

Pojoaque Valley Planning Committee Meeting Notes
August 12th, 2004, 6:30-8:30pm
PV Administrative Building

The meeting commenced at 6:40pm. Vicente Roybal-Jasso chaired the meeting. He was assisted by Jack Kolkmeier, Santa Fe County Planning Director, and Renee Villarreal, Planning Graduate Intern.

Vicente announced that there will be a code-rewrite meeting on Tuesday, August 24th here at the PV Administrative Building. This will give the Valley an opportunity to voice their opinion about what they feel is important regarding the current SF County Land Use Code. Jack clarified by saying that the code is what sets rules and regulations for land use. It might work that the re-write would coincide with our community plan, or possibly precede our plan. However we will have an opportunity to create a Local Development Review Committee (LDRC) that reviews all new land use projects in the area after a plan is created. Potentially this entity can become extremely important. Other communities in the County that have formed a LDRC's; some are very active, and other are not.

Vicente welcomed old and new members and commented that it was nice to see a good turn out for the meeting. Vicente asked what Jack would like to communicate to the committee. Jack said that he would like to look at the schedule for the committee because there may be some changes to it. The meeting scheduled for September 16th falls on the same day as the second day of Rosh Hashanah. If we need to change the meeting day in observance of this Holiday we will do it. Please let SF County know if this date will or will not work for you.

Jack also said that he thought we should take on water as a subcommittee. This group will need to form opinions and clarify the water issues to get accurate information. Jack asked for opinions from the group as to what the sequence of topics should be for the next few months.

David Dogruel stated that it would not give us enough time in one night to finish certain SWOTs, especially for the Water and Wastewater SWOTs. He said he thought that we should invite the Water Alliance when we talk about these subjects, however we will not preclude that people will get on their soapbox. Jack said that if our committee leads this discussion in the format that we have been, it may help the process to be more effective and efficient. It becomes a challenge when we want to devise a strategy that pertains to water and wastewater. However we have to remember that the Water Alliance does not have the authority to devise strategies for land use. And we also have to remember that the Pueblos also have a different authority than what this committee has.

Jack continued by saying that maybe the committee will need to do a whole meeting in which to address the facts first. This may actually take 2 to 3 meetings to do this.

Levi Valdez said that we need to have Doug Sayre, (Utilities Deputy Director) involved; especially because of the questions of the water fairs and testing. Jack said some of the results have been sent, but not from the Nambe fair. Carl Berney mentioned that the Valley has received the preliminary tests, but not from LANL.

David felt that we should move the Water SWOTs to the fall and move Open Space and Economic Development up earlier in the schedule. Elaine Best inquired if the next meeting on August 26th would be the day to do this. She suggested moving the water and wastewater sections down the schedule also.

Carl asked if it was too grandiose to think that it's going to take a long time. His feeling was that people will come in with an agenda for the water/wastewater meetings. People may come in from a different perspective – an agenda of their own. However we have a history in our meetings and there is a lot of substance and background that they have missed with us. We will need to put them up to speed about what the committee has been doing and working on. Jack asked what the group how they would suggest doing this. Carl said that we will need to take extra time to talk about the mission of the committee. Jack said he thinks that we should define the facts and lay out the ideas so we can clarify what we have done. He added that maybe we shouldn't worry too much about the end result right away. Vicente added that he believes that we need to take the lead on the subject at hand.

A committee member stated that there are two unknowns in the water issue; first we do not know how much water is in the aquifer. The other unknown is that there is contention as to whether the wells hydrologically really do affect the surface water levels. The County is getting ready to do a hydrological study. Again even that is debatable. Levi added that it shouldn't take 20 years to find the amount of water in the aquifer.

Narciso stated that a study has never been done on this large of scale. Levi added that the State Engineer is scaring people and have a bias to do things that we don't necessarily want to do. Jack stated that we don't need to get into this so much right now, but we see where the problem lies with strategic planning on this subject. Vicente added that we should try our hardest to tackle this issue for this year.

Jack mentioned that Renee met with Governor George Rivera and that he said that he was supportive of our planning committee. However they will formulate an opinion about what they think of the plan when we come forth with a polished product.

Elaine asked if the community or even the Pueblos don't like our plan, then does mean our plan gets thrown out and all the work we've put into it. If we don't come to the same conclusions, then we are just going to get thrown out. Vicente said that this process has not been for waste. We have the support of community members – specifically Speaker Ben Lujan. Elaine then added that unless we come up with something persuasive, then it really doesn't matter that we have Ben Lujan's support.

