

CVPAC Minutes, Jan. 10, 2006

The meeting was called to order by Bob Quirk at 7:00. Bob read the minutes from the Nov. meeting which had been taken by Chris Wegis. Ron Thrower moved to approve the minutes. Voted on and passed. Bob then passed out summaries of Supervisor Centeno's Dec. 7 meeting.

Judy Kidd spoke to the issue of why Supervisor Centeno changed his feelings on the plan for the Valley. At his meeting with community members in July, he told us we needed to give our organization a name and write to the Board of Supervisors to become official so money could be allocated to write the plan. In Dec. he wanted a plan for the townsite only and not include the whole valley.

Mike Knowland also spoke to the issue of the Dec. meeting, and his opinion was that a plan restricted zoning in the Valley. He said developers in Santa Barbara County are interested in development here.

Richard Russell admitted he came into the committee at a later date and didn't know a lot of the background. He said most of the land owners didn't want their property put into a plan and have others control them. Most ag landowners are in Ag. Preserve known as the Williamson Act.

Mike Knowland stated that Joe Centeno requested we write a plan. He also said that developers came to him from Joe Centeno. Mike's advice was to do nothing as he doesn't want change.

Bob Quirk said he didn't want change either.

Marty Eifrid said he heard face-to-face there was \$315,000 allotted for a Cuyama Plan.

Richard Russell noted that 9,000 acres plus another 3,000 of the Russell Ranch were recently sold to cattle people.

Chris Wegis felt that the previous meetings were filled with pure emotion. She also said Joe Centeno had stated several times that he represented Santa Barbara County only. She would like to see economic development, that the schools could be improved, and Cuyama Valley needs renewed resources. She also feels the townsite is definitely in need or repair. People should be able to do what they want with their own land. She feels there was hysteria over water and air which is not of primary importance.

Jan Hensley reiterated that the elem. School is at capacity, but the high school is at low enrollment. The high school had the 2nd highest API scores in the state, and the elem. School went up 74 pts in the API; so both schools are in good shape academically.

Marvin Rahe said there is a right and wrong place for development, and if we don't make a plan, someone will make one for us. The developers have money to get what they want.

JennyLee also felt that Santa Barbara would make a plan of us if we don't make one.

Steve Stith asked what it would take to get the General Plan?

Mike Knowland told us there is one in the library.

Eric Hvolboll felt he had a different perception on the people who bought the Russell property. He wondered if they were developers/

Mike Knowland said it would be difficult to do a project without us knowing. A person can go to the Planning and Development website, put in your email address, and they will send you any permits applied for in the area.

Jan Hensley agreed that a developer will probably come in at some time. We should find everyone's interests, listen, and work as a group.

Judy Kidd said we don't want Santa Barbara to use us as a dumping ground. Also, Jim Patterson, our supervisor for SLO, seemed co-operative about a plan.

Marty Eifried said it will take time and effort to write a plan. We need a clearing house for the Valley. He has established a website to update things in the Valley and promote an information flow. His website is www.eifrid.com/cvpac.

Jim Wegis said the ag people are concerned because of changes in ag in the last 25 years.

It is difficult for a small farmer to make it now. Could we have a community plan and not include ag?

Ron Thrower felt the non-agriculture people in the group seem to want to preserve ag as much as anyone. He asked Richard Russell to explain the Williamson Act. Discussion followed.

John Kidd said some good things have come out of our meetings, i.e. left hand turn lanes into both schools and passing lanes on 166. We now need to decide what we are going to do. Do we disband, go to the Board of Supervisors, or continue meeting.

Judy Kidd moved we continue meeting. Mike Knowland seconded.

Austin Downs said a plan is good, but what kind of plan? Are we spinning our wheels? We need to look down the road. Jan and Austin discussed what has happened in Tulare.

Jan Hensley feels we need to do visioning..... learning where we are headed and go to the table.

Austin Downs feels we should work together to be good neighbors. Dialogue followed.

Mike Knowland pointed out the plan was not telling people what to do. Perhaps we should have a local plan, work on it with our neighbors, and do what is best for us. There is no economic base in Cuyama for growth. We are also not in Santa Barbara's best interest. The framework for the General Plan is a good one to follow.

The group voted to keep meeting.

Anne Knowland stated that she hated to see the group disband. She sees better feelings here tonight, people being more comfortable talking, and good information flow.

Jan Hensley stated there us value in understanding people

George Morgan moved we adjourn.

John Kidd seconded. Voted on and carried. 9:15