EPILOGUE

The planning study conducted by the graduate students in Community and Regional Planning enrolled in CRPL 810 Qualitative Techniques in Planning was completed on December 7\textsuperscript{th} 2006 with the final presentation to the stakeholders of Panama at a video conference hosted at Lincoln. The planning team concluded their term project by presenting an Action Plan for the Fire Barn and Community Hall which essentially represented a point of transition where the Planning process is brought to its logical conclusion by the Planning team and the implementation process initiated by the community stakeholders and assisted by the Extension Educators and Specialist commences.

Two landmark events have either taken place or are scheduled at the time of writing this report. Extension Educators Phyllis Schoenholz and Dennis Kahl initiated a listening session with the youth of Panama, NE on December 11\textsuperscript{th}, 2006 which was attended by 14 resident youth from Panama. The purpose of this listening session was to disseminate the Action Plan prepared by the planning team among interested youth and seek their full engagement in the community effort to establish the fire barn and community hall in Panama.

The narrative below describes the proceedings of the listening session and is presented in the original format that it was recorded by Kahl and Schoenholz.
Panama Youth Listening Session on December 11, 2006, Norris High School
– 11:00 a.m.

14 youth – (2 girls) – Principal invited students to conference room with free lunch – freshman through seniors were represented

Over the past several months, a University of Nebraska class of graduate students has been working in Panama with a class project relating to building a community center. There is some seed money available to conduct a study. The students have conducted two town hall meetings to gather input from people of Panama concerning who the leadership group is for a community center, site and building, funding and financing, decision-making and stakeholder responsibility. Panama leaders want to be sure to include the thoughts and ideas of the community youth, and young people have not attended the town hall meetings. This is one reason that you have been invited to come to this session.

1. As a resident in the Panama area, what would be your definition of community?

   • People living together – Norris is the community
   • Norris is the community – community is the people togetherness
• Everybody's roles in the community and how they contribute to the community....what they contribute and are a part of the community./

• Take care of each other....live near each other...share information....help each other out.

• Everybody tries to get along...you know everybody....

• Work tighter and look out for each other

• What they contribute and take care of each other

• Bunch of people in a certain area....Panama...living together....village of Panama....

• People in the community don't necessarily help each other....they can be pissed off with others ....

• Community is to support others, friends,

• Baseball team, town gets together ....

2. **Without concern for the location in Panama, the community leaders are interested in learning your vision of what a community center might be for you?**

• A place where we can hang out..."kick it", play some video games, pool table. Basketball court, ...indoors

• We already have a basketball court...but need one more hoop on it to be use.
• Tanning bed in it….something girlie…everyone is like…
  basketball….need something for the girls.
• Pool table a nice table to sit down and eat, place where people
  can have parties, anniversaries, and still a place to play cards …
  nice place
• Swimming pool
• A place where everyone can go and eat and stuff
• Keep it simple....
• Just a place to hang out....pool table and video games
• Mostly all that.....would this be connected with Fire Barn....
• Where are they thinking of having it.....outside the town.........lo
• (Dennis' response to them – we can’t answer where the location will
  be --- the village will have to make that decision.)
• Think it should be a place that everyone can use....the church
  basement isn’t very big, so they can have meetings there...and
  other people where teens can hang out and stuff
• Place to go and make things happen
• A place where we can hang out....a pool table., comfy chairs,
  beanbag chairs, TV, foozball table.
• Pool – and there needs to be an indoor place where we can walk
  in there where we can “chill”...always unlocked...so we can go
  there late....
• A cool place to hang out........nothing different – pool table
• I don't live in town....but don't care...I'm never in Panama
• Games and stuff, pool table, Vending machines, ...with candy, pop, snacks

Dennis asked – as you were growing up ....as 10-11 – 12 year olds.....(how would they use it)
• There are lots of good role models in Panama...they let the kids come over

3. **Would you utilize a community center in Panama?**

• I wouldn't be at home........I’d crash there if it had all of those things
• I would use it...
• Yes
• I might.....
• Yes – if it really had the stuff
• It would have to happen soon....Not in 5 years....I won’t be there
• In 5 years....Id’ be there....and I’d use it
• Yes....
• Not like having crazy rules...where they won't let you do anything
4. Are you interested in helping in either fund-raising, being on ground floor with the leadership or being a volunteer to help make it successful? If so, please share in what capacity you would share your talent.

- Yea – I would volunteer to do some stuff....
- I would volunteer to help build it
- I can help set up fundraisers – to help raise some money
- I would help with fundraising....and could possibly work there
- I should work there if there were parties, anniversaries etc
- I would volunteer
- If it would be done within 5 years....I would help – if after that – I won’t be there around
- Maybe I would set up a lemonade stand....franchise it and make some money.
- Yea – I would help
- Sure – I guess I would help with something
- I would do the candy bars......where you would buy candy bars
- Yea I’d help--- probably volunteering with various things that would need to be done
- I’d pitch in a little bit
• I'd pitch in…..

As time goes on….one of the major proposals…that UNL students have talked about…..there is some money for a Fire barn…with monies from that Fire barn….it is possible

Would like to leave the Fire Barn as it is……and just do a community center….Dennis told them about Hickman – population has doubled…and the proposal is that there will be 7000 people….Fire safety is very important…..there is potential for increase in population for Panama….people want to live outside of Lincoln…and live in acreages and small towns….where the crime rate is less.

Why would people live in Panama…. 

• It is quiet.

(RELECTION: As they were talking…………they brought back themselves to reality – when the wishing got “too big ”—such as the suggestion of getting a swimming pool.)