

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

New Mexico State Parks Division Park Advisory Board Meeting
Meeting Minutes
May 27, 2020
Santa Fe Parks Division Office

I. Call to Order

Chairman Selena Connealy called the virtual WebEx meeting of the Park Advisory Board (PAB) to order at 01:12 PM (MST) on May 27, 2020.

- 1. Roll Call – Board Members Present:** Virtual roll was taken and a quorum was present. Stephanie Bestelmeyer, Selena Smith Connealy, Eileen Everett, Patrick Killen, Ramon A. Martinez, Jean C. Ossorio, Judith Polich, and Robert Quintana

Board Members Absent:

Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Staff Present:

State Parks Division (SPD) Staff Present:

Director, Christy Tafoya; Deputy Director, Toby Velasquez; Financial Specialist, Amanda Calderon

Other Attendees:

Director, Axie Navas, Office of the Outdoor Recreation

II. Review and Changes to Agenda: (Attachment 1):

- Motion to approve the agenda was moved by Member S. Bestelmeyer seconded by Member P. Killen, motion passed unanimously with no objections.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

- Motion to approve the meeting minutes was moved by Member E. Everett and seconded by Member J. Polich, motion passed unanimously with no objections.

IV. Director's Report:

1. Park Closures and Re-Openings:

Director C. Tafoya provided information regarding the Public Health Order given on March 13, 2020 Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham for full State Park closure on March 15, 2020. This closure includes cancellation of camping reservations and all events to the end of May and evaluating events for June 2020. Director C. Tafoya informed the Board that the Santa Fe Parks administrative office was closed and employees were teleworking from home and the park's main focus has been on educating the public, enforcing closures and maintenance projects at the parks.

Deputy Director T. Velasquez discussed the purchase of Personal Protective Equipment inventory for other entities like the National Guard Forestry Department inmate program. Deputy Director T. Velasquez discussed facility sanitation and cleaning protocols.

Deputy Director T. Velasquez informed the Board that 17 Parks have open up to the public for day use, but restricted amenities and park hours have been modified. The parks that are open are: Cimarron Canyon State Park, Brantley Lake State Park, Sumner Lake State Park, Caballo Lake State Park, Cerrillos Hills State Park, Storrie Lake State Park, Villanueva State Park, Pancho Villa State Park, Oasis State Park, Oliver Lee Memorial State Park, Clayton Lake State Park, Mesilla State Park, Living Desert Zoo and Gardens State Park, Coyote Creek State Park, and Rockhound State Park. Director C. Tafoya informed the Board that comfort stations are closed. Director C. Tafoya discussed speaking to small businesses and concessions and ways on how state parks can help them.

Deputy Director T. Velasquez discussed that law enforcement in the Parks duties are to inform, educate and redirect the public. Director C. Tafoya discussed Heart of a Ranger program and its activities that include videos and interpretive programs.

2. Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan:

Director C. Tafoya informed the Board that this strategic plan for outdoor recreation in the state is tied to the funding through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, National Park Service funding for outdoor recreation grants within the state. This plan takes on more importance due to COVID-19 as outdoor recreation is very important to visitors and businesses and communities would benefit from this plan. Working with contractor Site Southwest to facilitate. Director C. Tafoya discussed there are four components to the plan which are: Outdoor education, economic development, inventory of recreational resources, and resource protection. Board members interested in these work groups should contact Chair S. Conneally.

3. State Park Fees:

Director C. Tafoya discussed working with Reserve America to help receive online day use payments and annual pass payments. Director C. Tafoya informed the Board that 12 self-pay kiosks have been ordered and will be up and running in July.

Director C. Tafoya discussed the special legislative session that will be held in June and that the State Parks Division will take a budget cut; however, there will be no furloughs. There was discussion regarding evaluating different options to changing fees and looking at our products and making new ways to produce new revenue. Open for discussion and questions.

4. Presentation by Director, Axie Navas, Office of the Outdoor Recreation:

This item was not discussed and will be discussed at a later meeting.

V. Presidents Report:

1. Committee discussion:

a. Climate Change Committee (Attachment 2 & 3)-

A brochure was presented to the Members J. Polich and J. Ossorio. A questionnaire was presented to the Board. The intention of the questionnaire is for it to go out to Park managers and generate input as to how climate change effects each park differently. There was discussion how SCORP will be incorporated into climate change.

b. Outdoor Classrooms Committee-

Members S. Conneally, E. Everette, and S. Bestelmeyer gave committee updates and the following topics that were discussed:

- Implementation of SCORP and ways to use Outdoor classrooms committee's expertise.
- Discussion with Program Support Bureau Chief David Certain discussion regarding language that would be included in the contract for outdoor education.
- Outdoor Education - SCORP pillars are curriculum- based and standards-aligned programing, teacher and other educator and training, access, including transportation, and field and teacher resources.
- Implement next generation science standards to provide relevant learning experiences

There was discussion and questions following the committee update.

c. Public/Private Partnerships Committee-

Committee has not met, but is looking for ways to partner with non-profit private and corporate businesses, and opportunities for the community. Committee Member P. Killen comments that the focus has moved to COVID social economic impacts. The committee will continue to look for opportunities. Opened to comments and questions.

d. Law Enforcement-

Member A. Martinez gives committee update regarding his conversation with Deputy Director T. Velasquez. They discussed law enforcement pension and recruitment. A. Martinez discusses reclassification will open opportunities and a 25-year retirement for law enforcement. There was discussion.

VI. Closing Discussion:

1. Other members reports/ Comments:

There was a brief discussion regarding partnerships with City of Raton and Colorado State Parks.

2. New Business:

There was nothing to report under this item.

3. Next Meeting:

Tentative date set for virtual WebEx, August 19, 2020 at 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

4. Adjournment:

There being no further business, member R. Quintana motions to adjourn the meeting, seconded by member E. Everett, motion passed unanimously at 02:57 p.m. (MST).

Approved:

Date:



_October 10, 2020_____