

# Incorporation talk in Aptos

By ALEXANDRA HAYNE  
STAFF WRITER

Once again, a movement is afoot to incorporate the Aptos area into a city. The last such movement fizzled out for lack of broad support about a decade ago, but the leaders of the current movement believe the situation is different today.

"I think the time has come for it," Ken Fleissner, an Aptos real estate broker said yesterday.

Fleissner and Victor Marani, an Aptos native now living in Corralitos, are heading a group of people who found each other quite by accident. Associates of each of them began, separately, talking about the idea of incorporating Aptos into a city. Then the two groups found out about each other and began meeting together. They have met twice and have more meetings scheduled for June 4 and 9.

Fleissner and Marani said the talk was still "tentative," and that the group planned to find a consultant who could tell them whether there was enough of a tax base to support a city there.

"We're just trying to see if we can numerically make this work and provide the services," Marani said.

Unlike previous incorporation efforts, they said, this one is broad-based, drawing people from a variety of professions. In addition, it was not prompted by a particular political issue, they said.

"People say, 'I'm from Aptos,' with pride," Marani said. "People really feel that sense of community."

Fleissner added, "Now it's an issue of whether they want to be self-determining."

It is that sense of community, plus a certain dissatisfaction with the county for its level of services, such as police protection and road maintenance, that

side of an issue," Fleissner said, "it will doom this effort."

That is not to say, however, that the group is not interested in political issues such as growth and planning. It is. Marani said people were looking at Live Oak, where many say growth has outstripped the county's ability to provide needed services.

"What happened to Live Oak

---

"What happened to Live Oak was unfortunate," Marani said.

"Tremendous growth bursting forth and no services to go with it."

---

is behind the current cityhood move, they said.

"If it takes the sheriff 40 minutes to get to them," Marani said, "that's what they are disenchanted with."

Other issues — the Wing-spread performing arts and recreation complex, Seascope Land Company's proposal for a resort and conference center on the bluffs in Seascope, the successfully fought charges in Service Area 38 — may have brought some people to the meetings. But Marani and Fleissner said they didn't want the group to become politicized.

"If people see this interest as representing this side or that

was unfortunate," Marani said. "Tremendous growth bursting forth and no services to go with it."

Aptos, he said, wants to have a vehicle — a city — to control growth.

"The people of Aptos see that the growth is coming their way," Marani said.

Despite the failure of earlier efforts, Marani and Fleissner said that if it can be shown that the area can pay for better services — and that the organizers don't have a political axe to grind — the current movement has a good chance of succeeding.

Boundaries of any future city have not been considered yet.

The two organizers said they hoped a consultant might be able to put together a few different possibilities to illustrate what kind of a tax base would provide what level of services.

If the group decides to go ahead, they must get signatures of 25 percent of registered voters in the area supporting the idea of incorporation. Then, the Local Agency Formation Commission, the county agency with authority over such things as city incorporation, must approve the plan. If it does, the Board of Supervisors, hearing no overwhelming objection, then places the matter on the ballot, and the people affected vote on it.

The meeting June 4, at 7 p.m. in room 1604 at Cabrillo College, will feature a lawyer who is an expert in incorporation. On June 9, same time, same place, Fred Christiansen of Oceanside, another expert on incorporation, will talk about revenue sources and expenditures necessary to support a city.

About 100 people have shown up at the group's first two meetings, Marani said.

"I think the interest will continue," he said. "I think the people know they are a separate entity. If the money's there and we can do a class act in terms of having a city, then great. I'm for that."

"If the bottom line is in the red, then forget it."