

Border Health SI!  
September 26, 2001  
Meeting Minutes

## **Welcome and Introductions**

Dean Fish, welcomed the group. Everyone in the group introduced themselves. He informed the group that Mayor Marco Lopez had joined the group for the day. Mayor Lopez would answer questions and concerns the group had about the Growing Smarter plan. Dean then introduced Kathy Vandervoet.

Kathy Vandervoet spoke about the editorial in the newspaper from September 18, about walking trails. She received an email from Chuck Hulsey a developer/consultant of the 900 acre ranch land from Grand Ave and Interstate 19. (Handouts were given of the email.) He was not aware of the need for walking trails in the Nogales area. Mr. Hulsey would like to meet with members of the SAG group for input in locating appropriate trails, as they are in the development process. Kathy then asked that members who would be interested in meeting with Mr. Hulsey to let Sandra know. Sandra will then set up a meeting date with Mr. Hulsey.

## **Border Health;SI! Update**

Jill de Zapien reports that the second year of funding for Border Health ;SI! will begin. Congressman Greg Houston has given them their amendment to continue for another year with the same level of funding and the third year with a reduced level of funding.

Jill reported that Yuma is very excited and very involved in the policies taking place in Somerton and San Luis. The two action plans they are working with are physical activity and nutrition. The issues in Somerton and San Luis involving physical activity are already going through the process of getting both plans on the ballot.

The members of the Special Action Group have become involved in testifying before the Planning & Zoning Commission and before the City Council. In Somerton the action plan will be on the ballot. They will be developing a campaign that will introduce the action plan outside the voting area. They will encourage people to vote for this action plan. They will be handing out green hearts that will read "Walking is good for your heart".

In San Luis they have had problems due to the political changes around the mayor and city council. This intersects with the process, therefore they will not be putting the general plan on the ballot this fall. In the nutrition area as mentioned before, the grocery stores in the Somerton, San Luis area are owned by the same person. They have put together a group of managers of the grocery stores to give them an open door policy.

This group will specifically integrate in a series of activity in the store to display and concise with the kind of education that is going on with the walking club curriculum and the family curriculum. They will begin in the fall with a display's, focusing Canola oil, low fat milk, increasing fruits & vegetables and fiber. This will give information on why each of these are healthy. They will have members from the promotoras family component and members of the walking clubs in the stores to hand out recipes for customers. .

The nutrition group will also be working with schools and target the snack bar policy. They will find the purpose of the revenues from the snack bar and help them find other sources of revenues.

Joel Miester reported on funded projects, and how programs are short term funded, for example, Border

Health ¡SI! and other projects. Programs in public health and community based programs have done good around border areas in the past ten years including Santa Cruz.

They have done extremely good in receiving grants. The downfall is that projects end. Sometimes they will get revived and other times they won't. When projects end people will be laid-off. The University has thought about this and in thinking of ways to increase sustain ability, they have invited various projects to get together for a meeting November 9. They will focus on action planning to obtain ongoing funding streams.

In the preliminary thinking, most options of funding would be political (from legislative and public policy). Although this is not a good year to be going to public entities for funding. If anyone would like to bring about a legislative change be that of county level or state level, a good three year window would make good sense.

Joel then invited members of the group to join the November 9, meeting in Casa Grande, at the Francisco Grande Resort. They have also invited members of the state legislature who would be supportive.

### **“Growing Smarter” plan for the City of Nogales**

Mayor Marco Lopez spoke about the Growing Smarter plan. Mr. George Liniero, Director of Planning & Zoning Commission for the City of Nogales, in our last meeting gave a detailed explanation about this plan.

Mayor Lopez explains that a part of getting the Growing Smarter plan approved will be from input they receive from community organizations and groups, including the SAG group. They will need the citizens vote in order to be successful in getting any type of program approved, with very limited community input, nine out of ten times the citizens will not approve the plan. The Mayor informs us of this input to assure us that this is not only from the way the administration from his office is operating to build consensus with all community groups and with residents of the city, but because it is mandated by law. If this is done then they will be able to complete the plan in a timely manner.

The Mayor is also involved in a resolution committee for League of Arizona Cities and Towns. One of the proposals the mayor encountered involved the extension of the period of time for the Growing Smarter plan to be on the ballot. This information again is given to us to recognize that the input the SAG members will give will make up a big portion of the plan. The Mayor also encourages the SAG members to gather a document with a list of specific objectives and priorities in which the group would like to see implemented in the plan. However, the Mayor does ask that priorities be concise and information be given in detail.

For example: one park in Meadow Hills subdivision, in identified portions and not just to say, four more parks in Nogales. This will give them specific information of where they need to go and what the plan will be. This will make the job more reasonable and more realistic in getting things done. The Mayor encourages the SAG members to think about this when planning their work sessions. They would then have a document that can be incorporated to the job and work that the Planning and Zoning division will be working with. This is asked because they do not have the staff to go out and plot five parks, three trails or other things. A detailed document is more beneficial to them and to the Planning and Zoning Commission. They are open to all sort of feedback that can come from the group.

