

Pojoaque Valley Planning Committee Meeting Summary
February 10th, 2005 6:30pm – 8:30pm
PV Administrative Building

The meeting started at 6:30pm. Jack Kolkmeier and Renee Villarreal from Santa Fe County started the meeting without Chairman David Dogruel because he was going to be late. The committee discussed the location for the community-wide forum for Saturday, February 26th. Carlos Ortiz said that the event can be held at the Parish Hall and they will have an alternative space if something comes up. Carl Moore, Lynne Canning and Renee talked about the Senior Center focus group turnout. Fifteen to twenty people were part of the discussion. There was also a focus group for the Road 115 neighborhood association that was conducted by Carl and Renee. Carl conducted a focus group discussion with the committee to give them an idea about what he had been asking community members.

The first question he asked was if there was one thing that we could change in the Valley, what would it be. The group came up with the following comments:

- Trail system and conservation easement
- No graffiti
- Achieve parity with the tribes to work together towards common goals
- Want traditional community to be active and alive
- Want security by way of community – to look out for each other
- Keep our wells – implement a regional wastewater system to protect our groundwater
- Want a multi-purpose community center that has lots of activities – including dances and other social events
- Want to hear the voices in the community that haven't been heard and the issues that haven't come up for the community-wide forum
- Take right of way issues and jurisdiction to Congress
- County roads and Tribal Roads need to be clear
- Pojoaque Pueblo to be accessible outside of Pueblo to the rest of the Valley for dialogue and discussions
- Regional planning group
- Enough water to irrigate

When Carl asked what the group would like to stay the same, these were the following comments:

- The view shed
- Keep a system to irrigate the land
- The watershed – and the tri-cultural traditions of the community
- The Bosque – preserve them
- Low density of homes
- Open Space
- Use of the river corridor throughout the Valley

Carl asked if the group agreed if the following were the most important themes in maintaining a high quality of life for families now and for future generations:

1. *Preserve the rural character, history, and culture of the Valley.*

The majority of the group said yes. However, one group member said in order to keep the young people in the Valley, we need to have jobs available. This means giving up open space and resources for some type of industry in order to bring jobs here.

Other comments were:

- Need to maximize our benefit, and minimize our debit.
- We need to have places to live – if we can have a place where only the rich can live, then it does not preserve the culture and history of the area.

2. Improve land use controls and community services to help manage growth:

The group all agreed about the importance of this theme. These were some of the comments:

- Interestingly everything going on around us is mostly out of our control
- Will the resorts/hotels be thriving in the future, or become empty shells?
- Controls have to sit with a community that has some authority
- People living in the Valley all their lives want paved roads, and the newcomers want to keep the dirt roads.

3. Protect and strengthen harmonious relationships between neighbors, including our Pueblo neighbors:

The group all agreed on this importance. Below were some of the comments:

- I was born and raised on the outskirts of San Ildefonso. There has been a constant deterioration of relationships between Indians and non-Indians, but when I was growing up, we all got along.
- I want to welcome the Pueblos with open arms and with dialogue – but I don't know if this will happen.

People in the group said that the reason they think relationships have deteriorated is because of the “all-mighty dollar”, the fact that people are busier now and work longer hours, and that the lawyers are the ones that communicate for our community. There is less dialogue – it all becomes legalistic, and friendship becomes secondary. Some relationships still exist but some feel superficial now.

Carl asked if the group thought there were any other themes that they felt were important. The group added:

- Not enough community participation because of time constraints, cynicism against the County and the ability to organize the community.
- We need to get those critical people involved, at the meetings, and on our side.
- Decentralization is occurring in the Valley. There is no political organization. Acequias are the only entity of this kind with some power. But now acequias are becoming less important to some people who turn their property from irrigable land into housing.

Jack stated that there could be a way to elect a formal board that could represent the Valley to the County and the Pueblos. David Ortiz said that maybe we need an authority that is made up of the community. We have an acequia district - we have a school district - why couldn't we have a planning district? Jack said this is a possibility – the group would need to outline what people want to take responsibility for.

DON'T FORGET!!!

*****The next meeting before the Saturday community forum will be
Thursday, February 24th, 2005 at the PV Admin. Building from 6:30pm – 8:30pm.*****