
Gaviota Coast Planning Advisory Committee

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES MEETING No. 35

Tuesday June 7, 2011

Vista de Las Cruces School Auditorium

Meeting Called to Order: By Chair Kim Kimbell at 6:30 p.m.

1. Roll Call

GavPAC Members Present: Baer, Boise-Cossart, Feeney, Kimbell, Lloyd, McGinnis, McKenna, McNabb, Tautrim, Van Leer

GavPAC Members Absent: Bowman

County Staff Present:

- Dianne Black, Planning and Development Director of Development Services
- Claude Garciacelay, Park Planner III, County Parks Department
- David Lackie, Long Range Planning Division Supervising Planner
- Brian A. Tetley, Long Range Planning Division Senior Planner
- Katie Haldeman, Long Range Planning Division Associate Planner

2. Administrative Briefings: None

3. Public Comment: None

4. Meeting Minutes from May 25th, 2011

Deliberation: McNabb requested that the minutes include more details from Rich Rozzelle's presentation. Staff will refer to the audiotape from the May 25th meeting and provide a more detailed account of the presentation.

Public Comment:

Dan Falat representing California State Parks: requested that the minutes be amended to reflect more details from Mr. Rozzelle's presentation.

ACTION: Boise-Cossart moved, seconded by Van Leer, and carried by a vote of 9-0, with Lloyd abstaining, to approve the minutes with modifications.

5-8. Recreation & Trails Planning Deliberations

Staff Presentation: Sections 30211 and 30212 of the California Coastal Act includes the key provisions regarding coastal access. The County's Coastal Land Use Plan policies related to coastal access include: Policies 7-1, 7-2, and 7-3.

CRAHTAC Presentation: Dan Gira, 2nd District Appointee to CRAHTAC, explained recommendations from CRAHTAC's Gaviota Subcommittee. Recommendations include 1) Endorse the formation of a joint GavPAC / CRAHTAC trails subcommittee 2) endorse CRAHTAC's 11 trails policy principles as a starting point for subcommittee work 3) consider GavPAC involvement in trails planning issues for projects in the eastern portion of the planning area.



Mr. Gira recommended the GavPAC clearly define the "purpose and intent" of trail policies as well as the goals, objectives and policies that would help achieve that purpose and intent. Mr. Gira does not see much opportunity for trails exactions on individual development projects on the Gaviota Coast and therefore feels it would be better to focus on developing incentives that could afford property owners a broader spectrum of uses in exchanged for voluntary trail dedications. CRAHTAC member Kalon Kelley discussed the 11 CRAHTAC trails policy principles for Gaviota. CRAHTAC specifically wants to avoid building expensive structures for vertical access to the coast and instead rely upon existing landforms. Ray Ford explained the challenges related to trail development, including topographic limitations, funding constraints, interagency coordination and the role of private non-profits.

Deliberation: McNabb is concerned about impacts to current landowners resulting from changes to existing policies on trails. Lloyd stated that there will be few discretionary projects in the planning area after the Plan is adopted, and therefore the ability to obtain trails through exactions on development project will be limited. Tautrim described potential trail opportunities and existing access points within the planning area.

McGinnis expressed concern regarding equestrian use and impacts to ESHA due to the transportation of non-native and invasive plant species by horses. She would like to see commercial equestrian uses prohibited. McGinnis is also concerned about creating paved trails (i.e. paved bike trails). McKenna wants to see the California Coastal Trail as close to the ocean as possible; it could be a primitive walking trail. Tautrim does not want to see wide multi-use trails but rather supports a more primitive trail design. Baer wants to avoid multi-use trails south of Highway 101. Boise-Cossart is concerned about impacts to ESHA from trail development. Van Leer is mindful of property owner concerns and believes their intimate knowledge of their property should be taken into consideration when planning for trails. McNabb is concerned about visitor parking and its associated impacts at trail heads. Tautrim believes primitive trails could go through ESHA with minimal impact. Feeney stated that an over ambitious trail system is not necessary and that there is little use of the existing trails in the planning area. Tautrim explained vertical connections to Camino Cielo could occur from Baron Ranch, Arroyo Hondo, and El Capitan Canyon. Chair Kimbell asked whether trails should be located on public lands or exacted or donated from private landowners. Baer recommended that trail design and planning should include ancillary support facilities (trash, parking, etc.). Feeney suggested that the County PRT map be updated using the recommendations of a GavPAC Trails Subcommittee.

Public Comment:

Suzanne Perkins: Stated that she served on CRAHTAC for 15 years and on the Parks Commission for 20 years and is currently Vice-Chair of the Summerland PAC. She explained that property owners can receive a great tax benefit from dedicating land for a trail easement and that the County can bank trail easements if there is currently no trail connectivity. She does not support necessarily making all trails multi-use and warned of potential safety concerns when mixing bicycle and equestrian uses on the same trail.

Susan Petrovich: Commented that the CRAHTAC principles do not consider agricultural issues and that they are better suited for urban areas. Ranchers should be brought into the discussion on trails. Trails that allow for bicycle and equestrian use are a concern. Canyons and draws which trails may traverse could conflict with ESHA and remote trails could increase fire concerns and create conflicts with agricultural operations.

Mike Lunsford: Multi-use trail conflicts mostly happen on steep trails, not necessarily on coastal bluff trails, such as those found in the planning area. He



supports primitive trails for experienced hikers in the planning area. He asked whether moving a fence line to accommodate trails would create much of an impact to a ranching operation.

Dan Gira: CRAHTAC's principles are a starting place for Subcommittee discussion.

Susan Petrovich: Trail access should provide appropriate parking and support facilities.

Roger Himovitz: Incentivization is a key component to trail development. The GavPAC should create policy that encourages donating easements that can provide a tax benefit to the landowner, prior to processing a development application.

Dan Falat representing State Parks: Trails need to be sustainable and maintainable. If trails are going to be on State Parks land, they need to be able to support a diverse group of trail users.

Suzanne Perkins: Trail users act as watchdogs for vandalism and littering and generally help to maintain the trails. There will likely not be as high a usage of trails on the Gaviota Coast like there is for the Front County trails in the Montecito and Summerland areas.

ACTION: Feeney moved, seconded by Baer, and carried by a vote of 10-0, to agree to the formation of a GavPAC Subcommittee on trails with input from CRAHTAC and other stakeholders (including the agriculture community, State Parks, County Parks, Forest Service). That GavPAC directed the Subcommittee to consider the 11 principles created by CRAHTAC and to consider the following 1) Incentives for trail dedication 2) Development of a thematic scheme for trail development 3) Encouraging specific plans for trail development on large landholdings 4) Issues related to Coastal Trail planning. The GavPAC directed Staff to work with County Counsel to revise existing policies to recognize limits on exaction "subject to prevailing law".

9. Long-Term GavPAC Meeting Schedule: None

Adjournment – 9:18 p.m.

Signed Crawley D. Kimbell Date 7/6/11
GavPAC Chair Kimbell

