



## FREE ROAMING HORSE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes for April 10, 2019

<b>Members Present</b>	All members present.
<b>Members Absent</b>	None

### 1. Welcome and Announcements:

<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Applicable Action(s)</b>
<p>Anne Ryan welcomed attendees and stated that in order to get through the Agenda within the allotted meeting time, public comment will remain reserved until the end and that those wishing to provide public comment must sign up. She shared that the sign in sheet showed many names and invited any others wishing to speak to make sure they signed up. She also reminded all in attendance that they are welcome to provide public comment or constructive input at any time through the Council webpages contained on the County website (<a href="https://www.sandovalcountynm.gov/placitas-horses/">https://www.sandovalcountynm.gov/placitas-horses/</a>).</p>	

### 2. Introduction of New Council Member:

<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Applicable Action(s)</b>
<p>Ania Klas was introduced and shared a few words of her interest in this subject and appreciation for the opportunity.</p>	Non-action item.

**3. Election of Officers:**

<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Applicable Action(s)</b>
<p>Anne Ryan reminded the Council that at their first meeting on Dec 18, 2019 they agreed that the elected Officers would serve in an interim capacity until the 9<sup>th</sup> member was appointed. Anne Ryan has been serving as interim Chair and Secretary, while Peggy Roberts has been serving as interim Vice Chair.</p>	<p>Anne Ryan was nominated by Paul Fish, which nomination was seconded by Peggy Roberts, and Ms. Ryan was unanimously elected to serve as Chair. Peggy Roberts was nominated by Paul Fish, which nomination was seconded by Anne Ryan, and Ms. Roberts was unanimously elected to serve as Vice Chair. And Paul Fish was nominated by Peggy Roberts, which nomination was seconded by Anne Ryan, and Mr. Fish was elected to serve as Secretary with the votes of all members except that Paul Fish abstained.</p>

**4. Approval of Minutes from January 9, 2019 Meeting:**

<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Applicable Action(s)</b>
<p>Anne Ryan reminded Council that the Draft Minutes contained in their packets were also emailed following the Jan 9<sup>th</sup> meeting absent recommended edits and asked for a motion to approve.</p>	<p>Peggy Roberts moved that the Minutes be approved by the Council as submitted, and Allan Mills seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously. Please see associated handout.</p>

**5. Open Meetings Act Resolution and Rules of Procedure:**

<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Applicable Action(s)</b>
<p>Anne Ryan reminded the Council that its Bylaws require compliance with the Open Meetings Act which allow for the adoption of Rules of Procedure. She stated that the proposed</p>	<p>Anne Ryan moved that the Open Meetings Act Resolution and Rules of Procedure be approved by the Council as submitted.</p>

draft in their packets has been approved by the County Attorney and made a motion for Council approval.	Paul Fish seconded the motion. The Motion passed unanimously. Please see associated handout.
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**6. Reminder of Council Mission, Structure, and Priorities with Subcommittee Updates:**

<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Applicable Action(s)</b>
<p>Anne Ryan provided attendees with a crosswalk of the 2-page handout associated with this Agenda Item, and affirmed on pace with outlined priorities. Allen Mills, current Lead for the short term subcommittee, introduced two newly-promoted Lieutenants: Frank Tomlinson is now the supervisor of Animal Control with prior experience from Corrales along with specialized Large Animal Rescue training and participation in numerous incidents involving livestock in hazardous situations. And Lt. Peters will also be detailed to help with this effort as he, too, possesses experience in this area.</p> <p>Captain Mills also updated attendees about their targeted speed monitoring efforts in horse-specific areas, which included 144 stops for excessive speeding -- one of which was a driver going 85 MPH. Captain Mills also reminded folks about the horse-specific email through the Council website to help alert authorities so they can take appropriate action. He also provided copies of the public information pamphlet SCSO will be using with motorists to help mitigate aggressive and problem drivers (this document is also posted on the Council webpage under “resources and Reports” <a href="https://www.sandovalcountynm.gov/placitas-horses/">https://www.sandovalcountynm.gov/placitas-horses/</a> ).</p> <p>Jessica Johnson, current Lead for the long term subcommittee, provided a Placitas Wild update on behalf of Sandy Johnson whom was unable to attend today’s meeting. Jessica Johnson reported that the majority of the horses were placed with Mustang Camp while others remain with Placitas Wild at a private local site where they are working on good adoptive homes. Jessica Johnson restated some of what Anne Ryan mentioned in the 2-page crosswalk and that they’re conducting a national examination</p>	<p>Committees to continue according to the referenced priority list.</p>

of effective models potentially applicable to Placitas while continuing to research grant and other resource possibilities.	
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**7. Fertility Control Program Progress Report:**

<b>Presentation</b>	<b>Applicable Action(s)</b>
<p>Dr. Karen Herman and Justin and Elena Marquez presented that the population survey is currently at 99 horses contained within 18 bands. Of those, 50 mares have been treated with 33 of those boosted. Dr. Herman reminded everyone that this work is to prevent 2020 births – not this season’s as the mares were already pregnant when they were contracted to implement the fertility control program. Dr. Herman also spoke about human-intervention activities (such as feeding) that can affect the natural breeding cycle of wild horses, and she again reviewed their three contracted deliverables, which remain posted on the County website.</p>	<p>Mt. Taylor Mustangs will continue to provide public progress reports during Council meetings.</p>

