

Aptos moves ahead on plan to incorporate

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Aptos residents interested in incorporating their area into a city elected an executive committee at a meeting last night at the Aptos Library.

The new committee will make recommendations for the direction the incorporation effort should take, but it will not have power to initiate actions. Executive committee recommendations will be submitted to a vote of an informal steering committee, according to Tom Carmody, a spokesman for the group.

Elected to the executive committee were Carmody, Terry Pershall, Doug McConnell, Howard Sherer, Mary Bergthold, Pat Manning, Vince Casey and Glenn Specht, who was a leader in a 1980 attempt at incorporation that failed to generate enough support.

The steering committee, Carmody said, is "an open-ended body of those interested" and has averaged a little over 20 people at any given meeting, with perhaps 32 people involved overall.

The incorporation effort has been proceeding since early June, when residents decided to have another go at this traditional Aptos concern.

The effort is currently focusing on raising the money to pay for a preliminary feasibility study and on "taking the message to the community," Carmody said.

Estimates of the cost of the study made by four consulting organizations around the state ranged from \$2,000 to \$5,000, he said.

Aptos incorporationists have raised "slightly over \$1,000" so far, Carmody said, adding that an exact figure would be available later today when the money was deposited in an Aptos bank.

The steering committee also voted last night to register with the county elections office. Carmody said the group was not required to do so under the Fair Political Practices Act, but that filing with the county would "give us a built-in accounting system" that would "help make us publicly accountable."

Members are concerned at this point only to find out if incorporation is feasible and are not yet advocating it, he said.