

**Subject:** GVPAC Meeting Summary for March 18, 2009

**From:** "Kenan Ezal" <kezal@toyon.com>

**Date:** Sun, 5 Apr 2009 23:16:54 -0700

**To:** "Kenan Ezal \ (Home)" <Kenan.Ezal@cox.net>

Hello Everyone,

Before I summarize the last GVPAC meeting I would like to ask one question and also make an announcement.

Question: During the last meeting one member of the public asked (once again) to have the GVPAC meetings held somewhere in Eastern Goleta Valley (EGV).

1. Would you have attended past GVPAC meetings if they had been held closer to home?
2. Are you more likely to attend future GVPAC meetings if they are held in EGV?

Please feel free to e-mail me at [Kenan.Ezal@cox.net](mailto:Kenan.Ezal@cox.net).

Looking to the future, there *will* be more meetings held in Eastern Goleta Valley (EGV). The primary purpose of the meetings held so far was to educate the members of the GVPAC and the public. After June 2<sup>nd</sup> that will no longer be true. Starting July 11<sup>th</sup>, the primary purpose of the GVPAC meetings will be to make decisions regarding the update to Community Plan for EGV.

Announcement: There will be an all-day GVPAC Workshop held in EGV on July 11, 2009. The exact location has not been determined at this time. The purpose of the workshop will be to solicit input from the community on a wide variety of issues that the committee will be considering. An online community survey will precede the workshop. The format of the workshop will be the "World Caf " (see [www.TheWorldCafe.com](http://www.TheWorldCafe.com)). There will be multiple tables, with each table covering a specific set of topics. Each table will be hosted by a GVPAC member. You are welcome to drop by and visit all or some of the tables anytime during the day. *If you can attend only one GVPAC meeting, this is probably the one to attend.*

The following summarizes the general issues discussed during the last GVPAC meeting.

Meeting Notes for March 18, 2009:

1. Next Meeting:
  - a. *Date:* April 7, 2009
  - b. *Location:* Planning Commission Hearing Room
  - c. *Agenda:* Residential Land Use
    - i. Existing Residential Types and Locations
    - ii. Residential Land Use and Zoning Planning Tools
    - iii. Neighborhood Character, Design, and Compatibility
2. Main Overview: The primary purpose of this meeting was to (a) revisit Transportation and Mobility, and Parks, Recreation, Trails, Open Space, and Visual Resources; and (b) to learn about the Community Development Super Element of the 1993 Goleta Valley Community Plan (GCP), and in particular General Land Use and Rural/Urban Land Uses.
  - i. *Mobility and Transportation:* The members of the GVPAC and County staff discussed a variety of issues related to mobility and transportation. Some of these discussions are noted below.
    - Concerns were expressed over funding for the Goleta Transportation Improvement Plan (GTIP) and neighborhood safety regarding children and bicyclists.
    - It was suggested that additional north-south bicycle and bus routes would be of great use to the community, as well as placing additional securable bicycle racks near bus stops and providing free

(refurbished) bicycles for community use.

- It was noted that there are a lot of cars, trailers, and trucks parked on our streets, and not on our driveways or in our garages, thereby increasing traffic hazards and decreasing neighborhood safety. Tools for discouraging on-street parking were discussed.
  - Improving the Hollister corridor for bicycle and pedestrian safety and allowing electrical bicycles on bike paths were discussed.
- ii. *Parks, Recreation, Trails, Open Space, and Visual Resources:* The GVPAC members and County staff discussed issues related to parks and recreation. Some of the topics discussed are summarized below.
- Creation of a new park along the Atascadero Creek bike path with a potential land-swap mechanism.
  - Increasing the connectivity between bike paths and hiking trails, adding loops to trails.
  - Allowing electric bikes on bike paths to encourage commuting to work using bicycles; and improving the number of Class I bike paths in the EGV.
  - Increasing the number of parks south of Highway 101 in EGV.
  - Providing incentives for orchard owners to increase the number of hiking paths that lead to the Los Padres National Forest.
  - Improving circulation and routes for cyclists by removing existing barriers in our community.
  - The County does not have the funds to purchase park land. Development fees might be necessary to create new parks, as well as private donations.
- iii. *General Land Use:* The County staff presented a briefing on general land use policies and rural land use.
- Critical land-use related issues for the County were identified: housing opportunities for residents, changes in County demographics, preserving open space and protecting the environment, protecting sustainable agriculture, existing and future economic conditions, and maintaining and improving the quality of transportation and mobility.
  - The Land-Use Plan coordinates community land use and development, and provides a mechanism for implementing our community values while providing a roadmap for the future of our community.
  - Fact-based and value-driven goals drive the Land-Use Plan. Value-driven goals require public input and change over time.
  - Until the 1980's local community planning was driven by conventional land-use policies that was auto-centric and without focus. The Comprehensive Plan in 80's added environmental constraints to community planning, urban and rural limits, while considering recreation and agricultural needs. The 1993 Community Plan focused on a variety of specific issues and identified key site properties.
  - A series of maps were presented that showed various planning related constraints including slopes of 30% and 40%, watersheds, urban/rural boundaries, and mountainous regions. [I highly recommend looking at the PowerPoint presentation on the County website to see these maps.]
  - It was noted that community plans include maximum density requirements (that can be exceeded under certain conditions), but not minimum density requirements.
  - The majority of Eastern Goleta Valley is mountainous (17,712 acres), and the 1993 Goleta Community Plan added a new Mountainous Zone designation. The EGV area includes land that was not covered under the 1993 plan. The GVPAC will need to determine zoning designations for the new area, as well as identifying any overlays, if any, such as environmentally sensitive habitats (ESH). In general, existing natural constraints has dictated the growth in Goleta Valley.
  - There are four "traditional" plan types and tools: area-wide land policy plans, such as the Comprehensive Plan; community-wide land-use design plans such as the Goleta Community Plan; small-area plans for specific neighborhoods, districts, and open space; and implementation and monitoring plans. A hybrid approach that combines the four approaches is also possible.

- A successful land-use plan is inspirational, action-oriented, comprehensive and legally-defensible.
- Concerns were expressed over multiple families living in single-family homes and its effects on the community character.
- A desire to unify and form an identity for the Eastern Goleta Valley was expressed. The idea of defining 'gateways' into the community so that people know when they enter and exit the area was mentioned. There is no 'community center' for EGV.
- Changes in the community plan need to be consistent with the existing plan for Western Goleta Valley, especially regarding any changes in zoning definitions.
- We are a bedroom community. There are five homes per job in EGV. Do we want to remain a bedroom community? Do we want to create additional local jobs?

3. Public Comment:

- a. *Patti Close*: Requested that the GVPAC meetings be held in Eastern Goleta Valley.

For additional information, the official minutes, and the meeting audio, please see the county website:

<http://longrange.sbcountyplanning.org/planareas/goleta/gvpac.php>

Once again let me know if you do not wish to receive these e-mails, and feel free to forward them to others.

Thank you!

-Kenan ([Kenan.Ezal@cox.net](mailto:Kenan.Ezal@cox.net))

Note: I am fully responsible for any errors you may find in the above—no one else.

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