

Candelaria Nature Preserve
 Technical Advisory Group (TAG)
 Rio Grande Nature Center State Park • 2901 Candelaria Rd NW
 Education Building
 October 7, 2019 • 4:00 to 6:15 PM
 Minutes Final

Participants

Members: Brian Hanson chair, Christianne Hinks, Judy Kowalski, Carolyn Siegel, Colleen Langan-McRoberts, Michael Jensen, Peggy Norton, Dave Parsons, Heather MacCurdy, James Lewis
 Community – Linda Shank, Melinda Moffitt, Yolanda Homann, Diana Hunt, Alan Gulicki, Marta Galicki, Cori Ewing, Steve Ewing, Dana McCabe, Friedje van Gils, Ann Dunlap

4:30 PM - Review of Agenda– Approved

Review of September 30 minutes – Brian sent the minutes out for review and comments are due to him via email by October 17.

Announcements from TAG Members - none

Public Comment

Where will the elms be sprayed? Colleen replied that they will be cut (all elms 8 inches in diameter or less; email of Nov 1 with Paul Cassidy, Aquatic Consultants) and then herbicide applied, no spraying will be done. Michael said that much of the elm removal will be determined later. Colleen said that the Integrated Pest Management will be applied for all pesticides and herbicides.

Will the CNP have to be approved through zoning? Michael replied no since it is already zoned for special use.

A neighbor asked why didn't the neighbors receive more notice about this process, maybe fliers would have helped inform the neighbors.

Brian informed the group that Judy Kowalski would lead the discussion of specific issues in the agenda.

Number of tours per month/limits to size of groups. We talked about having 3 events in each area per week. We also agreed that the 3 events per week should be presented as an upper limit (e.g. "up to 3 events per week") and that the actual number could vary depending on a variety of factors such as availability of staff resources and critical periods for wildlife (wintering cranes, nesting season, etc.). After much discussion we decided that many activities such as educational events, festivals, school groups, monitoring, maintenance and restoration events would not be part of the 3 events per week. The limit for a group size would be 24, but it may be larger to accommodate classes. Activities should be coordinated to avoid disturbing wildlife and other special circumstances.

Structure for oversight, determining priorities, transition (from farming). It was mentioned that the Open Space Advisory Board has oversight. Since a Friends group will be formed, they can also provide oversight. Peggy suggested that TAG could help set priorities during the transition from cropland to natural habitat. Several mentioned that TAG would go away after the Plan is approved. Colleen stated that the Plan calls for 3 individuals to work at the CNP (biologist, a technician and an

educator) and they could address implementation and wildlife disturbance by various groups. Heather also mentioned that there could be some joint management between the Nature Center and Albuquerque Open Space.

The group developed the following statement and each TAG member stated their preference – TAG recommends a transition advisory group to provide guidance on implementation of the Resource Management Plan. 5 supported the statement and 3 opposed it.

Citizen science – how does it work? Colleen stated -

Inaturalist generally addressed plants and could be done on a weekly or monthly basis.

Ebird was observations by birders generally following an established route, weekly or monthly

Natures notebook usually follow a fixed transect, mainly monthly

BEMP has a variety of collections and observations

Photo points would most likely be done by staff

Wildlife counts by vehicle may also occur

Potential locations for ADA access to blinds and other features Judy said the latest RMP did not have access points to the CNP. Colleen stated that the newest map did have access points, though it was not included in the latest draft RMP. Judy offered to review the proposed access points to determine if they could feasibly be made ADA accessible.

Asphalt pad removal - The asphalt milling pad was established to keep hay bales from getting moisture and rotting (James Lewis) and also it was preparing for the construction of a barn. After a rain there may be release of chemicals (Dave Parsons). It has been used for parking of equipment and cars (Colleen). One of the concerns with keeping it is the wildlife disturbance caused by parking in CNP. The asphalt area is surrounded by wildlife habitat. Parking elsewhere outside of the preserve would be preferred.

Potential locations for parking for buses and cars – The group discussed the options – at the Nature Center, in the neighborhood, at the Woodward House, at the asphalt area and at the existing tree farm on Rio Grande. Two individuals in the neighborhood near Veranda said they don't mind the public parking on their street. Judy said that all the areas should be studied first, especially at the tree farm with neighbor input. Colleen suggested a meeting on site with the neighbors to discuss a parking lot at the tree farm and also said that future coordination with the neighbors would occur before decisions would be made. Colleen wanted TAG to make a recommendation. So TAG members were asked for their preference for three options

Parking at the Woodward House – 3 responded

Parking at the Tree Farm and remove asphalt – 4 responded

Future parking should be studied first – 2 responded

6:15 PM Adjourn