

San Miguel County Open Space Commission Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 26, 2023, 4:00 PM

(via Zoom)

Attendance:

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

OSC Members Absent: Roger Wickham

SMC Staff Liaison Present: Janet Kask

Call to Order: 4:04 p.m. by Chairperson Susie St. Onge

Approval of 5/22/23 Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve with minor revisions by Angela Dye, seconded by Laura Kudo, unanimous approval.

Agenda Items:

OA Greager Management Plan

Laura Kudo - Discussing inventorying picnic tables but reusing existing. Established fire rings would be the only place to allow fires. Create a curriculum for what happens on the property for art and science projects. Creating a curriculum that is deep enough to cover a variety of ages and a variety of school groups. Grants to start looking at for curriculum, Laura Jane Musser Planning Grant, which is offered each March.

Janet Kask - Discussing groups that we are going to target and create criteria with a formal approval process. Set up online access on the County website then OSC can discuss requests. Finalizing approach for criteria for the groups. Setting up a draft approval form. Limiting to groups solely based on education requirements. Create mapping and signage. Charlene Starks of the POS Fairgrounds staff, will manage before and after groups have been on site. Possibly new picnic tables or fix current ones. Creating a window of access for educational curriculum blocking out time. Will finesse the use and history of the site. Once the management plan is finalized, it will be adopted with BOCC approval.

Angela Dye - Updating corrections for management plan and based on access conditions. Adding camping if permitted. Designate restroom areas with additional porta potties and where they would be located.

Jason Meritt - This would be a good location to access for single night camping with Telluride Academy. Trying to expand West End programs. Purposes and access "Allowed Uses". Add language for fall uses to highlight any safety concerns around hunting season. Bow and rifle season will bring attention to the schedule for timing.

Susan St. Onge - Liked using established fire rings. Access tracks for the public. Want to emphasize that this is an educational site not open for everyone. Description explains this is for educational use and makes sure the intended use is very well established.

Rare Plants

Yvette Henson - Met with Peggy Lyons to meet and show rare plants at Miramonte. The soil is different on OA Greager. Peggy suggested coming back and making an entire list of plants on the site. PES project may pay Peggy Lyons gas to help. List of plants to help with curriculum.

Old Business

Perimeter Trail (Janet Kask)

A site walk visit is scheduled for Thursday, July 6th, meet at the Hanley Rink at 10:00 a.m. Meeting with the County, Idarado, the Mountain Club and Dave Foley. Hoping to drop down to Idarado property sooner to avoid having to cross USFS land, but then have to deal with the steep slope. Trying to avoid the US Forest Service NEPA process. Will hike and check the front west end portion, open ended how long it might take.

OSC 2023 Work Plan (Janet Kask)

Done and adopted by the BOCC. Please check it out on the County website. Heather Widlund, County website/GIS, created sub categories with each subject as its own separate item. A nice presentation and more clear and concise with topics to read and review.

- Alternate seat vacancy on OSC. Any potential candidates?
- Opening for a crossover member for Town of Telluride/County OSC.

Down Valley Park (Janet Kask)

- Island in the pond is being damaged by kids. Rich Hamilton proposed signage to keep people off of the island for public notification. Signifying the island is off limits to make sure people are aware of conservation easement and wildlife.
- Outreach education.
- Post a simple sign for the time being.
- Flowers and the bee cabin are great and amazing.
- Pollinator garden is amazing.
- Credit goes out to Rich and his team for all of their hard work
- An idea for signage: "Please help us", etc. Appealing to good nature of people.

Update on Valley Floor (Susie St. Onge/Angela Dye)

- Bear Creek kiosk
- Valley Floor is paid off early
- A reserve account and annual budget and will go into a special fund
- Valley Floor summer calendar for site walks - how trails converge

East End Master Plan (Janet Kask)

- A meeting with the EEMP Advisory Group is scheduled for late July
- How does this affect the entire master plan before east and west plans have been completed?
- Density being placed in open spaces?

Flume Trail (Janet Kask)

- Historic trail site walks have been done.
- Mountain Club has been working with Tom Kennedy; trail alignment can be done to snake trail around Tom's clients would be more amenable to that.

Down Valley Connector Trail Feasibility Study (Janet Kask)

- Delay with Otak for the final summary report.
- Seeing if the size of the trail's width would work 4' to 8'.
- Also working on the width of the trail with ADA compliance.

San Juan Skyway Scenic Byway Committee (Angela Dye)

18 member Zoom call with reps. From active partner groups.

- Durango, Silverton, BLM, Tres Rios, Bi-Way at the State, Kiera Skinner from Telluride Tourism Bureau.
- Has anyone heard of the Central San Juan High Alpine Regional Community Team, Regional Group? (UPDATE - Lance Waring replaced Hilary Cooper).
- Another group, the San Juan Mountain Association, provides information in various visitor centers outside of Dolores and Cortez.
- Group organization and work plan with map coordination with OHV maps. Survey to be completed and presented. See what County Commissioner is working this role.
- Only 2 all American roads in Colorado: Trail Ridge Road and the San Juan Skyway.
- Trail Ridge Road in Rocky Mountain National Park.
- Historic survey has been done of San Miguel City.

OSC July 24th meeting agenda items - Angela Dye to report on the San Juan Skyway and possibly do a PowerPoint presentation. Mill Creek Park update - RFP to be issued for grading plans, etc.

Meeting Adjourned - 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Sefra Maples

Next OSC meeting - Monday, July 24, 2023, 4:00 p.m.