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Submitted on: Wednesday, August 13, 2025 at 10:59am

- First Name: Carter
- Last Name: Bundy
- Your Email Address: [carterbundy@yahoo.com](mailto:carterbundy@yahoo.com)
- Your District: District 1
- Meeting Date: 08/13/2025
- Section of Agenda you would like to comment on: Public Comment
- Your Comment: Public Comment from Carter Bundy at SF City Council, Aug. 13, 2025

Mr. Mayor, Councilors, my name is Carter Bundy. My family lives half a mile from Magers Field—the crown jewel of New Mexico’s urban parks. We love it and so does our community of every race, ethnicity, age, and background. We also love Zozobra. We have Zozobra parties, watch Old Man Gloom burn, and wear Zozo swag.

But parks and quality of life matter, too. Instead of a shady oasis, the view from Magers Field is now cinderblock and corrugated metal, light stanchions, power poles, power lines, barren dirt, and chain link fences.

Mr. Mayor, I admired your promise to combine non-government expertise with public transparency. I’m sad you caved to Kiwanis, but the worst part is the lack of transparency, the lack of thorough questions, and handing over power we entrusted to you to a private group with no oversight and not one public meeting or vote.

Kiwanis does good things but they haven’t been elected to govern Santa Fe. Their desire for a larger space and ultimately more revenue is understandable. But that’s not the same as the public’s interest in balancing Zozobra with quality of life the other 364 days of the year.

Let’s be clear: the trees presented no public safety threat. Anyone who has ever been to a concert knows people get closer until they are stopped. Even if some people with

strollers stay back as Ray Sandoval speculates, thousands will crowd as close as they can. Any insurance company knows that's true. Safety was a phony pretext for a rushed timeline to bully the city into a terrible choice.

Our skepticism is justified. A few years ago, Ray cajoled his employer PNM to issue a similar ultimatum that if trees weren't slashed, there'd be unstoppable fires from power lines. But in THAT case, there WAS transparency and public input, resulting in a better solution to trim trees.

Going forward, restore transparency by releasing all communications between Kiwanis and the insurance company, and all City communications. Take back control of this public gem from private hands. And restore the majestic stand of trees that made Magers Field a magical oasis. Artificial shade structures and saplings planted elsewhere aren't close to the same. Zozobra and mature trees safely co-existed for generations and should again. Thank you.