The Mayor did recognize the editorial in the newspaper by Kathy Vandervoet. This article had received plenty of feedback. In addition the Mayor spoke about a three-acre land the city had incorporated about a week ago. This is along the wetland area in Meadow Hills that will be developing a walking trail along this path. A private citizen who turned it over to the City of Nogales for the purpose of having an open green space owned the land.

Discussion and Questions: Rich Polheber asked, in reference to being part of the resolution committee, if

the Mayor was suggesting they will attempt to push the date to a later date than that of November. Mayor Marco Lopez response is that he is assured by his staff that they will meet the deadline of November 2002.

One of the things that was not clear in the Growing Smarter law was the enabling legislation stipulating that the whole plan had to have been completed, this would include election by the year 2002 or if the plan had to be done and ready for adoption in a general election after December 2002. The resolution of the League of Arizona Cities and Towns clarified that the city would have until the election following December 2002 to allow clear up of the law, therefore there would be no interpretation on issues.

George Liniero's response to a question on the needs for preparation for the Growing Smarter Plan: the initiative calls for several public hearings and public participation. When the process takes place, the meetings will be advertised. As part of the process they will be forming two advisory committees, one of technical nature and the second would be planning of long range use of land in Nogales. In this committee, the SAG group will help them reach their goal for open space recreation. Jill Zapien asked when the advisory group would be formed. George Liniero, at the moment no date has been set for the committees to begin, but they will be formed with enough time so they can receive input more than once. They will receive input and review the information and come back with the committee. They will then look at it again, because some of these plans take at least one or two visits to reach the goal.

Mayor Marco Lopez responded that when the target dates were set they would let the group know. There will be a tight scheduling because of the November deadline, they would have to be on the ballot 60 days before. The Mayor then offered his participation in answering question or concerns for those who may any. His office is located in the City Hall building.

### **Nogales/Rio Rico Recreational Sites**

Theresa Stamper reported for her short term action group. She gave handouts to everyone in the group. The handout gave information on recreation facilities, exercise sites available and other areas within Santa Cruz County. She explained about the different information listed. Included with the handouts were maps showing a legend, with locations of the recreational sites highlighted. The handout also gave information on availability for the recreation, the length of walking distance (if available) and location for recreation facilities. If you would like a copy of the handout or if you have any additions to add please contact Theresa Stamper at 281-2860 or Sandra Romero 281-2994.

### **School Health Index - Progress Report**

Carmen Flores reported on the School Health Index. Carmen handed out copies of modules for members to view. Carmen is still having difficulty in recruiting the schools for their participation. Carmen provides everything for the schools participation, for example: pens, paper copies, etc. It seems the schools have been busy and have not been able to initiate their participation. They have asked Carmen to be patient and for her to continue to contact them. On a side note, Carmen and Karen Halverson informed the group that when schools have completed the School Health Index, they receive a reward of \$1,500.00. The schools are not aware of the reward because, the idea was that the schools would participate because of the benefit their school would receive from the School Health Index and not because of the reward. The schools would use this money to replace lost revenues from food sales and bake sales. It could also be used for special equipment or physical activity. Initially the schools can use this money as needed but, Karen would like the money to be used for the benefit of the kids.

Karen's thought is that they will have to inform the schools that are reluctant in initiating the School Health Index of the reward. This is not something that she agrees with, because this brings a great benefit to their

school even if the school doesn't receive a reward. Karen would like the schools to recognize this. Karen has thought of a luncheon, inviting the schools and then presenting the reward to Little Red School.

A discussion took place on different ways a luncheon can take place without creating another meeting date for people to attend. Jill also informed the group that the School Health Index had been created about a year ago by CDC. Everyone had wonderful opinions and comments for Carmen. Including Ana Doan, Principal, at Little Red School, who mentioned that the process of doing the School Health Index, changed the personality of the schools.

### **Breakout for Action Planning and Group Reporting**

Dean then had the group divide into two working groups to continue their action planning. Dean suggested that each group come up with a specific request and specific priorities that each group could identify. They will then begin creating a document to be presented to the Planning & Zoning Commission, the Mayor and Council. This was a recommendation Mayor Lopez gave to the group.

After twenty five minutes each group then reported what they had discussed within their groups. In the long term group, Dina Sanchez will ensure they will be placed on the advisory board committee for the plan. They will generate an overall theme for future development. They will identify other areas and Dean will get a map showing ownership. Finally JoJean will get models for future development. The short term group, will focus on the project in Meadow Hills. Marcel Bachelier will get information on where the exact location will be. They will invite and contact several people from different organizations. Ila Titlebaugh will contact Andy Adame, Community Relation officer for the Border Patrol. Marilyn will then send a letter of invitation to Mr. Adame. Rick Polheber will contact the Perimeter Bike Association. Dina Sanchez will call the person in charge for the bike patrol at the police department.

The next SAG meeting will be October 24, 2001 at the United Church Village.