

*Special Action Group  
Minute Meeting  
May 1, 2002*

**Welcome & Introductions**

Marilynn Johnson welcomed all members of the group. Introductions were made at the end of the meeting. Marilynn briefly discussed the agenda and the involvement of Planners Inc. with the City of Nogales Comprehensive Plan.

**Border Health ¡SI! Update**

Jacob Abarca spoke about the Congressional Appropriations for Border Health ¡SI!. It is in the process of being written by the Border Health ¡SI! Technical Team. The purpose is to find a position to write grants that can support Border Health ¡SI! specifically for what the SAG group is doing.

Jacob reported that he is looking at surveying the grocery stores in Rio Rico and in Nogales. The purpose of the survey is to look at dietary changes in the community. He spoke with Michael Garret from the Garrets Supermarket in Rio Rico and he was going to meet with the manager from Food City store to give them both more information about the survey.

**Focus Group: Nogales Comprehensive Plan**

George Lineiro introduced Irene Ogata from Planners Inc. and Barbara Becker who is a member consulting with Planners Inc. Mrs. Ogata explained their role as consultants for the City of Nogales Comprehensive Plan. She gave a brief explanation of what and how they will be incorporating the seven elements into the plan. She wanted feedback from SAG members about bicycle trail, walking trails, or any other concerns that the group wanted to address. Mrs. Ogata would like a copy of Teresa Stamper's report on walking facility in Rio Rico and Nogales area. She then asked several questions and the following discussion began.

Discussion: What the community has or doesn't have? The city does not have enough entertainment for youth. For example: playgrounds or movie theatres. The city does not have safe bicycle paths. Most bicycle paths are dirt paths made by youths wherever they can find an area. Does the city have designated bicycle paths? If there were bicycle paths would they be used? There are no designated bicycle paths and members of the group believe that it would probably be a while before the youth would use them. SAG members included the need for sidewalks in and around the city. There are people in wheelchairs riding along the roadside sharing the road with regular traffic. There are sufficient lengths for sidewalks to be built. Mr. Lineiro mentioned that the state has released a grant so that the city can build more sidewalks.

Beth Daley spoke about the City of Nogales having a welcome image. How she would like to see a welcoming community that has sidewalks, weeds cleaned up and a cleaner Nogales. If there were sidewalks along Grand Ave tourists could be able to walk through the streets and enjoy the town.

Discussion on connecting paths. Marilyn spoke about a meeting she and some SAG members had with Robert Longaker, from the WLB Group working with Escalada/Mastick Trust Development. In this meeting Mr. Longaker provided a map and on this map, Rich Polheber, Carondelet Health Network, Marcel Bachelier, Parks and Recreation, Kathy Vandervoet, Nogales International, and Marilyn, U of A, marked possible trails that could become linked or can be built. Irene Ogata would like a copy of the map to look at the possible sites. Teresa Stamper's information will also help her to link and incorporate different location areas for walking and bicycle paths.

A skateboard park was built in Nogales for the youth. They are planning to incorporate sidewalks and trees around the park. They are in the planning stages of providing lighting for people to walk at night.

How are fields and recreation facilities in the area? Do they get full? Are they built for the community's capacity? There are community parks Teyechia Park, War Memorial Stadium and City Hall. The Teyechia Park is currently being used as a multi-task park; they have little league, soccer and holiday celebrations. This park could be bigger to accommodate more people. The War Memorial Stadium is strictly for baseball. The park at City Hall is used mostly by the youth to hang out. In the Monte Carlo neighbor there are two small basketball courts, one north of Baffert Dr. and on the corner of Calle Sonora. As far as large open space gathering the Teyechia Park is the most used for community events. Other facilities include two tennis courts and two swimming pools. The City of Nogales has a contract with Wade Carpenter Academy for the community to use the swimming pool. The Housing Authority has a gym, but it is for resident use only. Although they do use that facility for other groups or sports, Promotoras from the Border Health ¡SI! Walking Club component have their walks in that facility. There are also boxing practices and matches at the gym.

Are there facilities for the elderly? The senior center, by the Council of Aging provides lunch and after they play a game of bingo. There are no enclosed walking facilities for the elderly. What can be done about the semi trucks? As far as the General Plan, they are looking at traffic patterns, but it is hard to regulate the traffic for the semi trucks. The policy is an oriented plan; they will not be looking for specific details. For example, the run down building that needs maintenance and painting. Mr. Liniero pointed out that there have been some changes made to accommodate the community, but semi trucks need to go through regular traffic to get to their destination.

Also available for youth is the Boy & Girls Club. They have a little over 900 youth in the program. After school they have activities for youth and help kids with their homework.

In the group's last discussion Joyce Hubbard wanted to know if there was a gardening club in town that perhaps would be interested in doing some gardening at the entrance of Grand Ave for the City of Nogales. Dean Fish, Director, University of Arizona gave a brief explanation of the Master Gardeners class offered through the U Of A. Dean also spoke about the 2000x2000 Tree Foundation. That is supported by various donations, grants, etc.

Once the school has the trees the students at the Nogales High School help plant them and take care of them. They don't sell the trees, they don't make any profit from the trees. They do provide trees for public places, but they do require having an irrigation system.

### **Announcements**

Joyce Hubbard announced the Baby Fair to be held this weekend. Carmen Flores thanked those who helped make the walk for the Cystic Fibrosis such a success. Last announcement, Gwen Gallegos finished her master's degree and will be graduating next month.

The next SAG meeting will be May 22, 2002 at the United Church Village