

**Candelaria Farm Preserve
Technical Advisory Group**

Rio Grande Nature Center State Park • 2901 Candelaria Rd NW

Education Building

February 8, 2018 • 2:30pm – 4:30 pm

Minutes - final

Participants

Members: Brian Hanson, Chairman; Christianne Hinks, Judy Kowalski, Peggy Norton, Dave Parsons, Carolyn Siegel, Alan Reed, Steven Cox, Christina Sandoval, Heather MacCurdy, Kent Swanson

Additional Technical Assistance: Dave Hutton, Bill Pentler, Alan Reed, Nate Todd, Matt Schmader

Community – Kathleen Hall, Linda Shank, James Lewis, Al Drap, Cathy Fellows

Review of Agenda – add contractor selection request for letters of interest and evaluation matrix

Minutes January 25, 2018: Approved

Announcements from TAG Members

- Alan Reed with OSAB sent 4 questions to Open Space to clarify contractor selection
- Christina Sandoval announced that Dave Simon will be the new Parks and Recreation Lead beginning March 5
- Steve Cox announced that the Intermountain West Joint Venture will hold their meeting February 15 at Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge
- Kent mentioned the activities at the Open Space Visitor Center

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

- Brian explained that Open Space emailed two documents to Alan Reed and Alan Reed emailed those to Brian: Request for Letters of Interest (RFI) and Evaluation Matrix. Both were provided at the meeting for review.
- Alan Reed asked James to discuss the 2 documents.

Request for letters of Interest

- Judy suggested that the schedule be included in the RFI. The group thought it would be good to include at least the draft RMP date. Judy hopes the plan can be completed by the end of 2018.
- Jennifer suggested that the consultants include a description of their recent work be included so we know they have recent experience and perhaps get some evaluation from clients of consultant work
- Judy asked if the RFI will include the amount of the contract. Christian said that \$50,000 was available in the first fiscal year with an additional \$25,000 in the second year if necessary. Open Space will check to see if they can include the funding. Most in TAG thought it was a good idea to include the funding amount

Evaluation Matrix

- Alan Reed predicted that Brian, Alan and James would be on the selection team; James mentioned that maybe several others from Open Space
- Judy asked if the selection team could ask consultants questions during the evaluation; James said yes
- Carolyn suggested adding staffing capability

- Brian suggested that 20 points for the LWCF was too much emphasis since State Parks will be the final say
- Suggested changes were: Add staffing capabilities 5 points; add 5 points to #4 (expertise in mgmt. native and nonnative plants); decrease 10 points from #6 (LWCF)

Recreation and Education Discussion

I asked Heather and Jennifer to lead this

Heather – the Nature Center has been here for 36 years; have 180 active volunteers

Jennifer – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has 6 wildlife dependent recreation activities

1. hunting 2. fishing 3. wildlife viewing 4. interpretive viewing 5. environmental education
6. photographing wildlife <https://www.fws.gov/refuges/about/welcome.html>

Valle de Oro Refuge want the last 4

Fringe wildlife use are horses and bikes

Need to know audience to develop recreation use, then develop measures to attract that audience

Urban refuge standards of excellence:

1. know and relate to the community 2. Connect urban people with nature via stepping stones of engagement 3. Build partnerships 4. Be a community asset 5. Ensure adequate long-term resources 6. provide equitable access 7. Ensure visitors feel safe and welcome 8. Model sustainability <https://www.fws.gov/urban/soe.php>

May want to develop transition zones, perimeter trails

Valle de Oro may include picnicking, blinds for photographers

Valle de Oro has 8 permanent staff for 570 acres; biologist, educ specialist, deputy, manager, ??

Types of Recreation (presented on chalk board)

Guided walks / interpretive tours

Kiosks/ interpretive signs

Special Events – Environmental Education – interpretive wildlife, wildlife viewing, photography

School Groups/ environmental education

Planting trees, shrubs / service projects

Big 4 wildlife dependent recreation/uses - wildlife viewing. interpretive viewing, environmental education, photographing wildlife

Considerations (presented on chalk board)

Make changes all at once?

Who will manage?

Open or guided only?

Transition zones?

We discussed recreation and education for 4 different areas: (presented on chalk board)

Farmland –

viewing areas on multiple sides and perimeter, tours, interpretive signs, special events, service projects, Environmental Education planting shrubs etc

Candelaria South -

tours, viewing areas (create an area south end of elm farm), interpretive signs, special events, service projects like vegetation plantings, environmental education

Tree Nursery at Rio Grande blvd -
Tours, viewing area, interpretive signs
Woodward House –
Interpretive signs, special events, service projects, environmental education

We all agreed that all the areas should be guided only and not open to the public
When we mentioned Veranda Rd the locals said they were already considering some meeting place

Candelaria South will be difficult to add viewing because of the private residents on the east and south; the water ditch to the west and Discovery pond on the north. Bill Pentler mentioned that maybe at the northeast corner the fence could be moved in to accommodate a viewing area. This would be at the elm farm area.

Next Meeting: March 1. Agenda: Contract for RMP, Principles for mgmt., Recreation

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.
