

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

New Mexico State Parks Division Park Advisory Board Meeting
Meeting Minutes
November 25, 2019
Santa Fe Parks Division Office

I. Call to Order

Director C. Tafoya called the meeting of the Park Advisory Board (PAB) to order at 09:00 AM (MST) on November 25, 2019.

- 1. Roll Call – Board Members Present** (Attachment 1: Attendance sheet with signatures) Roll was taken and a quorum was present. Stephanie Bestelmeyer, Selena Connealy, Eileen Everett, Patrick Killen, Ramon Martinez, Jean Ossorio, Judith Polich, and Robert Quintana

Board Members Absent:

Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Staff Present:

Cabinet Secretary, Sarah Cottrell Propst and Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Todd E. Leahy

State Parks Division (SPD) Staff Present:

Director, Christy Tafoya; Deputy Director, Toby Velasquez; Administration Bureau Chief, Edith Martinez; Financial Specialist, Amanda Calderon

Other Attendees:

II. Review and Changes to Agenda (Attachment 2):

- Motion to approve the agenda was moved by Member R. Quintana and seconded by Member E. Everett, motion passed unanimously with no objections

Adoption of Open Meeting Act Resolution (Attachment 3)

- Deputy Secretary T. Leahy and Director C. Tafoya provided an overview of the Open Meetings Act Resolution. There was discussion and questions following the explanation of the Open Meetings Act Resolution. Director C. Tafoya discussed Board structure and Statute 16-2-2, State Parks advisory board created; membership; compensation; duties (Attachment 4). There was discussion and questions concluding the overview.
- Member P. Killen motions to adopt the Open Meetings Act Resolution, seconded by Member S. Bestelmeyer, and motion passed unanimously with no objections.

III. Election of Chair and Discussion of Board Structure:

- There was discussion between the Board to elect Member S. Connealy as the Board Chair. Board Members agreed and Board Member P. Killen motioned to Elect S. Connealy as Chair, seconded by Member J. Ossorio, motion passed unanimously with no objections.
- There was discussion to elect Member J. Polich as Vice Chair, members agreed. Member R. Martinez motioned to elect Member J. Polich as Vice Chair, seconded by member E. Everette, all in favor, motion passed unanimously with no objections.

IV. Director's Report:

1. Overview of New Mexico State Parks:

Director C. Tafoya discussed the fact sheets provided to the Board (Attachment 5). Director C. Tafoya discussed adding Pecos Canyon State Park in partnership with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. Director C. Tafoya discussed visitation, acreage managed, and infrastructure. Director C. Tafoya stated that New Mexico State Parks manages the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and that \$2.5 million dollars will be granted this year to carry out projects. There was more in-depth discussion regarding visitation and the metrics which consists of a formula and traffic counters that are set up at each Park.

- **Mission and Overview** (Attachment 6):

Director C. Tafoya discussed that the New Mexico State Parks Mission is comprised of four components which consists of: Protecting Resources, Recreation, Education, and Promoting Public Safety.

There was discussion that visitation in FY19 was lower due to low water levels. Director C. Tafoya discussed Navajo Dam Enterprise location and Navajo Lake State Park. Director provided the New Mexico State Park fees to the Board. Director C. Tafoya stated that the Management Plans need to be updated.

Director C. Tafoya provided information on the 22 Friends Groups and how they are essential to State Parks, and Member P. Killen discussed the Statewide Friends Group. Director C. Tafoya discussed the different community partnerships and events.

- **Parks and Regions:**

Director C. Tafoya and Deputy Director T. Velasquez presented information for the regions and the individual parks from the New Mexico State Parks website (<http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/SPD/FindaPark.html>). Director C. Tafoya and Deputy Director T. Velasquez gave a presentation of the five regions which are made up of: the Northwest Region, the Northeast Region, the Southwest Region, the Southeast Region, and the Central Region. There was discussion and questions concluding the presentation.

- **Park Programs:**

Director C. Tafoya presented New Mexico State Parks organizational chart which is made up of six bureaus that include the Administration Bureau, Boating and Law Enforcement Bureau, Program Support Bureau, Design and Development Bureau, and Field Operations Bureau. There was discussion and questions were answered concluding the presentation.

- **Organization Structure:**

Director C. Tafoya reported on the advertised positions for New Mexico State Parks and discussed the vacancy rate and the seasonal positions. Director C. Tafoya informed the Board that the State Parks Division is working to reclassify seasonal employees to true seasonal employees. Director C. Tafoya notified the Board that the State Parks Division is also working on pay increases and reclassifications for Park employees. Director C. Tafoya informed the Board that 72 positions were cut in the last administration.

2. **Next Generation of Adventure Initiative Discussion** (Attachment 7):

Director C. Tafoya discussed the Next Generation of Adventure vision to improve visitor services, enhance events and programs, create new park opportunities, upgrade infrastructure, modernization for fee collection, recruit and retain park staff, and increase partnerships.

Parks Expansion Opportunities:

- **Pecos Canyon State Park-**

Director C. Tafoya informed the Board that five staff members will manage the Pecos Canyon State Park. Director C. Tafoya gave a historic overview. Director C. Tafoya discussed the plan to establish Pecos Canyon State Park to expand boundaries and increase opportunities, but not including the Forest Service Department property. Director C. Tafoya informed the Board that a Memorandum of Agreement was signed the previous week with the Game and Fish Commission. There was discussion and questions were answered.

- **Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park-**

Director C. Tafoya informed the Board that the park currently has a Park Ranger and a Park Educator. Director C. Tafoya informed the Board that the main interest is to get schools out to the park and provide opportunities with Las Cruces School District. Director C. Tafoya discussed special events. The International Boundary and Water Commission planned to work to provide habitat restoration at the park. There was discussion and comments on how to promote and integrate different types of programs going on in the state.

- **Sugarite Canyon State Park-**

Director C. Tafoya discussed that there may be expansion opportunities for Sugarite Canyon State Park in FY20. In FY21 Sugarite Canyon will work to partner with Colorado State Parks.

3. Partnership with Office of the Outdoor Recreation:

Director informed the Board that the first meeting of the Outdoor Recreation Board was on November 26, 2019. Director C. Tafoya discussed establishing partnerships with the Economic Development Department and the Tourism Department.

V. Closing Discussion:

1. Other members reports/ Comments:

The Board requested the following items be discussed at the next meeting: subcommittees, outdoor education, park fees and Friends Group opportunities and partnerships.

2. New Business:

There was nothing to report under this item.

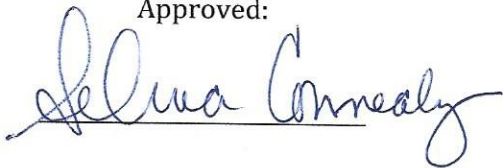
3. Next Meeting:

Tentative date set for January 15, 2020 at the Santa Fe Parks office.

4. Adjournment:

There being no further business, member J. Polich motions to adjourn the meeting, seconded by member A. Martinez, motion passed unanimously at 12:13 p.m. (MST).

Approved:



Date:

3/6/2020