

Candelaria Farm Preserve
Technical Advisory Group, TAG
Nature Center Education Building
July 26, 2018 2:30 – 4:30 pm
Minutes – Final

Participants

Members: Peggy Norton, Steven Cox, Michael Jensen, Heather MacCurdy, Dave Parsons, Judy Kowalski, Christina Sandoval, Carolyn Siegel, Christianne Hinks

Additional Technical Assistance: Dave Hutton

Contractors: Ken Romig, Matt McMillan, Dave Lightfoot

Parks and Rec: Dave Simon, Brandon Gibson

Community: Linda Shank

Review of Agenda – approved

Review of minutes from July 12, 2018 – approved with changes from Peggy Norton

Announcements from members:

Matt announced surveys were planned for Monday and Tuesday (7/30 and 7/31). Todd Kaplan is doing 6 piezometer data pipes but still needs metal.

Peggy announced receiving information on area research from Ondrea Hummell and will forward to SWCA.

Substance:

Ken Romig presented Draft Public Engagement Plan. Need to refine process, present map, present guidelines and framework for public comment. City has a public process for a management plan (neighborhoods within 1.5 miles must be notified, might want more). How do we get out information ahead of time? SWCA would meet with key stakeholders (MRGCD, BLM, State Land Office, Interstate Stream Commission, Valle de Oro, BEMP, Bosque del Apache (visit)) one-on-one. Michael Jensen will get stakeholder contact information to SWCA/DPS. Then they could prepare an overview for the first public meeting. Paul Tasjian's map could provide a historical perspective. Mention should be made of the Predock Plan and the purchase goal.

Dave Simon suggested having “listen and learn hikes” through the property with a specific theme each time: cultural history, water history, BEMP site, etc. Include Friends of the Nature Center and the Sierra Club for notification.

Valle de Oro has a management plan which could be a resource.

Michael Jensen will present a progress report (of transition actions already accomplished) by early next week.

Table of Contents – Matt McMillan will present a draft at the next meeting and by consensus, a final one will be achieved. Comments are due by August 2. He will send out this draft before the next

meeting so members can review it.

The next two meetings will be August 16 and August 30.

Farm Contract – The contract expires 12/18 and allows for a 2-year extension. Brandon Gibson recommends a 2 year renewal (or 1 year or 18 months) to provide continuity and care of the land. This would expire 12/20. A new RMP should be in place by 12/19. An attempt will be made to grow 1 new crop in 2019. Concerns that arose this year should be addressed in any agreement, such as crop plan deadline. Brandon confirmed that 100% wildlife crops will go into effect in January 2019. He also confirmed that sorghum will not be cut this summer and quarter or half field cuts will occur in November, December, January, February. *A transition towards 100% wildlife crops will begin in January 2019.

Brandon Gibson provided the following after the meeting via email - Just to clarify, Open Space's goal will be to have a full plan, design and contract to convert the fields into 100% wildlife crop by the time the new RMP is in place. However, we do not have the contract or budget allocation to have the fields in 100% wildlife crop in January.

Open Space will talk with Balloon Fiesta about avoiding Los Poblanos and Candelaria Farm Preserve.