
Gaviota Coast Planning Advisory Committee

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES, MEETING #9

*Wednesday April 7, 2010
Brandon Elementary School Auditorium*

Meeting Called to Order: By Chair Kim Kimbell at 6:32 p.m.

1. Roll Call

GavPAC Members Present: Baer, Boise-Cossart, Bowman, Feeney, Kimbell, Lloyd, McGinnis (arrived after roll call), McKenna, McNabb, Tautrim, Van Leer

GavPAC Members Absent: None

County Staff Present:

Vicki Parker, Office of Long Range Planning Deputy Director

David Lackie, Office of Long Range Planning Supervising Planner

Brian A. Tetley, Office of Long Range Planning Senior Planner

Katie London, Office of Long Range Planning Assistant Planner

2. Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda:

Darlene Chirman for Santa Barbara Audubon: Pleased that this meeting is in Goleta so that more members of the public can attend.

Greg Karpain: Encourages the GavPAC to consider policies that promote open space on the Gaviota Coast. Requests that the GavPAC review and comment on potential waste conversion technologies proposed for the Tajiguas landfill. Opposes the conversion technology project as an inappropriate industrial use at the site.

3. Administrative Briefing

Chair Kimbell: Spoke at the Board of Supervisors hearing yesterday in support of full funding for the Gaviota Coast planning process. There is strong support from the Board members for the planning process, but funding has not yet been fully secured given the County's current fiscal state.

Staff: The County Planning Commission held a hearing today on the Agricultural Permit Process Streamlining project; by a 3-2 vote, they recommended project approval to the Board of Supervisors, with some minor modifications.

Chair Kimbell: The Board of Supervisors voted to request that the California Coastal Commission (CCC) continue their hearing on the certification of the County's Land Use & Development Code (LUDC) from April 15 to August 11-13, in order to allow County staff adequate time to digest the CCC staff's lengthy report. The Chair and Vice-Chair intend to represent the GavPAC at CCC hearings on an ongoing basis to keep them informed as the Gaviota Coast planning process progresses.

Staff: Staff provided the GavPAC with notice of an event to be held at El Capital Canyon Campground.

Chair Kimbell: Advised the GavPAC and public that as the process was now entering a deliberative phase, future meeting procedures would be more formal than they have



been previously. Standard committee meeting procedures used by most government agencies will be used, with the following structure: staff report to committee, followed by committee questions to staff, followed by public comment, followed by committee deliberation and action. He stated that this procedure should make for a more predictable and efficient process.

4. Meeting Minutes from March 3rd and 20th, 2010

March 3rd Minutes

Public Comment:

Mike Lunsford. The minutes should reflect an important point made during CRAHTAC's presentation that coastal trail easements need to remain ambulatory. Therefore, easement widths need to take into account sea cliff erosion due to climate change and other factors, so that easements will not completely erode and disappear over the long-term.

ACTION: March 3rd minutes: Boise-Cossart moved, seconded by Van Leer, and carried by a vote of 11-0 to approve the minutes with modifications.

March 20th Minutes

Public Comment: None

Deliberation: Lloyd commented that the minutes did not include the portion of the workshop where table facilitators summarized comments heard at each table and reported them back to the public.

Staff will update the minutes to summarize the reporting back portion of the workshop and will direct people to the County's website for a comprehensive tabular format of the comments made at each table and for an audio recording of the workshop proceedings.

ACTION: March 20th minutes: Lloyd moved, seconded by Baer, and carried by a vote of 11-0 to table the discussion on the March 20th minutes until the next GavPAC meeting on April 21st.

5. Summary of Information Gathered at March 20, 2010 Workshop

Notes taken by the GavPAC on roundtable discussions at the workshop were compiled by Staff. Notes were reviewed for completeness by the GavPAC under this agenda item; public comment was taken on each issue area after discussion between Staff and GavPAC.

Land Use, Zoning & Housing.

Public Comment:

Amy Applegate-Elder. Representing the equestrian community. She would like to see the public workshop notes reflect her belief that equestrian uses be considered a type of agricultural use (in addition to being considered a recreational use).

Cary Penniman. Stated that he was not able to attend the public workshop on March 20th, and that he has lived at the urban limit line for the majority of his life. He would like the notes from the workshop to include his opinion that public services (i.e., water, sewer) should not be extended beyond the urban limit line for uses other than agriculture.

Suzanne Perkins. Believes that government agencies are discriminating against equestrian uses. She stated that proposed increases in regulations from the California Coastal Commission (CCC) may make equestrian uses obsolete. She



stated that we need to do more to make agriculture viable, potentially by increasing the extent of permitted uses on agricultural land and reducing current restrictions.

Juan Ayala. Believes we should consider the fertility of the land and life support systems of nature as stakeholders in this planning process. The land should be treated well and not be used for personal gain and should be considered and treated as the mother of future generations. He stated that people should not try to subdue, control, dominate and regulate nature.

Public Recreation.

Public Comment: None

Resource Stewardship & Open Space.

Public Comment: None

Transportation Energy and Infrastructure.

Public Comment: None

Keeping Agriculture on the Land.

Public Comment: None

Plan Area Boundary.

