

Candelaria Nature Preserve
Technical Advisory Group (TAG)
Rio Grande Nature Center State Park • 2901 Candelaria Rd NW
Education Building
May 9, 2019 • 2:30 to 4:30 PM
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, Dave Parsons, Steven Cox

Additional Technical Assistance: Dave Hutton

Community – Kelly White, Matt McMillan, Ken Romig, Matthew Peterson, Tricia Keffer, Linda Shank, David Lightfoot, Bill Pentler, Brandon Gibson, Christina Sandoval, Julie Kilpatrick

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 29 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 mentioned that Ike Benton, Albuq City Councilor, is circulating a petition for reelection. He sponsored the City Council resolutions for the Candelaria Nature Preserve.

Peggy mentioned that the United Nations has a report on biodiversity.

Peggy mentioned that Barbara Baca is running for the Rio Grande Conservancy board, election is June 4.

Michael Jenson said that recent information from BEMP, Biological Ecosystem Monitoring Program, says that the northern half of the Middle Rio Grande Rio Grande is experiencing groundwater declines and Rio Grande cottonwoods are declining. In the southern part, Rio Grande cottonwoods are replacing themselves because of higher floodplain groundwater.

Colleen said that Albuquerque Open Space will have a free Vista volunteer in early June for one year. The Open Space Division is working with the Ancestral Land Youth Corps.

Christina Sandoval said Friday next week is Bike to work day.

Brian mentioned that Herbfest festival is this weekend, Saturday and Sunday at the Nature Center. It includes talks about bees and native plants. He circulated a flyer.

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

SWCA consultants presented a Powerpoint of the draft Resource Management Plan (RMP)

The plan is based upon the 2004 draft resource management plan. They wanted TAG input about the different sections. Some sections were straight from the 2004 plan, and some sections were new, such as the alternatives and monitoring. Matt McMillan inserted comments in the Powerpoint to incorporate audience input. David Lightfoot with SWCA solicited comments concerning target species and native versus nonnative plant and animal species. Brian suggested

that some animal species were highlighted in TAG's goal for habitat management such as support for migratory birds and a desire for native plant species. TAG's Vision Statement and TAG's habitat goals would be good to include in the RMP.

TAG input to the Draft RMP

There was a discussion of how TAG will provide input. Open Space wants Brian to put together all comments from TAG and then send to SWCA. It was decided –

SWCA will provide portions of the plan to TAG May 13.

SWCA, after Albuquerque Open Space input, will provide a revised Draft RMP to TAG by May 30.

TAG will provide input to SWCA by June 10.

SWCA will talk to the Public June 22 at 8:30 AM.

The avenue of comments also included the possibility of track changes in the draft document and perhaps a google document that all could add their comments. Brian said he would not do track changes.

Colleen and others wanted to continue discussions about the alternatives, Woodward House, tree farm, hiking trails, recreational access to Candelaria South and other issues. A date of May 21 at 1 PM at the Nature Center was determined.

Peggy mentioned that TAG had not concluded a name for Candelaria Nature Preserve but no suggestion was made to address this.

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 Meeting:

May 21, 2019 at 1:00 PM at Nature Center.

August 15, 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.