

San Miguel County Open Space Commission
Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 20th, 2024, 4:00 PM

Attendance:

OSC Members Present: Susie St. Onge, Jason Merritt, Angela Dye, Joanna Kanow,
Yvette Henson, Sefra Maples, Roger Wickham, Laura Kudo

OSC Members Absent:

SMC Staff Liaisons Present: Janet Kask, Greg Pollio

Call to Order: 4:00 p.m. by Chairperson Susie St. Onge

Approval of 3/25/24 Meeting Minutes: Not Approved, corrections needed

Summary

Meeting Minutes

- Suzie discussed some inaccuracies in the 3/25 meeting minutes
- She discussed her dislike of the AI minutes and felt that she did not want the commission to spend time reviewing the minutes
- Comments will be submitted via email

Pheromone Pack Distribution

- Plan to deploy 400 packs in the East End
- 4 groups signed up to volunteer with distribution
- There was a county employee day to distribute on the M59 trail
- The goal is to create community outreach and raise awareness around the invasive beetles
- Adopt-trail program is being promoted through press releases
- Patagonia Telluride is participating in the adopt-a-trail and P-pack distribution programs
- Sefra asked about if the effectiveness of the P-packs has been studied in Telluride
 - We are only using observations year after year of trees that have been tagged

OA Greagor Management Plan

- Greg and Charlene visited the site to observe the condition
 - They were able to get the vault toilet back online for use

- Some more work needs to be done with cleaning up debris from the boy scout camp
- Charlene will continue the maintenance of the site after groups reserve it
- The OSC expressed interest in visiting the site
- A purpose statement was added to the management plan
 - Yvette added that the parcel is a Ponderosa pine ecosystem in addition to Sage flats ecosystem
 - Suzie questioned the need for the purpose statement regarding education or conservation
 - She expressed the desire to have a thorough management plan like other conservation areas
- Musser Grant opens up next fall for creating a curriculum for the parcel

East End Master Plan

- This newest draft incorporates all of the previous comments submitted
- Will be up for adoption on June 13th

Bridal Veil Parcels Draft Management Plan

- Jason's submitted comments were discussed
 - Conflicting statements about commercial use for ice climbing
- Suzie expressed concern for the OSC not getting credit for the management of the parcels
 - She wants the OSC to be credited for the stewardship of the parcels

Mill Creek Park Update

- RFP was rebid again with no bids received
- There will be a county commissioners work session next week, where the land use will be discussed
- The parcel was deeded as county park land but the county commissioners are exploring the feasibility of building affordable housing

- Janet will propose some grading of the parcel to fill in unsafe depressions and encapsulate the historic artifacts
- The developments of the parcel would be minimal and could be undone if housing were to be approved

Tourism Bureau Summer Regional Maps

- Minor changes around Ebike usage and trail use data
- Gondola fun facts added

Business Updates

- Starr Jamison who heads the recreation roundtable group extended an invitation to the OSC to attend June 18th meeting
- At the County Commissioners work session next Wednesday, Julie Kolb will be updating the commissioners on Noxious Weed Management's 2023 accomplishments and 2024 goals

Mining

- Suzie went to the Planning Commission meeting regarding the mining in the west end
 - Suzie proposes that the OSC push to update the land use code regarding mining
- The OSC discussed the possibility of increased mining applications due to the rising price and demand of uranium and validium
- Jason asked the OSC to consider all the citizens of San Miguel County and the jobs that the west end relies on
 - We should be considering the need for the west ends support to change the land use code
 - We should make sure our view reinforces the regional community
- Roger stated that the county has been through seen these mining applications through the years
 - The mining of Uranium could create dust that blows from the west into Telluride
- Angela discussed the increase of mining applications increasing 2000% in the last five years in the four corners region
- Laura brought up her concern of the mining only meeting minimum requirements

- Seffra raised the question of what other communities are doing who are posed with the same problem
- Jason brought up the point that a lot of these mining companies have a foreign interest and may not be contributing to American energy independence
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Other Business

- Angela suggested adding a field to all OSC agendas for “other business”
- Laura discussed an article regarding the difference between the Dolores National Monument and the Dolores Wilderness Conservation proposals
 - Jason stated that the National Monument designation is highly contested while the Wilderness Conservation proposal is much more bipartisan
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Meeting adjourned: 6:03 PM