

Candelaria Nature Preserve
Technical Advisory Group (TAG)
 Open Space Visitor Center, 6500 Coors NW
 April 29, 2019 • 10:00 am to 12:00 noon
Minutes - Final

Participants

Members: Brian Hanson, Chairman, bhanson5@comcast.net; Christianne Hinks, James Lewis, Judy Kowalski, Carolyn Siegel, Colleen Langan-McRoberts, Michael Jensen, Peggy Norton, Jennifer Owen-White

Additional Technical Assistance: Dave Hutton

Community – Kelly White, Matt McMillan, Ken Romig, Matthew Peterson, Tricia Keffer, Richard Barish, Linda Shank, Wayne Unze, Katie McVey, Betsy Vanleit, Shannon Horst, Drew Seavey

Review of Agenda – Brian asked if anyone would propose a motion to accept the agenda as proposed, it was proposed and seconded. Then when asked “all in favor” all TAG members raised their hands in acceptance.

Review of April 11 draft minutes – Brian asked if anyone would propose a motion to accept the draft minutes, it was proposed and seconded. Then when asked “all in favor” all TAG members raised their hands in acceptance.

Announcements from TAG Members –

Peggy informed the group that Bernalillo County has banned the use of glyphosate in unincorporated areas of Bernalillo County.

Colleen informed the group that she had discussions with Tree NM, I naturalist and City parks.

When asked if any members of the community had any comments, there was no reply.

Today’s meeting was a followup of the April 11 meeting that presented Alternatives

Part 1 - Comments included –

Peggy said that saltgrass with nutsedge was attracting sandhill cranes at Whitfield Conservation Area and proposed it as a habitat at Candelaria Nature Preserve.

Colleen said that Open Space tried planting saltgrass at Sanchez Farms and it was not successful.

Brian said that crops for sandhill cranes has proven successful, but if a natural landscape would attract wintering sandhill cranes, that would be ok. We need to provide nutritious food for cranes.

Michael said that the initial Nature Center Proposal did not include farming: it was added for financial reasons because share cropping did not cost any money.

Colleen said that weed control is an issue for Albuquerque Open Space.

The issue of trails came up and a question was asked if all the trails had to be ADA compliant.

Colleen said that ADA trumps all other issues. Crusher fines can provide ADA access. Crusher fines could provide ADA access and present roads could be used also.

Brian said that a hard surface would not show animal tracks and was rough on feet.

Betsy Vanleit said that not all agriculture requires tilling the soil. Not tilling can be beneficial to many organisms.

Colleen said that the Woodward House was stabilized at great expense but did not have running water or sewer which would be expensive. Someone mentioned composting toilets and they didn't think that was a good option.

Colleen read an email from Heather (Nature Center) stating that the viewing platform in the northeast corner of the Nature had a view of the cropland and was an important viewing area. Property owners did not want areas open to general unsupervised public use but guided trips were ok.

Judy mentioned that the land is out of compliance with LWCF and the Nature Center is in compliance.

Judy said there is a joint management agreement between Albuquerque Open Space and State Parks.

Christianne mentioned that equipment storage and gas storage is dangerous if close to neighbors. Jim Lewis mentioned water rights and said there may be a problem with using the rights in different areas. Someone said they (Open Space) could apply for a transfer of the right to a different area.

Ken Romig mentioned wildlife blinds (viewing areas) could be elevated and could prevent public access.

Colleen said that staff preferred exterior view to the Preserve.

Colleen said we could add parking to the Tree nursery along with more plantings. Also may add parking at the present equipment storage near the Woodrow House and the asphalt area to the south.

Someone mentioned water use during the winter during the non-irrigation season. Using groundwater could be the answer but it would have to be approved or water could be trucked in during the winter (non-irrigation season).

Colleen said that a parking area could be constructed at the Decker Road entrance at Candelaria South.

Richard Barish suggested adaptive management.

Brian said he was disappointed that permanent wetland improvement and adding a permanent wetland is not in any of the alternatives.

Part 2 – Colleen organized the discussion of the alternatives. She had maps of the three alternatives and suggested we review them and write any concerns on the provided tablets.

Part 3 – We met again as a group and Colleen organized various topics of human use and we discussed them one by one. Colleen wrote down group comments. She also said she would write down the comments on the tablets from Part 2.

Adjourn - Brian asked if anyone would propose a motion to adjourn, it was proposed and seconded. Then when asked "all in favor" all TAG members raised their hands in acceptance.

Next TAG Meetings:

May 9, 2019 at 2:30 PM at Nature Center. Topic - Review Draft Resource Management Plan

Next public meeting: June 22 at 8:30 AM at Woodward House - Alternatives in RMP

Minutes and agendas can be found at <http://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.

The TAG looks forward to the day when the City of Albuquerque proudly advertises that the City has a wildlife preserve within the City limits. This sets our city apart from other large cities and demonstrates to all that Albuquerque values the natural environment and its wildlife.