

**Community Plan Update
Goleta Vision Committee
May 15, 2006 6:30 PM – 9:30 PM**

Location: Public Health Department Auditorium
300 North San Antonio Creek Road, Santa Barbara

Final Meeting Notes

Vision Committee Members:	Lauren Hanson	County Staff Support:
Ted Adams	Hal Hill	Terri Maus
Oscar Carmona	Eva Inbar	John McInnes
Gary Earle	Valerie Olson	Derek Johnson
Tish Gainey	James Richard	Rosie Dyste
Susan Grgich	Tom Schmidt	

Facilitator: John Jostes

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Facilitator John Jostes opened up the meeting and led the introductions of those members of the Vision Committee in attendance. He provided a brief overview of the agenda and noted that this meeting was a special meeting scheduled to provide the committee with an opportunity to discuss goals, aspirations and core values amongst themselves. He indicated that the facilitator and County Staff intended to play a low key role and focus on taking notes. John briefly discussed the need for the Committee and its writing Subcommittee to move from information gathering to vision/recommendation development in the coming meetings. He suggested that the committee members reflect on their “homework assignment” from the February meetings.

2. Public Comment Periods

A short period for public comment was provided. Two members from the public addressed the Committee.

3. Proposed Framework for GVC Vision Document

Derek Johnson briefly summarized the handout of notes he had developed which integrated the committees’ substantive comments from previous meetings into a single document organized by topic area with color coding. He suggested that this document could aid the committee in articulating its vision and focusing on specific recommendations on the key issues at hand. The Committee complimented Derek on the thoroughness and completeness of the draft. Derek also referenced/distributed a Revised Table of Contents that reorganized the previous draft into topical issue areas as opposed to temporal issue areas.

4. GVC Vision Discussion

The Committee then turned its attention to discussing their perceptions of what a vision for the future of the Goleta Valley might include. The following points were offered as a starting point for crafting a vision and developing a set of recommendations that could guide the Community Plan Update.

- Goleta has been a perfect place for us to raise our family. It is safe and family friendly, with good schools, rich in natural beauty and recreational opportunities
- Goleta is close to the jobs, shopping and cultural attractions of the cities of Santa Barbara and Goleta

- The community needs a center – a gathering place or meeting hall somewhere; currently there is no attractive place to go
- The Hollister/Nogal intersection needs to be revitalized – currently it is not an attractive area
- Hollister Avenue should be a landscaped boulevard – the County should fund a beautification project for the eastern portion of Hollister Ave.
- Whatever community center is developed should be an agricultural distribution center with a seven-days-a-week farmers market and trucks bringing produce from the field to the center for local distribution
- There's a lack of a support system to allow agriculture to flourish – we need to create a scenario for Agriculture to thrive and flourish, something like a Santa Barbara version of LA's Central Market; it needs to be big enough to handle trucks and access
- We need open space that we can walk to, like More Mesa and the San Marcos Foothills
- All agriculture and open space areas are valuable, particularly areas like the MTD property along Calle Real
- Neighborhood schools are beautiful and need to maintain their function and charm
- The community needs to still have a strong voice in land use decisions over the next 20 years
- Well planned infrastructure and urban services is an important aspect of the future of Goleta Valley
- We need to maintain an environmentally aware community that protects community character with slow growth
- Beauty and safety are critical elements of a future vision, as well as maintaining a semi-rural feeling
- We need the breathing room that undeveloped open space gives
- We need to maintain the feeling of smallness of the area and the beautiful setting it embodies – where you can run into people you know but not too many people, a place where you are able to park your car without hassle
- If you have open space, you need the provisions for people to visit – restrooms, parking spaces, etc. We should work toward providing the infrastructure for the open space of the future – now the important part is figuring out how to accomplish it
- What I like most about the area is the amazing views of the mountains and the ocean, as well as the quiet residential ambiance and cultural services and offerings of UCSB and the City of Santa Barbara
- We need to create the sense that the built environment is connected to the natural areas of the community
- We want our own Champs Elyse
- We need more active and passive recreation areas and shouldn't be losing existing recreation areas
- It will be important to see less hardscapes and more vegetation in new development

- Hollister avenue should be a street that welcomes walkers, bikers, as well as the auto
- We could do a lot with green buildings that add resources to the mix through things like water conservation, energy conservation, etc.
- We should be thinking about an ‘end point’ community that is in ‘stasis’, where it doesn’t change its basic character
- We need zoning that has some teeth to it, like Sedona, where there are strict zoning requirements
- We need to better manage visitors and visitation – they’ll keep coming here because we have a beautiful place to visit, and we don’t want our town ruined by too many visitors
- There is a need to provide for entry level and workforce housing so that young families can continue to live here
- We should apply a world view of modesty to the area – setting an example of living gently, encouraging people to have the smallest house they can live in rather than the largest house
- The spirit of this community should be to live smaller, not larger
- Wise and conservative resource use must be the guiding principle – with development being water and resource neutral (don’t use any additional water or resources in development)
- Businesses need to work together to provide their people with a way to get to and from work
- Goleta was built based upon an auto culture – built at a time when water and gas was cheap
- 10 units per acre is about the right density for housing
- We need to reign in bigger and bigger housing
- The reality is water – we should think about our limited water supply first
- People should start to engage in water banking – recharging the groundwater on a lot-by-lot basis
- “Tread lightly” should be a guiding principle

5. Next Step and Adjourn

The meeting concluded with the committee agreeing to begin the process of developing a vision statement and articulation of principles. Throughout the discussion of vision and goals, the group made revisions to a preliminary list of principles offered up by Hal Hill. Hal agreed to take the comments of the group and integrate them into a refined list of principles. The group agreed that it was premature to hold a public workshop on June 10th as originally scheduled, but rather to continue their discussion of the group vision and guiding principles. Accordingly, the group scheduled an additional meeting to discuss these issues for May 31st. County staff and the facilitator agreed to get back to the committee on the focus of the next meeting and work with Hal Hill and others to assist the group in the process of crafting a vision document.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm.