

## **Pojoaque Valley Planning Committee Meeting Notes**

### **September 16th, 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 by saying that Fidel Moreno, from the Yaqui Indian tribe, received a grant for which the money can be used to start a youth oral history project. He is interested in assisting the committee with an oral history initiated and put together with the help of a local youth. Vicente said that Fidel was supposed to come to the meeting to talk about the project, but he may have gotten lost.

Vicente asked if there were any announcements from the committee. Amelia said that she has been working on a graffiti project. She is interested in stopping graffiti on CR 84, which is the road that connects Pojoaque to El Rancho. She said that many walls have been tagged including the school wall. Dirty language has been a problem, primarily directed at attacking the school name. She said that it isn't right and is very threatening. Vicente agreed that this is a big problem in the area.

Mary Louise Williams said that she thought it was great that people jumped in to help get it cleaned up. But the property damage still continues. She also stated that she thinks another letter to Sheriff Greg Solano needs to be written so he can handle this situation. They need to document these occurrences again. Amelia stated that if we can stop graffiti, that's all she wants, even if it's a little far fetched. She is tired of talking about the problem and decided to take action. That is why she got a purchase order together to buy a sign to put up in the area informing the public that there will be surveillance cameras put up in this specific area.

Other business that was brought up was for the Pot Luck that will be held October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2:00pm at Diane Boissevain's home. Diane urged Renee to mail out the invitations this coming week as early as possible.

Vladimir Senutovich began his discussion on the research he did on land grants the past few weeks. He had various copies of historical records that he came across in his research. He went through some details of his findings with the group. He found some very interesting facts and needs to research to be able to piece what he found. Most of what he discovered had to do with changes to land ownership that occurred for the Jacona Land Grant. He talked about the Treaty of Guadalupe and how land grant lands were disregarded after this period. He went into detail about land speculations, documentation of land transfers, and how the Jacona Land Grant dispute was settled. He explained that there were one hundred and eleven families that pitched in \$15.00 each to put in a bid for the land. What was unreasonable was that these heirs had to buy back the land they already owned. Vladimir then passed out a handout, prepared by the State Library. It consisted of a selected bibliography of land grants, water use, and water rights in the Southwest resources that could be used for further research.

Vicente began his discussion about the situation that arose last meeting on August 26<sup>th</sup>. Vicente said that an exchange occurred with Doug Crosby and himself. He felt that Doug acted inappropriately and asked him not to attend the meetings anymore. Vicente felt that Doug's

comment saying the committee is Anti-Indian, (*a statement made by Doug based on the way a section of the History and Culture SWOT was written and other rough draft documents have been worded*) was inaccurate and inflammatory. Vicente said that we should have an attitude and atmosphere of community and we need to keep things under control. Vicente stated he has had a problem with Doug since he started participating.

Carlos Ortiz said that he appreciated Doug's work and thought he was important to the group. He resents that Doug would be taken off the committee by Vicente. He said he likes him and in his opinion, he had a lot of input.

Stephen Benjamin said that he was not sure what happened at the meeting but he felt that Doug was a useful member to the committee.

Chuck Berger said that Doug was very insightful and enjoyed listening and hearing what he had to say. He's sorry that he rubbed some people the wrong way.

Diane said that what he had to say was valid. She added that what we got done in the last meeting was significant. It was one of the most productive meetings we had. Even though Doug lost it for a bit, he had a good point. Also he is entitled to talk to his spouse about whatever he wants.

Vicente said that he thought Doug was divisive and squashed people's voices in the planning process.

David Ortiz said that there have been times in his life where he had to listen through things that he did not agree with and were of personal concern to him, but sometimes we just have to take it. In this case we ought to include people and not exclude them from the community planning process.

Vicente said that he thinks that the Vice-chair, David Dogruel would make a good Chairman if the committee decides to have him take on this role instead. But he does not want to work with Doug.

Jack stated that the committee has already gone through one difficult situation, and this is going to be a difficult situation as well. He brought up the fact that there used to be Vibes-Watchers for the meetings, but we have not followed that process in a long time. He said that he thinks Carlos' point was valid. We have to listen what everybody has to say. He then passed out the letter that Doug wrote for everyone to read.

