

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

The meeting commenced at 6:40pm and was chaired by David Dogruel. He was assisted by Jack Kolkmeier, Santa Fe County Planning Director, and Renee Villarreal, County Planner. David started right away discussing the overview of the planning process and essentially asking why we are all here as part of the process. He stated that this community plan is being developed for and will have jurisdiction only over non-Pueblo lands. However, it is vital that information is exchanged both during and after the planning process. The plan is essentially for traditional communities. Membership of the committee is generally intended for residents and business owners of the traditional communities, although all Valley residents and owners are welcome to attend the meetings.

He continued by saying that the plan is useful to the traditional communities because it empowers them and gives the communities more control to plan. The plan will not have control over large-scale economic projects, because obviously we will not have the power to control everything. The plan will also allow us the opportunity to create a local development committee after the plan is finalized and ordinances are put in place. A local community committee, backed by a community plan, has a much stronger and influential voice in dealing with local, regional, county, or state issues.

David went over how are we going about accomplishing our goals. The newspaper articles may misconstrue what we do in our meetings and what we get done. But it is important to know that all meetings are open to the public. There are no *Roberts Rules of Order* set in place for our meetings. Meeting work and committee decisions are governed by the consensus process. We are all adults, and everyone who attends meetings of the PVPC is expected to come to meetings prepared to further the work of the planning process and not impede it. We are tasked and empowered by the Santa Fe County Board of Commissioners to come up with a community plan and subsequent ordinances. Interference, explicit or implicit in this work could be viewed as interference with county government.

Everyone is free to express his/her opinion, but it must be done in a civil manner and personal attacks will not be tolerated. Also, comments and opinions expressed by individuals in the PVPC meetings are personal and do not necessarily reflect any official position of the PVPC as a whole. In other words, anything that anybody says they have a right to say, but they aren't a spokesperson for the entire group.

David said that he and David Ortiz would trade off duties as Co-Chairman so that no one is pigeonholed into the job. Also, if the committee is not happy with the job of the co-chairs, it is their right to have them replaced. Narcisco Quintana asked if Vicente Roybal-Jasso was no longer the chair. David said that he cannot speak for Vicente, but Vicente did ask for David and David Ortiz to chair the meetings for now.

David continued explaining the planning process by saying that we are welcome to share information about what the committee is working on and the happenings of meetings to people in the community. However David stressed that we remember that a lot of this work is preliminary and a “works in progress” because nothing has been finalized yet. Any communication of PVPC “works in progress” to other governmental agencies other than the SF County planning office is inappropriate.

David also stated that if someone from the committee does not understand another person’s comments, they should ask for clarification or context of the statement or subject. Attendees of meetings who purposely disrupt meetings may be asked to leave, but only if there is a consensus from the group to have that person leave. Uni-lateral decisions for the group should not occur. We have to remember that just because we do not agree with someone’s opinion, does not mean they do not have a right to speak. All expressions of dissent are welcome, and alternative opinions will always be taken under consideration by the PVPC.

Gabriel Montoya, a new member to the meetings, stated that he was new to the process, but would like to know why there is no representation from the tribes at these meetings. David D. said that members from the pueblos have come to meetings through the years. However the charter of this plan is for the traditional communities since we are not able to plan for the pueblos.

David Ortiz added that Tribal Summit meetings with the pueblos have allowed us to explain what we are trying to achieve with this strategic plan. The last Tribal Summit was held in Sept 2003. Jack added that the pueblos were open to what we presented to them. Their idea is for us to complete the plan, and then they will sit down and talk to us.

Narciso reiterated that everybody is welcome to come to the meetings, especially from the pueblos. Renee stated that our listserve and mailing list consist of people that have been part of the committee at some point, but do not necessarily attend meetings regularly. As well all tribal officials and/or representatives from the surrounding pueblos in the area are also on our mailing list and receive all meeting notes and meeting announcements just like the committee does. David D. added that once the plan is in the finalization period, it would need to be considered by the pueblos at a government-by-government level anyway.

David D. then started to discuss the roles of the consensus process. He reminded the group that we used to have Vibes Watchers that would monitor the group to make sure that we stayed on track and would address situations for the group when meetings or people would get out of hand. David D. said that the past members assigned to this role no longer attend. He asked the group who would be willing to act as a Vibes Watcher for the meetings.

Renee asked if the group would prefer a single person to fulfill this role, or could the group act as a Vibes Watcher as a whole. The group decided to have one person for now with the rest of the group also ensuring progress is being made and disruptions are kept to a minimum. Narciso volunteered to take on this role.

David then asked Renee to give an update on her thesis work that has to do with Pojoaque Valley and her methodology of the project. Renee said that the thesis is a required element to complete her master's degree in Community and Regional Planning at UNM. She said that the purpose of the thesis is to identify common lifestyle values of residents of Pojoaque Valley. After identifying these values, she wants to see how these values can be the focus for collaborative community development projects that are value-centered and inclusive of the community. She said she will be asking individuals from the committee if they would like to interview, and also will be available if anyone has any questions or concerns about the thesis.

Donald Wilson then asked about the need to have executive sessions to get things done and resolved. He said he is referring to stuff that that does not need to be put in the paper. Stuff specifically that is not germane to our work as a committee but just housekeeping issues and work.

Levi Valdez said that this might have a boomerang effect; it may be perceived that we are closing down the public process, and it could be used against us.

Carlos Ortiz said that he thinks that we should have the ability to go into executive session when problems arise that need to be resolved by a few people. The group asked Jack what he thought. He said that he thought it was a good idea because sometimes the only way to solve some issues is to step outside the regular meeting process. Sometimes it is better to solve issues amongst the community members themselves. David D. added that this will be the Vibes Watcher role; if they sense something, there will be a consensus to close meeting down temporarily to try to work things out. Jack said that the committee could close the public meeting down for a moment to deal with the issue, and then reconvene. Jack then asked the reporter sitting in for Marissa Stone, Jordan Green, how he would feel being a part of a heated situation, and asked to leave for a moment. Jordan reminded us that these are public meetings and anyone is allowed to be there. However he agrees with Jack and thought that an executive session break would not bother him.

The group decided not to take a break and went into the final changes to the History and Culture SWOT. The group talked about making minor changes and additions to the updated historical timeline. Renee said she would make the changes to the updated version of the timeline and SWOT and also research further some of the questions the group had on historical dates. Mary Louise Williams said that she would find the information that explained further when the Pueblo Lands Act was established and what it entailed. David O. also agreed to research historical dates of the establishment of acequias and other dates of importance pertaining to acequias.

The group looked over the Open Space SWOT. Most of the information that was included in the Key Facts section had already been discussed in Paul Olafson's presentation on open space during the August 26th meeting. The group decided to wrap the Open Space SWOT at the next meeting and be ready to tackle the Economic Development SWOT the next time as well. Next meeting will be October 14th.

Notes taken by R.V.