



**CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 27, 2005 – 4:00 P. M., ROOM 303, YENNI BUILDING**

Members of the Citizen's Advisory Committee Present:

Norbert White	Lynne Parker
Lee Giorgio	Cocie Rathborne
Bruce O'Neil	Jim Fantaci
Scott Coulombe	Leon Scoriels
Ben Zahn	Larry Katz
Debbie Settoon	Sheree Kerner
Bruce Layburn	Connie Casey
	Ron Austin

Consultant Staff Present:

Tim Joder – UNO
Wendel Dufour- UNO
Monica Kelley – UPI
Ed Elam - BKI

Other Public Agency Staff Present:

Dottie Stephenson – JEDCO

ICE Department Staff Present:

Louis Savoye, Director
David Williams

Planning Department Staff Present:

Ed Durabb, Director
Terri Wilkinson, Planner III
Juliette Cassagne, Planner II
Julie Buffa, Planner II
Don Lapeyrolerie, Planner II
Wanda DeWailly, Steno Clerk III

The April 27, 2005 meeting of the Citizen's Advisory Committee began with Mr. Rathborne asking that the committee move to approve the correction to the minutes of the January 20, 2005 meeting. Mr. Scoriels so moved and the motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Mr. Rathborne also asked the committee to approve the minutes of the last meeting which was held on March 17, 2005. A motion was made by Mr. Coulombe to approve the minutes and the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Mr. Rathborne introduced Mr. Tim Joder from UNO and Mr. Wendel Dufour, Director of the Division of Planning, College of Urban & Public Affairs. Mr. Joder said they work together in the production of the Housing Element under the guidance of Burk-

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Kleinpeter, RPC, and the Planning Department. Mr. Joder said the presentation he was making to the committee was to provide some background on what was being done on the Housing Element, particularly from a statistical standpoint. Part of the Housing Element's purpose is to provide an assessment of the existing trends and issues affecting housing in Jefferson Parish. He referred to the Housing Data Report which was mailed to the committee in their packets. Mr. Joder then summarized the findings of this report.

Mr. Joder reiterated that the Comprehensive Plan will consist of goals, objectives, policies, and implementation strategies to ensure that housing development meets Jefferson's broad needs. Looking at socioeconomic and other trends helps to identify those needs, and Mr. Joder reviewed trends with the committee. One trend confronting the Parish is that its population is aging and housing for the elderly is a growing need. Families with children under 18 years of age have declined and Jefferson Parish is lagging behind the region in growth and retention among households under age 34. Additionally, the number of persons per household also has been steadily declining, and older, smaller households have implications for choices people make in housing. Housing for persons with disabilities is also in short supply. We are becoming more diverse in our racial/ethnic mix. Income has declined but the average home price in Jefferson Parish has gone up. An aging housing stock is also a growing issue. Most of the land in the Parish is devoted to detached single-family residential use.

Continuing with his presentation, Mr. Joder said that the Housing Technical Advisory Committee has concluded that with declining incomes there is a problem with the provision of housing at the lower end of the economic spectrum. Also, we are not providing enough alternative choices to detached single-family residences for the higher end segments of the population, usually households without children. Ms. Parker asked how more high-end, dense development would impact the economy of Jefferson Parish. Mr. Joder answered that it would produce more tax revenue and therefore create money in banks for investment; the more people we retain by providing them with attractive, alternative housing choices the better off we will be. Ms. Parker also asked if we were going to interface any of this with what is going on in the school system. Mr. Joder said that he and the public school board's planners have been talking, and the school system recently hired one of his colleagues at the university to help with their planning.

Mr. Dufour passed out two handouts to the committee and referred to them as he spoke on the cost affordability of housing in unincorporated Jefferson Parish.

Mr. Joder concluded by saying that he and Mr. Dufour have transmitted to Burk-Kleinpeter a draft of goals and objectives for review as a result of the Technical Advisory Committee's guidance. The draft then will be sent to the Technical Advisory Committee members. After reaching a consensus on goals and objectives, policies and strategies will be addressed. This process is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Mr. Ed Elam from Burk-Kleinpeter spoke next. He stated that the committee had received in their packets a summary document which contained the designation of Major Thoroughfares and Thoroughfare Planning Districts in Jefferson Parish. He introduced

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Ms. Monica Kelley from Urban Planning & Innovations who he said was the other part of the team along with Ms. Sharon Leader of S. W. Leader, Inc. He said they were brought here through the auspices of the Parish Planning Department as well as the RPC and were asked to develop an update of the Major Thoroughfare Plan. Ms. Kelley passed out handouts to the committee which included a Status of Work Program Elements by Scope Task and Timeline, Huey P. Long Bridge Widening, and the Jefferson Parish Thoroughfare Plan Status Report.

Mr. Bruce O'Neil asked the committee to consider a resolution to the Parish Council regarding new development along proposed corridors. Mr. Joder and Mr. Elam answered that it was in the purview of the committee to do so, but that the approval of the Thoroughfare Plan should be completed before a recommendation is made to the Council.

There being no other matters for discussion, the committee decided to hold the next meeting at a later date in June after the TAC committees met and more information was available. The meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.