrecreation/our-department/boards-commissions/open-space-advisory-board/open-space-advisory-board>

Vision - To engage in a planning process that results in improved ecosystem health and increased biodiversity of Candelaria Farm Preserve, ensures compliance with Land and Water Conservation Fund guidelines by providing opportunities for wildlife oriented recreation, and fulfills the requirements of City Council resolutions R-16-147 and R-17-159.