

**Candelaria Farm Preserve
Technical Advisory Group**

Rio Grande Nature Center State Park • 2901 Candelaria Rd NW

Education Building

January 25, 2018 • 2:30pm – 4:30 pm

Minutes - draft

Participants

Members: Brian Hanson, Chairman; Christianne Hinks, Judy Kowalski, Peggy Norton, Dave Parsons, Carolyn Siegel, Alan Reed, Steven Cox, Jeannie Allen

Additional Technical Assistance: Dave Hutton, Bill Pentler, Linda Shank, Nate Todd, Joran Viers (ABQ City Forester)

Please note new e-mail address for K. Hall: greenheron322@centurylink.net

Community –Cameron Webber, Stream Dynamic, Kathleen Hall

Review of Agenda – add contractor selection

Minutes January 11, 2018: Approved

Announcements from TAG Members

- TAG field trips to Bosque del Apache, Valle del Oro, Los Poblanos, & Bernardo - The group desired field trips so Brian will organize them between regular TAG Thursday meetings every 2 weeks. Bosque del Apache will be first, in next two weeks.
- Brian's presentation about CFP at the Wetlands Roundtable meeting on Jan. 18 was well received. Brian's message to roundtable participants: I'm here to learn your expertise on wetlands, wildlife habitats and on where to get funding. Brian, Heather, Kathleen and Peggy from CFP gained valuable information.
- North Valley Coalition sent email to their listserv with all information about our meetings. RCG HOA Board is informed also.

Status of hiring contractor:

- Open Space said they are waiting to hear from Fourth Street office on contractor selection.
- Per Resolution 17-159 we have a responsibility to be part of the selection decision.
- Clarification on role of TAG in contractor selection: City Parks and Recreation Dep't. makes the final selection. We comment on and so influence selection.
- TAG wants to meet with Open Space before contractor selection to see about the final contractors considered, concerning their qualifications and know what the selection criteria is.
- Communication with James Lewis: Brian has sent e-mails to James Lewis requesting TAG participation.
- **Moved and Seconded:** TAG requests a preselection meeting with Open Space to inform TAG (or a subset) about how Open Space is selecting a contractor.
- Brian to TAG: OK to send email to James Lewis and to Open Space? TAG: Yes

Habitat Improvement for Albuquerque Nursery on Rio Grande - Presentation by Joran Viers, City Forester, and Discussion

- We have about 1 acre in tree production. I have a plan mostly complete on how to renovate the existing site. Desired is 600 trees with 150 trees out planting per year rotation. That will fit within the existing space.
Another plan is to combine the Woodward Native Plant Nursery with our non-native Park Amenity Tree Nursery. I would place that combined nursery by the Woodward House and use the Woodward House to support the nursery. We would like to see Woodward House improved to include a bathroom, water, electricity etc.
- Realities of limited to existing resources/staff
- Focus on how we can improve what we're doing. Now focusing on reinvigorating the soil, which is a two- to three-year process.
- "Pie in the Sky" Combined facility to fit immediately south of the Woodward House
We have a small greenhouse at Arroyo del Oso Golf Course. We could include the greenhouse with Woodward House and Tree Nursery. We would like to see Woodward House improved to include a bathroom, water, electricity etc.
- Access for big trucks is an important issue, if the area is moved to Woodward House.

Albuquerque Nursery Discussion:

- Must adhere to LWCF guidelines
- Viers: From our perspective the Materials location is good. (Already compacted; good access for big trucks...)
- Viers: We can make the northern space look more tidy without changing how it's being used. Piles of mulch are in the north end, trees in the south end.
- Members voiced their concern that the piles are unsightly and should be screened from Rio Grande Blvd. One person thought it was good for education purposes to keep them there and visible.
- Major concern by Dave Parson: In all the properties, as part of the original purchase by LWCF, we've written off the nursery as being supportive of the criteria that apply to the rest of the property. We'd make it a wildlife preserve, so recreation is wildlife viewing prime right on the ditch and continuous with rest of property — whereas the nursery is already fragmented off by the ditch. So I'd not be in favor of moving the nursery.
- Original site plan calls for screening at the present site but it is not screened. Screen could be a variety of things including signage and plantings.
- We could add signs for educational component. Could have short classes on planting, pruning for the public.
- Contractor could look at options such as adopting another space for City Forester work.
- Great justification for Forestry to remain where it is: grow plants that can be used to revegetate CFP Bosque habitat.
- Option: Use southeast area as an arboretum and to view the fields.
- Arboretum, per Viers: It would have specimen trees; plaques that say what they are. It would come into its own 40-60 years after planting. Make it a small mixed canopy forest. We use non-native species but adapted to Albuquerque.
- Regarding public recreation and LWCF, Judy indicates there is no set percentage of acreage that must be used. Percentage must be "reasonable."

- So if we had two or three designated areas, prepared access points for continuous recreational purpose, with sponsored educational purposes, that would be recreational, right? Judy: “Yes”
- Viers: Once I’ve got that nursery soil reconditioned, I want to plant a living ground cover: a living mulch. That could contribute to the greater wildlife habitat.
Dave P. & TAG: Yes good idea.
- Note that Park Management needs to be able to secure the nursery due to liability issues.

Next Meeting: Two weeks from now February 8. Agenda: What does public recreation entail, within LWCF guidelines?

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>