

Pojoaque Valley Planning Committee Meeting Notes
August 26th, 2004, 6:30-8:30pm
PV Administrative Building

The meeting commenced at 6:40pm and was chaired by Vicente Roybal-Jasso. He was assisted by Jack Kolkmeier, Santa Fe County Planning Director, and Renee Villarreal, County Planner. Vicente started the meeting by asking about what happened at the code re-write meeting that was held in Pojoaque on August 24th. David Ortiz said he was one of five people that showed up. All attendees were members of the PVPC with the exception of Rudy Garcia, Project Development Division Director, who also attended. David said that the group expressed concerns to Liza Vitale, Special Projects Coordinator for SF County, about maintaining the rural character of the Valley. The group also asked how the planning committee plan would fit in with the Code Rewrite and to what extent will the committee be involved in the development review process at the local level. He added that the formatting of the Code Rewrite was confusing because the page numbers were not consistent or correspond with the code numbers.

Vicente said that it is good for the Valley to have a voice in the Rewrite process. He said there were copies of the three modules of the Rewrite for the committee if they would like to look at them.

Jack said he met with Rudy and Liza after the Rewrite meeting. He said it is good that the committee made strong statements. We can keep rolling forward because eventually all this information will come together. We need to stay on the cause and our points of view will get heard.

David said one thing he is concerned about is how the vegetation ordinance reads, requiring a certain number of trees to be planted for new development. He said this is unfair because most people cannot afford complying with this requirement. Elaine Best added that this isn't feasible especially because of the water limitations in the Valley. She asked what would it mean if more stringent regulations on planting trees were put in place. David said it would mean less trees will be required to be planted.

Vicente asked if a Local Development Review Committee (LDRC) is something that the committee would like to see. David said yes because it will be very important. Vicente agreed but said we would need to be careful as to who represents the committee on the LDRC. Abuse of power may be a concern for someone that has pro-development interests.

Jack stated that it is true that issues come up on some of the other LDRCs of people who want to participate that have their own agenda. We may be able to set up a LDRC so that a representative would be from each of the respective communities that make up the Valley. But right now we need to focus on getting the plan done.

Vicente asked if there were other communications from the committee at this time. Diane Boissevain said that the community potluck will be held on October 10th at her home. She said that all we would need to coordinate is what we all are going to bring

and make sure it is a variety of foods. She also will need two people to direct traffic because parking gets a bit tricky at her house. She also commented on the concern for CR109 and its jurisdiction from the last meeting discussions. She clarified by explaining that the road is on Pueblo land, it is an arroyo, but the County maintains it. She talked more about access fees on this road and then the committee went on to other announcements. David reminded the group that the bond election was going to be on August 30th from 7am-7pm at the Frank B. Lopez Gym. The bond would be used for construction for an intermediate school and for a water/wastewater system for Jacona. This three million bond would have no increase on the rate.

SF County invited Paul Olafson, Open Space, Parks, and Trails Project Manager to speak about the function of this division. Paul mentioned that he used to part of the PVPC process at its first inception. He then handed out the SF County Open Land and Trails Plan and talked about the elements of the plan. He explained how the bonds got passed in 1998, enabling the County for the first time to acquire large tracts of land for conservation and recreation. The bonds also helped establish the Wildlife, Mountains, Trails, and Historic Places Program in order to preserve historic and natural areas. The bonds also helped to create the County Open Land and Trails Planning and Advisory Committee (COLTPAC). This committee is now made up of 13 members, 11 of them being voting members representing each of the various areas of the County.

Paul also discussed the role of his division and what they have been working on in regards to making trail connections throughout the County. The only County land that was purchased in the Valley has been the five-acre site located in El Rancho. This site will be preserved because it has ruins on it, associated with the San Ildefonso Pueblo. The Open Space division is trying to decide how this area will be interpreted. They are not sure if they should bring in archaeologists, pueblo experts, and see how the area ties into the overall history of the Valley. For the moment there are no immediate plans because of the sensitivity of the site.

Most of the projects that Open Space takes on however usually have a recreational component to them in the broad range of projects and properties. Vicente conferred saying that because he is one of the committee members on COLTPAC he has realized the diversity of projects that Open Space is a part of that deals with parks and recreational areas. Charlie Berger said that the Open Space in El Rancho also has potential to increase real estate values for those people adjacent to the site.

