

**Community Plan Update
Goleta Vision Committee
Wednesday September 6, 2006
6:30 pm – 9:00 pm**

Location: Public Health Auditorium
300 North San Antonio Road

Final Workshop Notes

Vision Committee Members

Attending:

Ted Adams
Michael Brown
Oscar Carmona
Gary Earle
Tish Gainey

Lauren Hanson
Valerie Olson
Tim Schmidt
Susan Grgich
Eva Inbar

County Staff Support:

Derek Johnson

Facilitator: John Jostes

1. Welcome and Participant Introductions

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:30 pm and Facilitator John Jostes led the group introductions. John noted that this meeting was the first opportunity for the Committee to view and discuss all of the recommendations of the GVC within a single document and that the primary goal for the evening was to identify areas for refinement, and to sign off on the draft document as sufficient to be the focus of a Saturday Public Workshop scheduled for September 16th. He indicated that the Writing Subcommittee would take its direction from the larger committee and make one final attempt to refine the draft before releasing it to the public prior to the Workshop. He noted for the committee the ground rules which indicated the framework when the group could not reach consensus on points contained in the document. Finally, he acknowledged that there were emerging majority and minority opinions within the group and noted the importance of reaching common ground on the recommendations, given the group's ground rules regarding consensus

The meeting notes from August 23rd were not available to be approved. Therefore, no action was taken.

Derek Johnson briefly noted that his staff had drafted a memo regarding the preliminary draft of the Committee's recommendations, noting areas of potential internal inconsistency and suggesting formatting refinements aimed at improving the draft document.

2. Initial Public Comment Period

The Committee received public comment from five members of the audience.

3. Committee discussion of the Preliminary Draft Recommendations

Facilitator John Jostes opened the discussion up with a query to the committee regarding whether they preferred to leave the ground rules as they were written or change them to something different, either modifying them to allow for a minority report, discarding them altogether or following another approach. In general, there was mixed opinions ranging from accommodating a minority opinion to optimism that the group could craft a full consensus on the document if they set their sights on consensus. Committee members took turns providing initial comments on the draft document including the following observations and suggestions:

- ♦ The size of the document should be reduced with careful editing
- ♦ The Management of Growth section is the most important section of the recommendations – we can find better ways to provide affordable housing; we can improve the efficiency of Hollister avenue as a transit corridor

- ♦ We should prioritize what we think is most important in the document
- ♦ There are things that can be done with little money; we don't need to prioritize things
- ♦ The document needs to be a vision and should include some sort of priority listing of what's most important
- ♦ The inherent conflict between the need to provide affordable housing and maintaining lower densities is only addressed at the margins of the document and not at its core
- ♦ We should use the points of non agreement to voice minority and majority opinions, but should seek to get consensus on the broader document as a whole
- ♦ I'm all for more business activity, but I don't want change
- ♦ We need to articulate an alternate vision of growth and development, one which specifies siting criteria for development
- ♦ This group is tasked with articulating what the community wants and the community wants a modest amount of growth that is compatible with the existing neighborhoods
- ♦ We can't sit there and do nothing regarding affordable housing when we say we want diversity
- ♦ The Eastern Goleta Valley is ahead of all of the rest of the communities on the South Coast in providing affordable housing – we've got more stock because of the apartments and mobile home parks
- ♦ We should reference the split in opinions over density into the introduction section to the Management of Growth section to give it context
- ♦ We're chasing moving target – as soon as we specify how much density we need to create affordable housing, the State is going to tell us to plan for more in the next five years

During the discussion, there continued to be several individuals who felt that the document still needed work in order to garner their support. Several members volunteered to provide additional comments to County Staff and the Writing Subcommittee to refine and "tweak" the document. All members of the Committee were encouraged to provide a hard copy mark-up with their comments to the County staff no later than the following Monday morning at the latest. While there still remained some unresolved issues, at the conclusion of the discussion, the Committee agreed unanimously that the preliminary draft recommendation, with minor changes is ready for the Public Workshop on September 16th. Several members did indicate that while they were agreeable to having the document be the subject of the workshop, they still had concerns regarding its content that needed further discussion and negotiation.

Regarding the workshop itself, there was considerable discussion on the format for presenting the various viewpoints of the Committee on the document. In the end, it was determined that the document would simply be released to the public, that County staff would provide enlarged copies of the key vision statements and underlying goals, and that the public would be afforded sufficient time (up to 5 minutes) to address their key concerns. The Writing Subcommittee agreed to meet one more time to review additional comments from individual committee members and incorporate as much as practical into the draft document.

4. Wrap-up, Next Steps and Adjourn

The committee again expressed appreciation to the Writing Subcommittee for the good work it had accomplished and thanked them for their expected role of pulling together a full draft of the Committee's recommendations over the coming week.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.