

Pojoaque Valley Planning Committee Meeting Summary
Thursday, June 22, 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 another committee member that was present at the meeting, or the SF County Planning staff.)

The meeting was opened by David Dogruel at about 6:40pm. He was assisted by County Planning Staff, Jack Kolkmeier and Renee Villarreal.

Communications from the Committee/County:

Broadband Internet

Chuck reported on the status of the petition to Qwest to investigate DSL for the Valley. Ben Ray Lujan's assistant, Jennifer, contacted Lee Baca at Qwest and learned that only 70 numbers, out of the 400 or so on the petitions, qualified for DSL. This is just a few short of the 75 needed. Ben Ray said that he would try to get another 10 or so names. Chuck asked Jennifer to find out which names qualified and which did not. Carl pointed out that the reason such a small percentage of phones qualify is because of the type of hardware Qwest installs. Many telephones are set up using pair gain which makes DSL impossible. *(Note from Elaine: I learned from Zia Net that it is possible to circumvent this problem if there is enough room in the boxes holding the hardware.)* Chuck remarked that even if we had gotten 75 qualified numbers, it still would only force Qwest to do an economic analysis.

Carl reported that he was happy with his Grappa installation. He gets good tech support and a faster connection than DSL would provide at a price of \$60 a month.

David Dogruel suggested that we try to get this reported in the New Mexican. Chuck agreed, but said we should wait for the outcome of the petition and what Qwest is going to decide to do with our request.

Nambe Plate for Diane Boissevain

David Dogruel delivered the engraved plate to Diane just before she moved. She loved it, and said she would find a special place for it in her new home.

Fireworks

In response to a request from Amelia Garcia, David Dogruel gave us a report on laws affecting fireworks. The BCC (Board of County Commissioners) has declared burn restrictions on County land and a ban on the selling of fireworks in the unincorporated areas of the County. Naturally, this does not affect the City of Santa Fe or the Pueblo lands. The Fire Marshall always contacts the Tribal councils about this issue, but so far, action has never been taken. The restrictions limit outdoor welding and grinding, as well as burning, and restrict the types of fireworks that may be used. If we see illegal burning or use of fireworks, we can call 911 to report these issues.

L-Wing of High School

Amelia had also asked David Dogruel about the status of the L-Wing of the old High School. David has requested an update from the Superintendent. He believes the fact that we have not heard much on this issue is a good sign – if there had been any red flags raised, we would have heard about them. He remarked that we need to be careful not to propose anything that would cause the school to lose funding. State funding for this project might be counted as a contribution to the school district. We should consider using County money or a private grant to fund our community/education center.

Jacona Land Grant

There was an update and discussion regarding the Jacona Land Grant and their recent board meeting held on April 30th.

Highway 84/285 north of Pojoaque

David Dogruel noted that Renee had sent out email regarding information about the final design for the road reconstruction on 84/285. Among other things, there will be a traffic light where CR 109 meets the highway. For more information about the project, call Carlos Padilla from the Louis Berger Group at (505) 235-2790.

Action Plans for the Plan Document:

Renee has prepared drafts of the Action Plans for two of our goals – “Create Public Places that Can Support Community and Serve our Youth” and “Insure a Clean Water Supply.” We spent the remainder of the meeting working on the first of these.

Jack said that we have agreed on the goals and actions, but we need to nail down the steps we need to take. The plan needs to be clear so we have a guide for dealing with future challenges. We need to be specific, and have a time frame and benchmarks.

Elaine said that we need to think about who we are writing the plan for. We agreed that above all, we need to write a plan that is acceptable to the Community. Second, the plan must be acceptable to the BCC. Finally, the plan must provide clear guidance for its implementation.

We were able to complete the first two actions on the sheet fairly quickly, in large part because we have already started work on these projects. These actions were providing a multi-purpose community center for education and community-oriented programs and events and creating a connected trail system that will also serve as a running course for the Pojoaque Valley High School sports teams. The third action to “provide community support for a quality education and create more job opportunities and recreation for Valley youth” was more difficult.

One issue was that we weren't sure how the County, through the mechanism of a Plan, could support education – education is the responsibility of the school system, not the County. One comment was that if we could increase the tax base that could have a positive effect on the school system. Another thought was that the community could provide experiences that would enrich children's experiences outside of school. One suggestion along these lines was a Youth Service Corps, which may or may not be in place at this time, which could also provide job opportunities.

Another phase of the discussion focused on that fact that we do not know what young people want. We discussed the possibility of bringing some kids to one of our meetings to discuss this. Amelia suggested that we bring a range of kids, not just the high achievers. Karen remarked that just asking kids' opinions is not enough. They may not have had enough experience to think of things that they would appreciate or want. We decided not to invite kids to the next meeting because we need to be better prepared to work with them. Another issue was that several people felt that this Action combined too many different issues. It was suggested that we break the Action up into three separate actions.

We agreed to revisit these issues at the next meeting. Elaine agreed to contact Mary Lou Williams because she has a special interest in these issues. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 13th at the Sammy Quintana Community Board Room from 6:30pm to 8:30pm.

Notes by E.B. and R.V.