Public Comment: None

Deliberation: Minor changes were made to the summary table of information gathered from the workshop. Chair Kimbell moves to the next agenda item.

6. Discussion of Issue Area Priorities for Planning Goal Development

Common Threads.

Chair Kimbell said the GavPAC should come up with common threads between issue areas and focus on the long-term perspective, which will take the discussion further.

Deliberation: The GavPAC discussed common threads, in the form of constraints, opportunities and tools, between the issue areas while Staff recorded these concepts on butcher paper.

Lloyd stated that a common thread is that the planning area should retain its rural nature. Bowman mentioned that the California Coastal Trail was a common theme heard at the Public Recreation table during the workshop. McGinnis mentioned that incentivizing beneficial land use management practices, rather than simply regulating, was a common thread. Tautrim agreed with McGinnis' comment and also stated that good stewardship practices should include things such as retention and regeneration of topsoil and enhancement of elements with intrinsic ecological value such as soil, water, wildlife and riparian areas. Tautrim also stated that the County should make it easier for landowners to do beneficial projects, and that reducing the use of pesticides and herbicides should be incentivized. McKenna stated that a "totem" standard should be used through use of the question, "is it good for the salmon?" Van Leer stated that relaxing and simplifying regulations would help the long-term outlook for farmers. Baer stated that a flexible process should be in place since we cannot predict the future and our policy needs to be adaptable. Boise-Cossart stated that water resources should be well managed particularly over the long-term.

Public Comment:

Suzanne Perkins. Stated that a common thread related to "keeping agriculture on the land" is to support farm employee and multi-generational housing.



Mike Lunsford. Stated that the County should indemnify landowners of liability with respect to recreation, trails, and trespassing on their property.

Brian Trautwein (representing the Environmental Defense Center). Stated that protecting the natural rural landscape and biodiversity is a common thread across issue areas. He supports incentivizing good agricultural practices and good stewardship projects, such as minimizing agricultural runoff and enhancing biodiversity.

Mike Lunsford. Agrees that "keeping agriculture on the land" should be considered a common thread. He thinks we should identify local markets for local agriculture and plan for properly scaled processing facilities to help keep agriculture on the land.

Amy Applegate-Elder. Stated that she wants to focus on maintaining public access to current roads and trails for equestrian and hiking use. She questions the need for developing new trails and new sources of recreation when not all existing trails are accessible to the public.

Eva Turenchalk. Stated that there is a lack of places in the County where people can go to observe sustainable agricultural operations, therefore she would like to see the County incentivize this type of activity.

Juan Ayala. Stated that the restoration of the ecology of the planet and the biological integrity of the environment should be considered a common thread. Agricultural and private landowner interests must be balanced with consideration for the land and life. He expressed frustration in the lack of support for and the absence of a multi-tribal Native American Center in the County.

Janet Cohen. Asked for clarification on what "plan for existing energy facilities" means.

Joanne Nigiri. Stated that global climate change should be considered as a common thread amongst issue areas.

Lee-Ann French. Stated conflicting requests, such as the need for housing and biodiversity, can be accommodated.

Les Freeman. Stated that cattle grazing is not viable on the Gaviota Coast, even if beef is sold locally. The soil quality on the majority of the Coast can only support grazing and not more intensive agricultural practices.

Juan Ayala. Believes restoring biological integrity is important. He has been proposing the development of a Native American Institute to maintain community communication and sustainability within the County. He recognizes that there are many complicated problems that are not going to be easily solved. He believes that we all belong to the Earth and that not just the people with money or power should have influence on the process.

Tensions.

Deliberation: Lloyd stated that there is tension between public and private interests and capital (money). Implementing successful programs will require capital. He said that capital also creates tension by creating higher land values on the Coast. Tautrim expressed the need for the community to support agriculture on the Coast by purchasing local products.

Feeney summarized his thoughts on the information gathered from the workshop, as he was not present at the workshop, and he thinks we need to keep in mind the role of local government (compared to state government [i.e., State Water Resources Control Board] and federal government (i.e., estate tax law). He thinks the PAC should be realistic



about what the role private markets and the County play in development and he believes we need to identify funding sources when incentivizing or promoting programs, policies, etc.

Public Comment:

Luella Connelly. People should contact their representatives and explain how the Estate Tax for 2011 will negatively impact local, small agricultural operations.

Eva Turenchalk (representing the Coastal Ranches Conservancy (CRC)). She stated that streamlining the permit process and creating incentives for beneficial restoration projects should be made a top priority by the GavPAC, as 14 of the 45 comments made at the workshop at the table on Resource Stewardship mentioned incentivizing or permit streamlining. She commented that if this is one of the first things the GavPAC works on, they can work collaboratively with the CRC on this issue.

7. Long-Term Meeting Schedule Discussion

Future meetings will alternate between Vista de Las Cruces School and the Brandon Elementary School until Goleta schools' summer break. Feeney mentioned looking into using a facility and meeting room located on Rancho Embarcadero. Item continued to next meeting.

8. Meeting Adjournment – 9:05 p.m.

Signed

Kim Kimbell

Date

5/10/10

GavPAC Chair Kimbell



