

Citizens adopt blueprint for Aptos Village

By BOB SMITH

With the exception of some minor wording changes, that will be completed within the next week, the Aptos Village urban design plan was completed Thursday night.

The 10-member committee approved the plan submitted by design consultant Richard Peterson after a 3½-hour meeting at Cabrillo College. The plan now goes to the Santa Cruz County planning commission and then to the board of supervisors for consideration as an amendment to the Aptos area general plan.

Supervisor Dale Dawson indicated that he supports the goals within the village plan and will be working to have it accepted after a series of public hearings before the planning commission and supervisors.

One language change was made in the document at the request of committee member Dwight Sharpe, a real estate man, who objected to Peterson's references in the plan that building design would be subject to the planned development process. "That dirty word—planned development—comes up here," Sharpe told the committee. "Maybe the board of supervisors can establish something different than planned development. Some type of review is necessary, but I would like the committee to say that there should be a better way than adding planned development (PD) to every parcel in the village."

Dawson told the committee members that the PD process is being reviewed by the county government now. "The principal concern with PD is the cost. We are now in the process of reviewing the procedures, but I still think you are saying you need a tool."

The tool referred to by Dawson is a committee recommendation that the county substitute "design review" for planned development, a procedure that would scrutinize proposed building plans to ensure that they came within the architectural and landscaping themes suggested by the consultant's report. This would take legislation by the supervisors to implement.

One recommendation the committee will be making to Dawson for rapid implementation is a three-way stop sign at Soquel Drive and Trout Gulch Road. Accompanied by a left turn lane, the committee believes this will lessen the traffic tie-ups that occur almost daily on Trout Gulch Road when commuter traffic from the area converges on the intersection.