**8. Future Considerations for Amending County Animal Ordinance:**

<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Applicable Action(s)</b>
<p>Anne Ryan reminded the Council that their Dec 18<sup>th</sup> meeting included review of the Resolution and Bylaws, along with both statutes that impact the Placitas horses (77-18-5 and 77-2-1.1) and the County Animal Ordinance in order to underscore for the Council that any recommendations must stay within the bounds of current law.</p> <p>Anne Ryan then reminded the Council that at their Jan 9<sup>th</sup> meeting they discussed the differences among a Proclamation, a Resolution, and an Ordinance, and that it was suggested then that the Council consider perhaps a Proclamation in order to help build trust within the community and dispel erroneous rumors that the Council’s intentions are anything but what is stated within its Mission. It was also determined at this same meeting that the Council would be engaging with the newly-elected Sherriff since SCSO is the animal control authority within the County.</p>	<p>Non-action item.</p>

Anne Ryan finally shared assurances with all attendees that any proposed Amendments to the County Commission would include full community input, and that there are no plans to propose anything to the Commission at this time.

Anne Ryan then turned it over to Paul Fish, who explained that amending the ordinance was probably something that would ultimately be recommended by the Council when it had come to the point of being able to make recommendations. He stated that there had been a sense of urgency because of the possibility that the Legislature might adopt one or more statutes that could require ordinance changes, but none of those passed, so the urgency was no longer an issue.

Mr. Fish discussed some of the items to consider, emphasizing that an initial draft was far from something that was close to a final form. In particular, he noted that the ordinance did not reflect either the 2007 statute regarding wild horses or the recent Court of Appeals decision regarding whether wild horses were strays under the jurisdiction of the State Livestock Board. Mr. Fish stated that the initial draft makes some efforts to bring the ordinance in line with those matters.

In addition, Mr. Fish shared some of the logic behind suggesting bait/trap prohibitions as a means of breaking up the roundabout cycle of those getting the horses removed only to then have others purchasing them back and returning them to Placitas.

Mr. Fish reminded the meeting that the initial draft he referenced is merely a beginning point for future considerations, and the draft Mr. Fish referenced has since been posted under the Resources and Reports section here: <https://www.sandovalcountynm.gov/placitas-horses/>

**9. Presentation by Dr. Anne Hale, DVM, with Q&A:**

<b>Presentation</b>	<b>Applicable Action(s)</b>
Please see Dr. Hale’s Power Point presentation posted under the Resources and Reports section here: <a href="https://www.sandovalcountynm.gov/placitas-horses/">https://www.sandovalcountynm.gov/placitas-horses/</a>	Non-action item.

Dr. Hale provided her contact information (see last slide of Power Point) should anyone wish to contact her with questions in the future.

**10. Public Comment:**

<b>Public Comment</b>	<b>Applicable Action(s)</b>
<p>Public comment provided by those listed on the posted Public Comment sign in sheet, with their statements summarized below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Martin Clifton shared that he’s an equestrian of 65 years and has lived in Placitas for the last 25 years. He stated strong opposition to any Ordinance or Council suggestion that a home owner should build a fence if they don’t want free roaming horses on their property.</li> <li>• Gary Miles shared a number of concerns, including what he felt were Open Meetings Act violations, allegations against others during the Richardson Administration, query over cattle guards, and general criticism of the Council and the County.</li> <li>• Lynn Montgomery stated that he’s lived in Placitas for 50 years and is an avid Naturalist possessing strong concerns for the way that the horses adversely impact the land and other wildlife.</li> <li>• Carolyn Kennedy stated that she has concerns about public safety and that she is in favor of a park or preserve for the horses.</li> <li>• Mike Neas stated that he doesn’t know of anyone possessing a “horse bias” and went on to share a number of concerns including strong opposition to any “fence out” recommendation. He stated that he felt certain nonprofits intentionally create “drama” to help increase donations, he stated general criticism towards the Council for not following its bylaws, he had targeted</li> </ul>	<p>Everyone was again reminded that they may provide comment in writing at any time through the Council webpage contained on the County website (<a href="https://www.sandovalcountynm.gov/placitas-horses/">https://www.sandovalcountynm.gov/placitas-horses/</a>), where they can also sign up to be included on the Interested Parties listserv, and also notice SCSO about horse incidents.</p>

questions for Dr. Hale, and he reported about alleged fence-cutting incidents from the past.

- Doris Forshee stated that the Placitas environment cannot support the free roaming horses and that she felt some of the presented solutions were one-sided (build a fence, use repellent, etc) and that the “horse advocates” weren’t offering any compromises such as adoption and related. She also did not feel that a horse wildlife park would occur within the near future.
- Roberta Nurnberg shared concerns about San Felipe’s eviction of the Placitas Wild horses and also reported “kill buyer” adoption fees of <\$150 by the organization where many were rehomed. She would like to galvanize a group to possibly buy them back. She then seemingly responded to an earlier public comment about alleged past incidents of fence cutting.

**11. Adjourn – The Meeting adjourned at appx. 10:55a**