

Subject: GVPAC Oct 1, 2008 Meeting Notes

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

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To: "'Kenan Ezal'" <Kenan.Ezal@cox.net>

Hello,

Last night was the first meeting of the Goleta Valley Planning Advisory Committee (GVPAC). Not much happened and it was lightly attended. The first meeting was intended for providing the GVPAC members legal information and information about the planning process and the planning timeline. Here are some of my notes regarding the meeting. These are not the meeting minutes. If you are interested in the official minutes, or if you are interested in listening to the audio recording of the meeting, then you can download them from the GVPAC website:

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

The audio mp3 files will be available the day following any given meeting. The MP3 files are large (149MB for last night) but you can listen to them without having to download the entire file. The official minutes will not be available for a week or two after each meeting. All meeting materials are also located at that site for download.

Meeting Notes (2008-10-01):

1. Notification: Some speakers felt that there was insufficient notification for the Oct 1st meeting and requested legal notices in local papers. The county indicated that it does not have sufficient funding to notice each and every meeting. It will place one or two legal adds in select papers indicating the start of the planning process. The Goleta Valley Voice was suggested by Kimberly True (GVPAC Member) because it is free and serves the Goleta Valley. The primary notification focal point will continue to be the SB County Planning website. When you Google "GVPAC", the SB county page is the first one that comes up. If interested in being electronically notified of any future meetings or events you can sign up at the above site or click on this link <mailto:eisaly@co.santa-barbara.ca.us> to request to be added to the mailing list. I requested that electronic notifications be e-mailed at least a week in advance so that the public has sufficient time to plan ahead. Note also that the website will provide a calendar and agendas for future meeting dates and events.
2. Location: Although no one from the public spoke at last night's meeting about the location of future meetings, I did get several inquiries regarding the possibility of moving the meetings closer to Goleta (from downtown Santa Barbara and the Planning Commission room). I brought up the issue at the end of the meeting. Staff indicated that there is no location in Goleta with good acoustics and a sound system with all the required audio/video tools that is also consistently available to the GVPAC. The possibility of conducting the meetings at different locations was brought up but it was clear that all GVPAC members and staff felt that holding the meetings at the same place was preferred and simpler.
3. Meeting Schedule: It was determined that the meetings will be held on the first Tuesday and third Wednesday of each month, with periodic exceptions. The meetings for the rest of the calendar year will be held on October 15, November 5 (November 4th is election day), November 19, December 2, and December 17.
4. Public Comment: Some speakers expressed concern about when the public will be able to comment during each meeting. No specific format was decided, but instead left to the discretion of the committee Chair. Every meeting will provide an opportunity for public comment, and most probably more than once.
5. Brown Act: The GVPAC is subject to the Brown Act which implies that committee members must refrain from speaking about agenda items outside of the meetings, especially if there is a quorum (4 members) in attendance. Another implication of the Brown Act is that we cannot discuss items not on the agenda during any given meeting. If a non-agenda item is brought up during public comment or during the course of any discussion amongst staff and committee members we must table that item and place it on a future agenda. Some members of the public felt that it would stifle discussion and public input. However, the intent of the Brown Act is clear: the public must be given proper notification of any item for discussion by the committee so that all sides are given a chance to attend the meeting and provide input. If the public wishes to suggest an item for a future agenda they can contact county staff and/or the committee Chair (to be selected on November 5th). They can also bring up the item during public input at any meeting, but need to recognize that we will not be able to discuss that new item at that meeting.
6. Committee Members: One of my concerns regarding the planning process was the composition of the GVPAC and I wondered how well we would work with each other. After meeting each of the committee members last night I no

longer have such concerns. It was clear to me that every member of the committee (and the county staff!) are genuinely interested in the welfare of Goleta Valley. More importantly I believe that all of us are willing to work together to resolve any differences we may have.

7. Next Meeting Agenda: The next meeting, to be held on October 15th, is intended to provide more background material regarding the planning process, the 1993 plan, and to review the findings of previous committees including the Goleta Valley Visioning Committee (GVC). I suspect that "real" discussions will not begin until the third meeting on November 5th.

Please feel free to forward my e-mails to anyone you wish. However, they will need to contact me directly to be added to the mailing list. In addition, please contact me if you want to be removed from this list. I expect that I will send out an e-mail about twice a month (once for each meeting). Each email should have a subject line that starts with "GVPAC" so you can filter your e-mail. I will also try to respond to any of your individual inquiries. While I can't discuss agenda items with other committee members outside of the meetings, I am allowed to discuss them with the public. However, I may sometimes choose to respond to your individual inquires through a mass e-mail sent to everyone on the list.

Thanks!

Sincerely,

-Kenan

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