
Goleta Valley Planning Advisory Committee

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

April 7, 2009 at 6:00PM

Santa Barbara County Planning Commission Hearing Room

Meeting Called to Order: By Chair Valerie Olson at 6:08PM

1. Roll Call

GVPAC Members Present: Adams (arr. 6:11PM), Elliott, Ezal, Freeman (arr. 6:13PM), Mineau, Olson

GVPAC Members Absent: True (due to illness)

County Staff Present:

Derek Johnson, Deputy Director, Office of Long Range Planning

David Lackie, Supervising Planner, Office of Long Range Planning

Erika Leachman, Planner, Office of Long Range Planning

Lucy Pendl, Planner, Office of Long Range Planning

2. Public Comment:

None

3. Minutes of March 18th, 2009 GVPAC Meeting:

Amendments: Adjustments made to reflect Chair Olson's departure at 7:15PM.

ACTION: Ezal moved, seconded by Elliott, and carried by a vote of 6-0 to approve the March 18th, 2009 GVPAC Meeting Minutes, as amended.

Yea: Adams, Elliott, Ezal, Freeman, Mineau, Olson

Nay: None

Absent: True

4. Tentative Long Term Scheduling:

The GVPAC discussed the upcoming public workshop tentatively scheduled for Saturday, July 11, 2009. The workshop will be conducted in the "World Café" format (<http://www.theworldcafe.com/>) where the community discusses the goals and preferred planning tools for the Goleta Community Plan update directly with the GVPAC members, who are responsible for record-keeping. Materials (advertisements, focus-questions, info packets, etc) for workshop will be made available in advance to facilitate preparation for the event. A community survey will also be conducted to garner input on community goals. The results of the survey will be presented at the beginning of the workshop.



It was also recommended that the GVPAC reconvene for a regular meeting following the public workshop. As such, the first regular GVPAC meeting following the workshop has been tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, August 4, 2009 at 6:00PM in the County Planning Commission Hearing Room.

5. Presentation:

Presentation covered residential land use in the Goleta Valley under the County Comprehensive Plan, including discussion of existing and future potential houses and residential population in the Eastern Goleta Valley. Staff displayed a series of tables summarizing basic projections to a theoretical capacity of residentially-designated areas under the County Comprehensive Plan. Staff also presented a series of planning tools and approaches as available options for the Goleta Community Plan update., including:

- Development standards for different scales of residential land use,
- Complete residential habitats,
- House clustering and site design
- Low impact development,
- Specific plans for small areas or neighborhoods or key site planning,
- Goleta Growth Management Ordinance (GGMO),
- Jobs/housing balance and economic analysis tools,
- Residential design guidelines, and
- Residential land use designation suitability analysis.

GVPAC discussion focused on the technicalities of house development and population projections to determine the capacity of existing residential land use designations and a reasonable projection of house construction rates and population increases during the community plan update timeframe. This discussion considered the projections in consideration of the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA), the County's Housing Element goals and 2009-2014 update cycle, and the cumulative impacts to existing housing stock from outside jurisdictions, such as UC Santa Barbara and the City of Santa Barbara.

The GVPAC addressed the character of the Eastern Goleta Valley as largely suburban residential with relatively few opportunities for new houses under existing land use designations. The GVPAC discussed the potential for the updated Goleta Community Plan to create neighborhood identities through strategic development of parks, commercial nodes, multi-modal transportation corridors and nodes, and streetscape improvements and maintenance. In particular, the GVPAC identified a variety of ideas to improve residential neighborhood identity, character, and connectivity to amenities, including:

- Trees and/or gardens in public spaces and transportation corridors, such as medians and brick walls along Hollister Ave,



Identification and removal of barriers to multi-modal mobility, such as cul de sacs, gates, or “dead-end” sidewalks and bikelanes,

Development of pocket or neighborhood parks as common areas for existing neighborhoods,

Traffic calming to improve safety for residents, pedestrians, and cyclists,

Limiting height of structures for compatibility with existing character,

Ensuring neighborhood compatibility in form, function, site design, and units per acre density.

Formally identifying or naming existing neighborhoods.

Public Comment:

Anne Crosby addressed the SBCAG finding that cities should provide houses for employees since cities are the main job creators and economic centers. Ms. Crosby contributed that the County is missing out on revenue from commercial revenue collected by the cities while paying for infrastructure and service needs of city employees living in the unincorporated areas.

Patty Close, representing the Coalition for Sensible Planning, expressed concern about potential changes to the Eastern Goleta Valley causing increased costs and changes to residents’ lifestyles. Ms. Close expressed a desire to leave the Eastern Goleta Valley unchanged in the update of the Goleta Community Plan.

Mary Whalen discussed the specific differences between rural, urban, and suburban areas in terms of allowable residential units per acre densities. Ms. Whalen described the built environment of the Eastern Goleta Valley as suburban in form and function, not urban or rural.

Craig Minus expressed appreciation for the efforts of the GVPAC to envision potential changes to the Eastern Goleta Valley and improve the status quo through the update of the community plan.



6. Adjournment

Next GVPAC Meeting (#13) will be held on Wednesday, April 22nd, 2009 at 6:00 in the Planning Commission Hearing Room

ACTION: Elliott moved, seconded by Freeman, and carried by a vote of 6-0 to adjourn until GVPAC Meeting #13.

Yea: Adams, Elliott, Ezal, Freeman, Mineau, Olson

Nay: None

Absent: True

Meeting Adjourned at 9:05PM

Signed Valerie F. Olson Date 22 April 2009
GVPAC Chair Olson

