

Pojoaque Valley Planning Committee Meeting Notes
January 13th, 2005 6:30pm – 8:30pm
PV Administrative Building

The meeting started at 6:40pm. David Dogruel chaired the meeting, with the assistance of Jack Kolkmeyer, Planning Director for SF County, and Renee Villarreal, Community Planner. David announced that the committee should take a look at the revisions made to the PVPC website. It is still in the process of being reworked, but slowly we will get it updated as we move forward with the committee planning process. David added that there will be a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section that he is already working on. He solicited input from the rest of the committee to look at some of the questions he came up with, and he hopes that people will write down some of their own ideas about what to add to this section. He also asked that the committee also think about how they want to explain the planning process in a clear and simplified way. David said that the committee needs to have a person willing to volunteer to do notetaking to alternate with Renee once in a while. Robert Ullrich commended Renee on taking clear notetaking.

During the holiday break, David said he met on a couple occasions with Carl and his staff, and Jack and Renee. The meetings were held to discuss ways to get more people involved and what process would work best to elicit more participation. The group also met with the New Mexican to see how all of us could work collectively to promote and advertise the PVPC meetings and the community planning process in general.

The group then discussed the recent decision of the federal government to not provide any funding needed to help bring the Aamodt settlement to a close. David said he thinks they will be headed towards litigation, but no one knows for sure.

Mary Louise Williams pleaded with the group to have someone from the committee apply for the Open Space position with COLTPAC. She said if anyone is interested, to please send in the application to Roman Abeyta in the County Manager's office.

David Duran presented to the committee about the possibility of relocating his business to Pojoaque Valley on a piece of property that would require a variance. Right now the area is zoned as residential. The County told him to ask the opinion of the committee to hear what they had to say. The committee discussed the details of his business. David Dogruel said although the committee can share opinions about this subject they cannot make the final decisions. Eventually the planning committee will become a development review body that will be able to identify and change commercial and/or residential zones in the Valley. Mary Louise added that she felt what he wanted to do was great, especially because it is consist with the mission statement of the committee to maintain the rural character. Commissioner Montoya added that it will be easier in the future to go through a planning committee if a community plan is established rather than asking for a variance independently.

David Duran added that with his business, jobs could be generated here in the Valley instead of going to Santa Fe, or the other surrounding cities. Group members said that not only is there a strong precedence for this kind of business, but it has economic potential.

The committee decided that if David Duran drafted up a letter of support, those committee members who chose to, could sign the letter.

Renee announced that because of the hard work and persistence of Amelia and Mary Louise to get Sheriff Solano to start to take action on the problems with graffiti, he has decided to hold a community meeting on the subject. Sheriff Solano will address the issue in an informational meeting for the adults and parents of the Valley to discuss ways to prevent graffiti. He will give a presentation and then have a question and answer session after. Renee asked if the end of February or the beginning of March would be better for the presentation to take place. The committee agreed that March would work better, especially because the community-wide forum will be held at the end of February.

Mary Louise added that she has photos of graffiti examples occurring in the Valley, and offered them as a visual reference if Sheriff Solano and his staff need them. David D. said that Pojoaque Pueblo is also actively working on this issue in their jurisdiction so maybe Sheriff Solano would like to collaborate with them for the presentation. He also said that a local artist in the Valley, T.C. Williams is working with the County to have a graffiti cleanup trailer. Williams is willing to donate supplies to paint over graffiti in the area. Commissioner Montoya also added that a Graffiti Response Team has been created to address the concerns of the Valley. For more information, please contact Frank Jaramillo at 986-6200.

Facilitator Carl Moore and his colleague Lynne Canning attended the meeting to review what was discussed at the last meeting in December. Carl talked about the tentatively scheduled all-day community-wide forum that we would like to have at the end of February. He said we will need to put together a fact sheet on what work we have been doing. We will ask other community members what they think we should be doing as well.

The committee talked about where the meeting should take place. Group members proposed the Multi-Purpose Room at the new elementary, the new high school library, the multi-purpose at the Frank B. Lopez gym, and the Sports Bar, among others. Renee said she would look into what space is available and appropriate for an all-day meeting. The committee decided that it will be a potluck, and the Carl may be able to provide the beverages.

The group talked about publicizing the meeting and getting community members interested in attending. A group member said that using the water situation as a way to attract people to the meeting will help, but we need to especially stress that it is not just about water. Carl asked the group to start thinking of a slogan and a logo for the committee. The group threw around a few ideas for the slogan. David D. proposed that they have a student logo contest in the schools to get students to create the logo. The rest of the group agreed that this would be the best way to get community input. Mary Louise agreed to get a hold of the art teacher at the school and see if the classes would be interested in this project/contest.

The group brainstormed about ways to get the word out other than getting help from the New Mexican. The group suggested the following:

- Radio advertisement

- Posting fliers at the Wellness Center, Grocery Store, Post Office, Home Run Pizza, the Sports Bar, Kokoman, etc.
- Church bulletin
- Flyers sent home with school kids
- Elementary School website
- School marquee
- Hand out Blitz at the Grocery Store the day before the meeting – set up a booth
- Rio Grande Sun and Journal North

Carl said a good way to lead up to the community-wide forum would be to have focus groups to talk about the issues of the Valley in a more intimate and more comfortable setting. Some of the committee members can help to convene these focus groups. These meetings will give us good insight from community members that do not participate in the PVPC and it will also help us to market the community-wide forum. The focus groups will not just be formulated from the original stakeholders identified, but also be made up of regular citizens from the Valley. He added that the work that has been done by the committee has been done on a set of beliefs. Now we need to test them and move forward with more input from the community as a whole. The committee suggested the following focus groups:

- Neighborhood associations
- Acequia Association representatives and/or mayordomos of the Valley
- Youth group – Pueblo and non-Pueblo alike
- Farming community – large and small scale (gardening included)
- Senior Citizen group
- Business Owners/Artisans group

Carl Berney asked if the same information would be presented and discussed in each group. Carl M. said that there will be a common set of questions that will be asked, but the discussion will be shaped for the type of group to which we will be talking.

Chuck Berger said that we should create a phone tree and market the community-wide forum in this way, but also get input about what is important to the people we talk to. Carl M. said we will need to formulate the survey first, and then decide how to proceed.

The group discussed the three questions that we want to answer in order to better market future meetings and get more community members engaged. They were:

- 1) What would you choose to emphasize in a brief history of the Valley?
- 2) Why should people care about the planning process? Why does planning matter?
- 3) What are the key findings that are the most important to emphasize?

Carl said that the Valley ultimately needs to consider ways in which they would like to control their future.

David Duran added that he thinks this planning process is important. He said the reality is that we are “las tres gentes” and like it or not, we have to work together.

The next meeting will be held January 27th, 2005 at 6:30pm in the PV Admin. Building.

R.V.