## **Conference Report**

Advisory Committee Meeting 1



ARCHITECTURE INSPIRATION

Project No.:	20-0348.001
Project:	Elena Gallegos Open Space Visitor Center Feasibility Study
Date:	May 7, 2021
Place:	Virtual
Attending:	Colleen Langan-McRoberts, CABQ Open Space Division Superintendent Christina Sandoval, Program Manager, CABQ Parks and Recreation Tricia Keffer, Planner, CABQ Parks and Recreation Ken Romig, Landscape Architect, Dekker/Perich/Sabatini Kate Maliskas, Urban Planner, Dekker/Perich/Sabatini Will Gleason, Planning Principal-in-Charge, Dekker/Perich/Sabatini John Goodwin, Open Space Alliance Rachel Swanteson-Franz, The Wilderness Society Art Gardenswartz, High Desert Neighborhood resident Donald Meaders, Open Space Advisory Board of Directors
By:	Kate Maliskas, Will Gleason
Copies To:	Parties Present, Parties Absent
Issue Date:	May 10, 2021

Discussion Items: Purpose of the meeting was to introduce project, share progress, and gather feedback from Advisory Committee members on Site Analysis, Site/ Building Programming, and anticipated plan for Public Engagement.

- 1. Introductions
- 2. Presentation
  - a. Purpose of a Visitor Center
  - b. Purpose of Feasibility Study
  - c. Role of Advisory Committee
  - d. Precedent Projects
    - i. Valle de Oro Visitor Center
    - ii. Open Space Visitor Center
    - iii. Rio Grande Nature Center
    - iv. Bachechi Environmental Education Building
  - e. Comparative Site Analysis
    - i. Evaluation Criteria
    - ii. Context Map, Vicinity Map, Loop Road Map
    - iii. Scoring Matrix
    - iv. Site 3: Inner Loop Rd
  - f. Site/ Building Programming
    - i. Square Footage Calcs
    - ii. Basic Space Requirements
    - iii. Building Adjacencies Diagram Upper and Lower Floors
    - iv. Site Sketch Upper and Lower Floors
  - Next Steps g.
    - i. Agenda
- 3. Discussion
  - a. Goal of Visitor Center
    - i. Increase access, equitability to Elena Gallegos Open Space
      - 1. Currently, no public transit stop at EG OS or near Tramway and Simms Park Rd

- ii. Connecting community to space, help people to understand their environment, continued stewardship for open space in the future, need to have educational opportunities
- iii. Audience/User of Visitor Center

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- 1. Audience/user needs to be more focused
- 2. It is less likely that regular users of Elena Gallegos Open Space will visit the Visitor Center
- 3. Can be more focused on tourists, the larger Albuquerque metro community
- b. Traffic
  - i. Big concern in general, as houses back up to Simms Park Rd
  - ii. Possibility to use Site 6: Tramway Blvd as a satellite parking lot
    - 1. Shuttle provided from satellite parking to Visitor Center
      - 2. Example is in Aspen, CO
      - 3. Visitor Center could provide additional parking at site, but not all parking for
  - Visitor Center should be provided at site, with some at Site 6 satellite parking lot iii. Attendant Booth/ Gate
    - 1. Hours would remain the same to allow for regular recreational use of EG OS.
- c. Improved Simms Park Rd Infrastructure
  - i. Road conditions need to be improved on Simms Park Rd
  - ii. Improve hiking/ mountain bike trail
  - iii. Add bike lane/ wider shoulder
- d. Programming
  - i. Add Video Room for showing educational video on a loop instead of a dedicated media room, just make it a kiosk in the lobby
  - ii. Include a roof top patio
  - iii. Kitchen/café- have removable walls that could open up the space for larger events
  - iv. Include a contemplation/meditation spot
  - v. Large sign for Elena Gallegos on Tramway
- e. Public Engagement
  - i. There is currently no funding secured for this Visitor Center. Since this is just the Feasibility Study, Open Space Division will pursue funding one step at a time.
  - ii. Early engagement is better
  - iii. Right Tone, Timing and Content are key
    - 1. High Desert and Sandia Heights neighborhoods are key engagement group for seeing this project come to fruition
    - Current users are also key make sure to engage and offer infrastructure improvements that will appease them (i.e. Simms Park Rd multi-modal improvements)
    - 3. Councilor Jones initial discussions with her were positive and supportive
  - iv. Viewshed Diagram
    - 1. Create a schematic for a view plane from neighborhoods looking towards Visitor Center
  - v. Website
    - 1. Look into putting website into multiple languages
  - vi. Vision Zero Program
    - 1. Reach out to Tara Reid at CABQ Planning
- 4. Schedule
  - a. Next Advisory Committee Meeting (Meeting 2 of 3)
    - i. Tentatively scheduled for June 4, 12:30-2:00PM
      - 1. Will need to confirm with those not in attendance
  - b. Public Meeting
    - i. Anticipated for late June or early July

This report is assumed to be a true and accurate account of this communication unless notice to the contrary is received within 10 calendar days of issue.

End of Report

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