
Goleta Valley Planning Advisory Committee

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

January 7, 2010 at 6:00PM

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors Conference Room

Meeting Called to Order: By Chair Valerie Olson at 6:02PM

1. Roll Call

GVPAC Members Present: Adams, Elliott, Ezal, Freeman, Mineau, Olson, True

GVPAC Members Absent: None

County Staff Present:

Derek Johnson, Director, Office of Long Range Planning

Peter Imhof, Supervising Planner, Office of Long Range Planning

Stephanie Stark, Agricultural Planner, Planning & Development Dept.

Erika Leachman, Planner, Office of Long Range Planning

Lucy Pendl, Planner, Office of Long Range Planning

2. Public Comment:

Ann Crosby commented that preservation of farmland is important for the common good to ensure food security and local food supply for the area's populations. Ms. Crosby commented that the Goleta Visioning Committee's goal of 'no net loss' of agricultural land is essential for security of local food sources.

Mary Whalen clarified her comments recorded in the GVPAC meeting minutes for Dec 16, 2009 regarding concerns about legal interpretation of the GVPAC's recommended goals. Ms. Whalen also expressed concern that the draft goals for residential and agricultural land use were not reflective of the desires of the community for development in the future and was more reflective of the County's goals.

3. Minutes of Dec. 16, 2009 GVPAC Meeting:

Amendments: Amendments suggested by Recording Secretary Tom Elliott and Chair Valerie Olson will be reviewed during GVPAC meeting #27.

Chair Olson postponed approval of the minutes pending review of revised draft minutes by the GVPAC.



4. Long-Term Schedule:

A specific date for the "Introducing the Plan" Presentation will be determined at a later date and is projected to occur near the end of February 2010.

The next GVPAC meeting was discussed and scheduled for Wednesday, January 20, 2010.

5. Announcements:

Lost and Found items announced.

Film screening of "Fresh" in Ojai; information available at www.freshthemovie.com/.

Samarkand neighborhood Garden Exchange on Sunday, January 10th, information available at www.sbfoodnotlawns.org.

6. Residential and Agricultural Land Use Discussion:

GVPAC Members reviewed, modified and added to the draft Residential Land Use goals recorded by staff. A complete set of Agricultural Land Use goals was not recommended due to time constraints. An additional meeting will be held on January 20, 2010 to complete and recommend Agricultural Land Use goals.

Public Comment:

Ann Crosby commented that cumulative impacts of future development should be addressed in the community plan in advance of the environmental review and that goals for residential land use should be clear about what is meant by infill housing development over the next 20 years, where slow growth is prioritized.

Patti Close commented that the purpose and goal of the community plan is to protect the community from undesirable development, such as the development patterns in Los Angeles and development that provides for increased population in the future. Ms. Close expressed concern that the planning area does not have enough land to develop and that existing land suitable for agriculture should be retained in agricultural designations.

Mary Whalen commented that the goals recommended by the GVPAC do not represent the desires of the community and is concerned that County staff wants to redesign the community when the community does not need new development or redevelopment. Ms. Whalen commented that the goal should be to protect the overall health of the community and to grow slowly and that recent activities such as the proposed annexation of Foothill Centre and the increased speed limits on Turnpike are not aligned with the desires of the community.

Lauren Hanson commented that GVPAC should be clear about what "full potential" means with regard to future development to ensure it is not misinterpreted and that goals should strongly support requirements



for energy and resource efficiency in all future land use and development projects.

Christina McGinnis, from the OPEN project, commented that retaining current agricultural designations should be considered in the interest of resource protection. Ms. McGinnis also recommended adjustments to draft goals for residential land use to ensure consistency and remove potential for conflicts.

Shelly Cobb presented her findings regarding community support for agriculture, food security and preventing redesignation of agricultural land based on a petition of approximately 1,100 signatures. Ms. Cobb supports newly designating land for agriculture instead of designating existing agriculture into other land uses.

Dean Lowrey, owner of Deigaard Nurseries, commented that the S. Patterson Agricultural area, especially the mesa neighborhood, produces nursery and container products and that the area does not produce food, whereas other areas with good soil can produce food. Mr. Lowrey also expressed concern that competition in the nursery business is driving the decline of the industry in the S. Patterson Area and that the unique qualities of the mesa neighborhood should be accounted for in the plan to prevent the failure of the business.

Jeff Foltz, a South Patterson land owner, commented that his agricultural business is facing bankruptcy and change is needed. Mr. Foltz explained his options include either expanding the allowable uses of the property or selling the property for housing estates and that in order to keep the property as open space, the government would have to buy it.

Sandy Lejeune, representing Fairview Gardens as an organic farmer, explained the difficulties and conflicts that exist for urban farmers where farm operations, including chickens, are opposed by residential neighbors and that the "right to farm" ordinance should be strictly enforced in the urban area. Mr. Lejeune also addressed the issue of water costs and local soil fertility, where food crops require soil amendments to retain the soil viability from local sources, not outside the area.

ACTION: Ezal moved, seconded by True, and carried by a vote of 7-0 to tentatively accept the draft goals for residential land use.

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

ACTION: None taken for agricultural land use goals, pending completion of a set of goals for agricultural land use during GVPAC Meeting #27.



7. Adjournment

Next GVPAC Meeting (#27) will be held on Wednesday, January 20th, 2010 at 6:00PM in the Planning Commission Hearing Room.

ACTION: Elliott moved, seconded by True, and carried by a vote of 7-0 to adjourn until GVPAC Meeting #27.

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

Meeting Adjourned at 9:10PM

Signed Valerie F Olson Date 20 Jan 2010
GVPAC Chair Olson