Paul also addressed the opportunity to continue working on improving and adding to the existing cross country trail which is part of one of the cultural corridor plans that the County is devising. Charlie asked if there was a safe guard so that the County cannot end up developing what they have designated as Open Space. Paul answered saying that there are no physical legal impediments but it is implicitly understood that property is purchased for open space. Paul said politically it would be hard to develop what is designated open space. Charlie stated that really there were no guarantees. Paul said no, however the public forum component for the process is put in place for this very reason.

David asked if the County has to own the property to designate it as open space. Paul said that they have two options: They can either be granted an easement to use a property as open space, or they can purchase the land in fee. These two options are permitted in accordance to the Anti-Donation Clause.

Paul talked more about the other connections for trail corridors throughout the County and how they would also connect the northern part of the County eventually. The way the connector trail would work in Pojoaque would first require the school to grant an easement and agree to maintain the cross-country part of the trail. Then BLM and Forest would need to be contacted to get an agreement with them. And of course they would ask the Pueblos whose land would be affected, to work out an easement; not a permanent one, but one that is long term.

Elaine said that it sounds wonderful, so what do we need to do to make it happen? Jack said that first and foremost we will need to finish the SWOT on Public Spaces/Open Space so we can devise strategies. There is legitimacy for this plan, but we need to have discussions with the various entities. Also need to figure out the Pueblo jurisdictions, and also set up a meeting with Allan Lockridge, the Pojoaque cross-country coach to get more specifics about what would be needed on a state of the art cross-country course. Basically we need to do our research and figure out the components for all of this to come together he said.

Paul suggested that we have informal discussions with these groups first to figure out details like the budget and the design etc. Then he suggested that we look for assistance from non-profits or other funding sources (SF Conservation Easement group, Trust for Public Land etc). However because the County is short-staffed in their division, the County will assist in the planning process, but we will need more hands to get this done. Jack added that he thinks that the community would be supportive. He said that the Pueblo of Santa Clara has already seen the benefit of supporting high schools sports and they've already hosted some meets. Making the project cooperative is very important in the Valley.

Amelia said that it would be nice to get a non-profit on board since there are a lot of details to work out. Paul added that County is a non-profit since they could act as the grant recipient and it may get this project rolling. Vicente suggested maybe Hands Across Cultures could be involved. He added that this project is very valuable and money sources should see this.

The group took a short break after Paul's presentation and then started on the History and Culture SWOT in order to finish it and move on to the Open Space SWOT. Jack reiterated that what has been provided for the Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats has been gleaned from the past work the committee did for the internal and external analyses. So everything you see in the SWOT has come from various committee members. Charlie asked if we could add the revision date for each handout, especially on each of the revised SWOTs. Renee agreed to do this next time.

First the group went through the updated timeline that Renee had been working on to make sure the dates and events were correct. Some changes were made, and Renee

said she would research further the dates/events in question. The group then got into lengthy discussions of the History and Culture SWOT and what should be added or changed to this section. Doug Crosby expressed his frustration with the language we have been using in some of the SWOTs that may be construed as Anti-Indian. He specifically felt like we needed to change the specific lines from the text to something more appropriate and fair. In the SWOT section the following was added or changed from the original text:

Strengths:

- Unique multi-cultural community and history
- Community desire to honor historical roots and preserve identity-defining traditions and important community structures
- Newcomers to the area can rekindle a greater appreciation of our land, rural culture, and agrarian/organic lifestyle
Note: Elaine Best emailed a recommendation to change this line to: Newcomers who move here because of our land, rural culture and agrarian/organic lifestyle can stimulate renewed appreciation for these things among long-time residents.
- History of collaboration among cultures to achieve common goals

Weaknesses:

- Significant potential for distrust and unfamiliarity with each other's perspectives and practices, which contributes to other conflicts.
- Disrespect of place as indicated by profuse littering, vandalism, speeding, and improper waste management.
- Longstanding boundary disputes
- Lack of complete, accurate, or consistent historical records and documentation
- Complacency in the Valley

Opportunities:

- Connection to culture may foster healthier environment for our bodies, minds, and spirits – rural agrarian lifestyle promotes cultural improvements in everything from reduced healthcare costs to decreased violent crimes.
- The Community plan gives all groups an opportunity to work together

Threats:

- Influx of newcomers with other priorities and lifestyles
- Lack of knowledge of the generational roots, landmarks, and history as well as the roles these elements have played in shaping the area.
- Harmony is seriously threatened by long-term tension and mistrust, real and perceived, between and among cultural groups.

If any committee members have any additions or suggestions about this SWOT or any other SWOT, please attend the next meeting, or email or call Renee or Jack in order to make sure your voice gets heard.

The next meeting will be held on September 16th. The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Notes by R.V.