

## **Summary Report from the Equestrian and Livestock Working Group to the Parks and Recreation Board for FY2025 (December 2025)**

*The Equestrian and Livestock Working Group (ELWG) was established by the Parks and Recreation Board in its FY2024 Work Plan. The purpose of the ELWG is to assist and advise the PRB to review current parks and recreation programs and facilities in the county to determine and advise additional needs, and submit recommendations pertaining to parks and recreation guidelines, policies, facilities and user fees to the PRB for further consideration and possible action. The following summarizes the group's accomplishments in FY2025.*

### **Task 1: Recruiting**

Recruiting efforts continue but have had limited success. ELWG reached out to Stable Owners who wanted to set up a program for weekly horse roping sessions at Brewer arena. ELWG tried to start a roping working group with Daniel Romero, Avvy Martin and Chris Bussel. ELWG provided answers to the Ropers questions about reserving the arena and insurance and permits.

### **Task 2: Review and recommend Processes**

The ELWG worked and gave recommendations to streamline and clarify the processes to utilize the North Mesa Equestrian Facilities. The Equestrian community wants to provide classes to reach out to beginning riders and other members of the community who want to ride horses. There are riders who want to have concession agreements or teaching permits and cannot obtain them. These are some of the issues that the ELWG is trying to clarify.

### **Task 3: ELWG reviewed several Publications, and websites and gave recommendations.**

\*ELWG gave updates and edits to **Rec Trac/WebTrac**. The website has not been updated and is still not accurate.

\*After reviewing the website to register for the **Los Alamos County Horse Show**, ELWG reported that registering online for the gymkhana or horse show was not possible. ELWG also provided suggestions on horse show classes. If the goal of the county is to increase participation in the gymkhanas and horse show, the information needs broader dissemination, and easier registration.

\*ELWG reviewed and recommended clarification on the fees for Stable Lots on **North Mesa on Form 1735**. The PRB voted unanimously to adopt the clarification, and additional changes were made at county council meeting.

ELWG members have reviewed proposals for the **North Mesa Recreation Plan, The North Mesa Turf Field Realignment and Framework Plan, and the Open Space and Trails Plan**. ELWG noted that there is a lack of coordinated information and planning between all CSC North Mesa Projects.

#### **North Mesa Recreation Master Plan:**

ELWG attended the listening sessions and worked with other user groups on March 26<sup>th</sup> (zoom) April 17<sup>th</sup> (Fuller Lodge) and July 22<sup>nd</sup> (Fuller Lodge) with Site Southwest and provided feedback:

\*In general, ELWG and equestrian preferred Option B with Bike Park further to the west

\*A barrier is necessary between stable area and park. Possibly a privacy fence as opposed to trees since the gardeners do not want trees near new additional garden plots

\*Improvements to existing areas should be addressed before building new elements to the park

\*move the accessible path to the natural open space area to the east

\*Location of the park maintenance area in the location of the garden area (maybe put in another location because of the gardener's objection)

\*Maintenance area access from the park and not the stable area

#### **Open Space and Trails Master Plan:**

ELWG gave input to the Open Space and Trails Master plan, and suggestions for the North Mesa Picnic Master Plan. A detailed review of the Open Space and Trails Master Plan was provided in the ELWG Aug 6<sup>th</sup> Report to the PRB. A bridle path suitable for horses to access the round-about and Bayo Canyon in the winter when the YCC trail and waterboard trail is not usable should be considered in this plan. ELWG attended the OSWG meeting on Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> and arranged to walk a possible winter trail access into Bayo Canyon with OSWG on Oct 28<sup>th</sup>. Three potential trail maps were developed. ELWG members attended OSWG meeting on Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss the options. Both OSWG members and ELWG joined together to develop a trail plan to presented to the PRB at the Dec 11<sup>th</sup> meeting

#### ***Task 4: Review and Recommend actions for the Safety and Welfare of Livestock***

ELWG recommended having an Emergency Management Plan for the Stables. The Emergency Plan should include Wildland fire experts to set up a plan in case of a fire or a disease outbreak.

#### ***Task 5: Submit recommendations pertaining to parks and recreation guidelines, policies, facilities***

ELWG attended Aug 7<sup>th</sup> (zoom) meeting, Jan 16<sup>th</sup> (Fuller Lodge) listening sessions and asked for vault toilets instead of plumbing to be installed in the ADA improved restrooms. Also, ELWG asked about the reason the bleachers were being expanded? From the documents presented there were several questions about the bleacher placement and slope and seating. Also, there was objection to a concrete sidewalk that horses would have to walk across in icy winter months. Members asked if another material could be used for the sidewalk. From Jan – Sept, despite numerous requests, the plans had not been provided to ELWG or the PRB. On Oct 7<sup>th</sup>, ELWG noticed that Brewer Arena Improvements showed up on the County Council Consent Agenda to establish a Project budget in the amount of \$2,710,000. (Agreement No.AGR-22-18a.) ELWG attended the Council Meeting and explained that this had not gone through the PRB or ELWG. Council voted and passed a motion to return the project to the PRB and LASOA for further review. Staff called a Special PRB session with LASOA on Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>. ELWG and LASOA prepared a presentation for the PRB that explained how many attempts ELWG and LASOA requested the plans for the Brewer Arena Project from FY24 and FY25 with no results. At the PRB special session, Linda Mattison said she would organize a meeting with Wilson and Company, and LASOA and ELWG and the county staff. Several concerns about the bleacher size, slope, and alignment with the chutes, fencing concerns, parking, access to gates, the ADA sidewalk materials as well as the press box were discussed. Many questions were answered. ELWG attended the PRB meeting and gave feedback to Mr. Russell Naranjo's updated presentation Brewer Arena project at the PRB meeting for the Nov 13<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Cowen gave input on the size of the bleachers and the cost breakdown for additional roof coverage and the increase in the height to allow the bottom row the ability to see over the fence. There was additional comment on the asphalt surface requiring a rough surface to prevent horses slipping. On Dec 5<sup>th</sup>, the County held a zoom meeting to discuss the asphalt and other issues with ELWG. The PRB voted to recommend the Brewer Arena improvements go to the County Council for their review at the Dec 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

In the upcoming FY26 ELWG will develop a North Mesa Equestrian Facilities, Arenas, and Stables Master Plan.

Respectfully Submitted,

ELWG Members,

Jerry Cowan (PRB), Lisa Reader, Wendy Burke Ryan, Donna Hayden, Diane Wiburn, and Cathy Miller