

Pojoaque Valley Planning Committee Meeting Summary
Thursday, October 12, 2006 6:30pm – 8:30pm
Sammy Quintana Community Board Room

(Note: This is a meeting summary and is not intended to give the meeting contents in its entirety. If you would like to get more details about the meeting, please contact either a committee member who was present at the meeting, or the SF County Planning staff.)

The meeting was opened by David Dogruel at about 6:40pm.

News from the Committee

David D. said that he saw requests for bids for building speed humps on the County website. Some of the roads that have been designated are located in the Pojoaque Valley.

David said that the Fire Station pancake breakfast and car show was successful, although it did not raise a great deal of money. They served about 150 people throughout the day. The upcoming Fireman's Ball on November 18th is usually their successful fundraiser. The price is \$20 per single person or per couple. Tequila Rain will be playing for this event. David said they are also looking for donations of artwork to be auctioned off at this event.

David encouraged us to vote for the quarter percent County Gross Receipts Tax which is earmarked for County Fire Emergency Services, but would benefit both the City and the County. The County will pick up the tab for Emergency Services, hire more paid firefighters and EMT personnel so that fire stations can be fully staffed and response time can be improved.

Carlos reported on a Soil and Water Conservation District will fund a project in Cuyamungue to remove Salt Cedar and Russian Olive trees along Acequia de Los Ojitos area. These non-native plants use a lot of water. They are using a few methods to remove them – cutting, treating and uprooting the trees, with a follow up the next year to make sure they do not return. A grant application to the Soil and Water Conservation District earlier in the year had not been funded, but some money left over from other projects was made available. Levi commented that these trees cause increased erosion by growing out into the river and narrowing the channel. Water flows more quickly through the narrowed channel and erodes the river bottom.

Margie Lujan de la Fuente attended our meeting and expressed interest in joining the group. She is especially unhappy about graffiti and trash dumped near her on the western end of 84D. The trash is dumped on Indian-claimed land right near the boundary. Mary Lou suggested that we organize a community clean-up, as we have done in the past. She also suggested putting up thought-provoking signs to discourage littering and dumping. Levi suggested that she contact the BIA, and gave her contact information. Jack said that one of our goals is to create a local entity that you can go to with issues like this.

Towards the end of the meeting Superintendent Toni Trujillo arrived and invited us to a Board Meeting on Wednesday, November 8th at which the School Board's Utilization Study for the old school campus will be presented. The meeting starts at 5:00pm, but this item will probably not be discussed until 6:00pm. Toni told us that the growth of the school population has leveled off, and added that they are not accepting many out-of-district students. She also told us that she is recovering well from her recent surgery.

News from the County

Jack has been promoted to Land Use Director for the County. A new Planning Division Director will be hired. Jack plans to continue to work with us until the plan is finished. Renee Villarreal will also continue working with us. Robert Griego, who has worked with the committee in the past, may fill in for Jack when he cannot attend.

Action Plans

There was more discussion about how to include the section about an expanded LDRC (Valley Council) in our plan. Elaine pointed out that the first steps in all of the other Actions were things that would be done by the Council. However, in the section about the Council, the first steps were things that needed to be done in order to authorize and create the Council itself. She felt that we should spell out more detail about the mission, responsibilities, structure, and membership criteria for the Council. There was a lot of discussion of this point. We agreed that we should move material from the First Steps section to the Background and Justification section, and clarify that we are not creating a new charter but simply amending the existing Land Use Code section pertaining to the authorization of an LRDC. Later in the meeting, Elaine suggested that the current Action "Create an entity that looks after the interests of the Valley ..." should not be in Goal 3, but should be in a section by itself, either at the beginning or end of the plan. There was not enough time to discuss this idea.

We looked at Action 3B "Create a Youth Council." We agreed that we should change this to "Consider creating a Youth Council." We also went through sections of Action 3C, concerning Addressing community problems in collaboration with governmental agencies". We worked on the first steps for this Action, but will need to complete this section at the next meeting.

Next meeting:

We ended the meeting at about 8:45pm. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 26th.