

San Miguel County Open Space Commission (OSC) DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022

Time: 4:00 PM MST (via Zoom)

Attendance:

OSC Members Present: Chairperson Susan St. Onge, Jason Merritt, Yvette Henson, Laura Kudo, Sefra Maples, Angela Dye

OSC Members Absent: Roger Wickham

SMC Staff Present: Janet Kask, Deanna Drew, Rich Hamilton, Starr Jamison

Guests: Stacy Passmore and Diane Lipovsky, SuperBloom

Call to Order: 4:08 p.m. by Chairperson St. Onge. A quorum was established.

Approval of 2/28/2022 and 3/28/2022 Meeting Minutes: Motion by Jason Merritt to approve 2/28/2022 minutes as amended, second by Angela Dye, all in favor. Motion by Jason Merritt to approve 3/28/2022 minutes as written, second by Laura Kudo, all in favor.

Agenda Items:

Mill Creek Park: SuperBloom consultants presented initial, conceptual drawings for the new Mill Creek Park. Discussion was held regarding various potential park elements and locations including: dog park, shade structure and picnic tables, benches, water availability, wildflower and pollinator gardens, trees and shrubs, naturalized play structures, historic/cultural features and signage, water station and porta-johns, trash/recycling/dog waste station, parking and bus stop, fitness and bike repair stations. Based on OSC and staff direction, SuperBloom will present an updated park design at a future OSC meeting.

Doug Fir Pheromone Packets: Staff ordered 100 Douglas fir pheromone packets for placement on trees that are vulnerable to bark beetle infestation at various County parks and trails. This spring, OSC volunteers and staff will be organized into groups to place the packets on County trees. Staff will contact OSC volunteers when packets arrive and locations, dates are set for project implementation.

OA Greager: Based on OSC availability, the first site walk of the season at OA Greager County OSP parcel has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 25. A second OSC site walk will be scheduled for mid-to-late June. Staff will email participants with agenda, meeting time, and carpooling options.

Colorado Cattleman's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT): After about a year of planning, County staff is finalizing the purchase of a large land conservation easement near Norwood/Naturita. At 9,257 acres this will be the largest LCE in the county history. County contributed \$65,000 in 2022 budget toward the total \$1.85 million purchase, with an estimated land value of \$4.9 million. This is a group of 5 ranches, 80 acres of which are in Montrose County.

OSC Committees: OSC volunteer liaisons are needed for the Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) and Mill Creek Park committees. Jason Merritt will now serve on the OSC PES Committee. Sefra Maples will now serve on the OSC Mill Creek Park Committee.

Perimeter Trail: The County Surveyor of Record, Foley, will perform a ground survey of the proposed Perimeter Trail this season. When snow clears and the trail opens, County staff will schedule a site walk/meeting with Idarado, USFS, and other project partners to review the proposed trail layout.

OSC Seats: Olivia Coe is moving out of town so has resigned from the OSC. Alternate member Sefra Maples has been promoted to the open regular seat. Staff is seeking a replacement for the alternate seat, and Beth Bailis is interested in becoming a member. Staff will meet with Beth to discuss her interest.

POS Seasonal Staff: POS staff is still looking to fill two seasonal positions for work on County parks and trails from May to October. Pay is \$20/hour, at 28 hours/week. Please help spread the word.

San Juan Skyway Scenic Byway Committee (SJSSBC): Interpretive signs on the SMC portion of the San Juan Skyway are in disrepair and in need of replacement and/or refurbishing. OSC would like to begin a project to repair/replace or increase our interpretive signs along the SMC Skyway. Staff will work with Ms. Dye and SJSSBC to create an inventory of existing and potential interpretive signs, their locations, and condition as a starting point for this project.

TOT OSC Crossover Report: No TOT April meeting.

Meeting Adjourned by Chairperson St. Onge @ 6:07 pm

Next meeting: May 24, 2022 @ 4 pm.