Levi stated that's why this committee is so important; especially because of the political clout with the Aamodt settlement. Jack said that's why timing is so important and has to be strategic. That's why we need to get the schedule organized. On the same point, we need to have a community meeting to explain this information and what we've been working on. And also it will be crucial to provide the Pueblos with something tangible and organized.

Carl stated that there have been two instances recently where the Valley has come out in support or opposed to certain issues:

- The Rio Pojoaque Water Association has been able to settle an issue.
- The name of the school – both the Pueblo and the community came forth to voice their opinion as to what the school should be named.

As a community we need to build trust and also be organized so when we come in with our plan we know what we are talking about.

David added that arguing in principle to be strategic and precise is important. But we also have to be flexible and present options to the community. The community should have the opportunity to pick from options. Mary Louise agreed and added that we should show scenarios because people aren't able to project what is happening in any direction and scenarios may help this.

Vicente said that as far as this committee, he feels there isn't mistrust because of the work we have done. We are a legitimate group working for the community.

Doug Crosby added in regards to all the questions regarding water and the studies done, that there have been comprehensive studies that we should read. He said one in particular that was done was the Jemez y Sangre Water Study that lies out all the questions concerning surface water, recharge, the aquifer and other data that this committee has been asking about. One can download a copy of the study from the New Mexico North Central Economic Development District website. Vicente also added that there are Water Alliance individuals that are also well versed on this topic.

Mary Louise said that after all this discussion we need to move the Open Space/Economic Development to the next meeting date. Especially because currently there is a development called Thornton Ranch that is being proposed to put in half a million dollars for open space. Since we get taxed for open space, and we are trying to preserve open space the Valley, we need to fight for some of this money. She added that we should call Harry to vote against this so when we are making choices for open space, we will have some money to work with. The vote will be coming up in September.

The committee then began the continuation of the SWOT for Roads and Transportation. Renee said that she added everything that was discussed from the last meeting onto this most recent matrix. She explained that it has been very difficult trying to track down hard data from the Traffic Safety Bureau, and even from our own County Traffic Engineering Division in the Public Works Department. However she was able to get some data of accidents and other sheriff reports from 2000 to present. She said she will compile the information as share it with the committee as soon as possible. The group then was asked by Renee and Jack to use the maps of the Valley that were handed out and indicate what streets they considered hot spots for traffic accidents, traffic congestion, and pedestrian and vehicular conflicts. Renee asked to please be specific and write down the street names so we can compile the locations and give them to the various agencies to track down specific data for these areas.

Renee asked if anyone wanted to add any strategies to the list. Jack reminded the group that they should not assume that law enforcement is the only answer. He suggested in the future the committee should also consider a neighborhood watch problem or also meeting with the youth about the problem with speeding and other factors.

Narciso stated that there is a need to have better trails for bikes on 503 towards to the schools. He agreed that the entrance to the school bus for headstart in Nambe is very dangerous and is surprised a death hasn't occurred yet. Diane Boissevain asked if the Pojoaque Pueblo data from tickets are tracked. Renee and Jack said that is the main issue we deal with – lack of statistical information. However we are the best statistics – we know when and where accidents have occurred – even if this is not reflected in the data.

The committee took a short break and reconvened to start on the SWOT for History and Culture. The committee went through the Historical timeline that Renee prepared, and added and made changes to it. The committee was asked to think of significant dates that had a major impact on the area. (The next time we meet, the timeline will be updated with the changes). The committee also began identifying gathering places, landmarks, and other significant buildings in the Valley. These are some of the locations that were mentioned:

- Sociedad Protectivo Mutual de Trabajadores Unidos (S.P.M.D.T.U.)
- Pojoaque General Store – originally the Pablo Sena store
- El Rancho Bar
- El Rancho Community Center
- El Rancho Chapel – La Morada
- Red Rooster Bar
- Black Mesa – originally La Mesita Huerfana
- Nambe Mill – where wheat and corn were milled
- Serafín Store
- Nambe Mill –
- Rocky Mountain Bar – across from Ponce's
- El Adobe
- Line Camp
- Don Juan Playhouse
- Otowi Bridge/Crossing
- Pueblos – historical locations
- Churches – (names of past and present churches?)

The committee will continue with this SWOT for the next meeting (Aug 26th). We will also start the Open Space and Economic Development SWOT at this meeting.

The committee thanked Mary Louise for the cookies and lemonade. Vicente volunteered to bring a snack for the next meeting. The group also discussed the potluck that Diane Boissevain volunteered to host at her home. The consensus of the group was that Sunday, October 10th would be a good date to hold the potluck.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

Notes by R.V.