

Candelaria Nature Preserve Technical Advisory Group (TAG)
 Open Space Visitor Center · 6500 Coors, NW
 September 30, 2019 · 4:00 to 6:45 PM
 Minutes Final

Participants

Members: Christianne Hinks, James Lewis, Judy Kowalski, Colleen Langan-McRoberts, Michael Jensen, Peggy Norton, Dave Parsons, Steven Cox, Heather MacCurdy,
 Additional Technical Assistance: Jean Mason (for Dave Hutton)
 Community – Linda Shank, Suzanne Shave, Marta Galicki, Steve Ewing, Mike Dexter

Review of Agenda– Approved with 2 additions: farming contract, alternative development

Review of August 15 minutes – Approved

Announcements from TAG Members

Judy: Retiring November 30

Heather: Discovery Pond Open House Sunday, 10/6, 10-1

Public Comments

Mike Dexter – concerned there was no voice for recreation on the TAG and wants more access. Peggy: uses trails daily Judy: represents access - for nature study and wildlife viewing, Predock Plan: wildlife preserve Dave: observation last winter of cranes off the food field, 3 people on the road Colleen: supports more access Michael: easier to add access than pull back. Trying to create a wildlife preserve Heather: huge access at Nature Center Mike: suggests we include in the plan to evaluate and move toward more access Michael: MPOS discusses carrying capacity, that could be adjusted Mike: wants to be able to walk through it and have increased education opportunities

Suzanne – wondered if we were working with MRGCD (yes, Yasmeeen Nadji is on TAG)

How to address public comments submitted

Keep farming, not an option

Michael – put more history in appendix

Judy – work on Executive Summary

Committee: need to put into the RMP response to public comments. Can use the sheet we presented at June and September public meetings. Categorize comments. Michael, David, Heather, Steve and Judy will work on this. Colleen did not think she could fairly represent TAG views.

Farming contract

Regarding Jim Roberts contract in the cropland, Colleen mentioned that Jim is willing to move to 50% crops for wildlife and 50% for alfalfa next year, which would offset the costs for the wildlife farming and allow him to finish out his contract in 2020. The money that we would save for the farming contract could then go into other parts of implementing the RMP and allow us to take a little more time to

transition the property and consider some of the technical challenges of changing out all the alfalfa fields at once. Judy stated that would make the City out of compliance with LWCF rules and that would be the City's decision.

Herbicide/Pesticide guidelines for the RMP

no broad spraying

OMRI designated products could be used

A committee would approve any other usage and a neighborhood representative would be on the committee (currently Kent Swanson, Joran Viers, and someone else from the city is on this).

Tree Farm and mock-up that Colleen had created to determine budget numbers

Steve Ewing submitted a letter he had sent on Friday

Rio Grande Blvd NA sent a letter addressing concerns

This is an important piece of the entire property

Much discussion and concerns from 3 representative of RGBNA.

Colleen said she will work with the community, especially the neighbors, to design (not develop) the space next year. She is not sure how long it will take to develop the site since it will include some capital improvements requiring funds, but between the 2-8 year time frame is probably realistic. She is hoping some things can be contracted after the plan including the parking, access and signs. If we actually have a facility with storage, restrooms and meeting area, that will take a longer.

Conclusion: mock-up will be deleted from RMP, meetings will occur with neighborhood to see what they could support at this site, development of this site will be reworded to fall into 4 years of the plan. However, there were some changes that could occur next year: water the large trees, remove trash, remove compost and other piles which are out of compliance.

Meeting adjourned, next TAG meeting will be Monday, October 7, 4pm at the Nature Center Education Bldg.