Mary Louis asked if there was any way to resolve this so that we don't lose anybody. She also added that divisive situations like this have occurred before. She made reference to the Romella situation.

Carlos added that he likes how Vicente handles and runs the meeting. However he thinks we cannot legally exclude people from attending meetings for this reason. He said that the exchange in the matter that it was taken was not necessary, but right or wrong, it accomplished a lot.

Amelia Garcia said the outburst made people in the group uncomfortable, and that it was threatening.

Chuck asked if he apologized to Vicente and the committee, would Vicente be able to live with this? Vicente said no.

Levi Valdez said that Carlos has a good point and that people have a right to be at these meetings. On a professional level, it's not our role to counsel people.

Carl Berney said that he felt Doug was a contributing member and it sounds like he was okay. He added that maybe with his viewpoints and relationship with the Pueblos, he can help us to strengthen ties with them. He added that it's the reality of life that we are not always going to agree with each other.

Carlos said that this was the first time he got agitated to this extent in our meetings.

Stephen questioned what was said and what happened at the last meeting in reference to what Doug stated in his letter. The group gave him a re-cap of the disagreement that occurred in the last meeting.

Vicente said that in the past four years we've been working on this plan, we've see points of contention – this is not the first. However, if the committee wants, they could cast votes of no confidence in him and choose a new chairman.

Stephen stated that it would have been preferable holding off on making this decision before doing what Vicente did.

Jack said that we do not have a mechanism to decide how to vote a member off the committee if there is a consensus. Also, hearing a one-sided situation is not fair, however we need to figure out how to solve this tonight. Jack also agreed that Doug made some good points in the last meeting. However we need to figure out a way to deal with this. Maybe there should be an apology in order from both parties.

Stephen said that this is a matter of due process. He hates to see it come down to this. We shouldn't have to pick between two people in this way.

Vicente said that he would like if Doug wrote a letter saying that he retracts the comment about saying that we are Anti-Indian, and that he was incorrectly representing the group as being such.

Mary Louise said the most important thing is that the community planning process moves forward and we are able to solve problems and differences along the way.

Carl stated that he thought this unilateral action taken by Vicente was inappropriate. He added that he thinks our work we've accomplished so far show that we are not Anti-Indian. He would rather have use continue with everybody in the group to show that we are working to avoid this negative impression of not trying to work with all the communities in the Valley.

Mary Louise added that we heard it said through the Aamodt settlement the judge just recently. We need to accept realities of the area and figure out how we can work together.

Amelia asked if Doug even wants to come back. We don't know this for sure.

Jack concluded by saying that he will talk to him and we will need to bring this back to the table at the beginning of the next meeting on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

The group took a break at 8pm. Jack then started in with a plan as to how the committee is going to address the scenarios and stakeholders done in the past. He is going to hire a facilitator through the County budget to help with this process. The professional facilitator, Carl Moore, works very efficiently and is very effective at what he does. He has done a good job with two other communities that we work with in the County. Instead of doing interview with stakeholders, we will have working sessions with Carl. We will be working towards the "most desirable" scenarios that we want for the community. Jack passed out a handout explaining more about how the working sessions would function and approximately when they will be held. He asked that committee look it over and get back to him to let him know if we are on board with this or not. He can be reached by phone or email.

He said he would like to have these working sessions before Thanksgiving. That is why it is so important that we get through the SWOTS. He added that he would like the group to take a break after Thanksgiving until January. Then we can start the New Year putting everything together to get the plan solid.

Mary Louise asked if only the original external group that created the scenarios before would just be working on this. Jack said no; he feels everybody needs to be involved to bring the scenarios together. The group will need to decide which scenario they would like to choose out of all of those that will be presented. He added that stakeholders are a big part of the scenarios and to the strategies that we will eventually create.

Vladimir asked how all of our work gets pulled together into one plan. Jack said that this occurs ultimately when strategies are created that will be reflective of what we want changed or preserved in the Valley. We need to consider what we want to become the focus that we have control over.

After Jack gave the scenarios update, Renee gave an update on her thesis project focusing on community development in Pojoaque in the last few minutes of the meeting. The meeting concluded at 8:45pm.

For more information or clarification of these meeting notes, please email or call Jack or Renee. Thanks!

Notes taken by R.V.