##

## San Marcos District Planning Process

## Kick-Off Meeting Summary 3.28.18

## Context

 The San Marcos Planning Committee formed out of the planning initiative authorized by Resolution 2017-93. The San Marcos Planning Committee will be meeting monthly on the last Wednesday of each month, from 6-7:30pm, at the Turquoise Trail Elementary School Library. The goal of this Committee is to create a community planning process guided by the Sustainable Growth Management Plan that reflects diverse representation by providing information and receiving public input on the planning process. The group aspires to include a wide geographical representation of property owners, residents, business owners and other stakeholders such as equestrian, agriculture, arts, and small business communities. This March 2018 meeting was the second in a year-long process that began in February 2018. There were 17 participants in attendance.

## Meeting Summary

Santa Fe County Planning Staff opened the meeting with brief introductions and an overview of committee participation. Guidelines for the committee include: moving towards group consensus, respect for diverse opinions, and active listening. The committee was encouraged to invite other District residents or stakeholders who would help broaden their perspective. The participants were also informed of alternative participation options, including reviewing draft plan documents on the San Marcos website[[1]](#footnote-1) or possibly forming working groups to collaborate and develop material between Planning Committee meetings.

Staff then reviewed the February 28th meeting and resulting documents, giving an overview of the County’s planning and policy-making framework. Staff reiterated the overarching schedule and goals for the San Marcos Planning Process and described the steps needed to move through the timeline quickly and efficiently.

 Participants received the Issues and Vision documents via email on March 21st in order to prepare for the group activity before the meeting. For this month’s exercise, the Committee members split into two groups, each facilitated by two Planning Staff. Each group was tasked with connecting the Issues and Visions generated in the previous meeting. Groups were provided envelopes containing strips of blue and yellow paper printed with Issues and Visions. Staff provided examples of related Issues and Visions and the Connecting Actions that could help the District move closer to realizing their Visions. Staff explained that committee members would generate their own Connecting Actions which would evolve to become foundational to the Plan’s Objectives, Action Items, Recommendations and Plan Elements. The group found overarching themes in the Issues and Visions. For example, one group brainstormed ideas for how to support the types of local business development that they would like to see in San Marcos. The other group thought of intriguing ways to engage people in road-side clean up and to encourage more recycling activities. The groups also delved more deeply into the current environment for equestrian uses both commercial and personal, as well as water use and availability throughout the District. The goal of this exercise was not only to begin developing the Connecting Actions that will form the building-blocks of the plan, but also to think more deeply about the Issues and Visions as they were originally stated by the group.

 Concluding the meeting, the two groups reconvened and presented their work to each other, finding overlapping connections and ideas. Planning staff will post materials for the April 25th meeting on the San Marcos website along with the meeting reminder that will go out to the group via email on April 18th.

1. <https://www.santafecountynm.gov/growth_management/community_planning_center/san_marcos> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)