

Minutes of the 5th Meeting of the Jefferson Parish Comprehensive Plan Steering
Committee
October 4th, 2001 - 3:30 P.M.
Select Properties Building
2121 Airline Drive, Suite 600

Attendees:

Steering Committee Members

Cocie Rathborne, Co-chair	Connie Casey	Erie Hebert
Lee Giorgio, Co-chair	Norbert White	Ross Liner
Allen Hero	Shirley Edwards	N. Buckner Barkley
Donnie Wolfe	Vinicio Madrigal, M.D.	Wayne Sandoz
Lucien Gunter		

Jefferson Parish Officials

Ed Durabb, Jefferson Parish Planning Director
Dr. Terri Wilkinson, Senior Planner
Shannon Burke, Planner

University of New Orleans College of Urban and Public Affairs

Timothy E. Joder, Director of Sponsored Research and Business Affairs
Wendel P. Dufour Jr., Principal Planner

Tim Joder of the University of New Orleans called the 5th meeting of the Jefferson Parish Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee to order. Mr. Joder asked attendees to observe a brief moment of silence to honor the victims of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

Dr. Terri Wilkinson of the Jefferson Parish began by stating that there was no audiotape of the previous meeting but that the minutes were fairly thorough. Dr. Wilkinson also noted that Norbert White raised a question about the amount of material being collected in their binders and that several items on the Steering Committee member list needed to be updated. He also said that the parish attorney said at the drainage committee that minutes from public meetings have to be completed within 10 days. Dr. Wilkinson agreed to look into the matter.

Mr. Joder then asked if everyone had reviewed the minutes. Lucien Gunter noted that Mr. Joder had asked for a vote of confidence to pursue the public relations budget and he had gotten it, but that it was not reflected in the minutes. Mr. Joder agreed and said the minutes would be amended to reflect the vote of confidence given by the Steering Committee. A motion to accept the minutes was made and seconded. The motion passed.

Mr. Gunter also noted that several appointed Steering Committee members had not attended any of the five meetings held to date need to be replaced. Mr. Joder noted that two members had not attended any of the meetings. There was some general discussion about Mr. Joder writing a letter on behalf of the Steering Committee to the appointing

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authority explaining the situation and asking them to name a replacement, with a copy going to the appointee. Mr. Joder asked for a motion from the Steering Committee to do this, which was made and seconded. The motion passed.

Mr. Joder then asked for a motion to approve the revised planning district map that places lands outside the hurricane protection levee into one planning district. Mr. Joder admitted that the new boundary would cause some minor aggravations with data analysis but that the levee as a boundary makes sense from a topographical perspective. The motion was made by Cocie Rathborne and seconded by Connie Casey. Donnie Wolfe asked about a news article saying that Jefferson Parish had significant lands outside the hurricane protection levee available for development. N. 'Buck' Barkley responded that the article is probably referring to an award the parish won for helping to preserve land outside the hurricane protection levee, since the hurricane protection levee itself is essentially the growth boundary on the Westbank. Dr. Wilkinson added that the article referred to a national award given to Jefferson Parish for balancing restoration and preservation of wetlands with development, and also mentioned that there were thousands of acres of wetlands available for development within the hurricane protection levee. Mr. Barkley stated that he thought that parish policy was that lands inside the hurricane protection levee would be available for conventional development as the Westbank grew. Dr. Wilkinson also noted that the article said there is an effort to garner a master wetlands permit for the Westbank. Mr. Barkley noted that that is underway, but is only targeted to the Barataria corridor.

Mr. Barkley said that he believed that portions of the natural environment element of the comprehensive plan that address critical and sensitive areas should address only the lands outside of the hurricane protection levee. Mr. Barkley also noted that he perceived the intent of the natural environment element to be another layer of land use controls over critical lands such as wetlands, over and above what is already there on the federal and state levels. Mr. Joder noted that is not the intent of the natural environment element. Mr. Rathborne suggested that when the Steering Committee begins to take up the natural environment element, Mr. David Loeb, the attorney handling the master wetland permit application, be invited to give a presentation to the Steering Committee about what he is doing. Mr. Joder also suggested that Mr. Barkley should be involved in the natural environment element committee.

Further discussion on this subject centered on clarifying the need to have a plan for the area outside the hurricane protection levee and the levels of federal regulations already in place relating to wetlands. Members of the planning team responded that for planning purposes, it is very important to make a delineation at the hurricane protection levee, since the levee is a major constraint on future development. The planning team also noted that the area outside of the hurricane protection levee cannot be ignored for many reasons, one of which is that there are many citizens of Jefferson who live outside of the protection levee. Mr. Joder asked if there was any more discussion on the matter and

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asked for a vote to approve the changes in the planning district boundaries. The motion passed.

Mr. Joder then moved on to the work plan and asked if there were any questions or comments. Dr. Wilkinson noted that since there was no accompanying Gantt chart it was difficult to visualize certain important tasks and milestones relating to development of the comprehensive plan. Lee Giorgio also stated that it was difficult to follow the details without a graph to help visualize the items. Mr. Joder noted that the point of sending out the work plan was to help the Steering Committee see the general tasks that would need to be undertaken to develop the comprehensive plan. Erie Hebert asked if the planning team is ready to start the district workshops and he inquired about the status of the website. Mr. Joder informed the Steering Committee that UNO is currently preparing for the district workshops and that the website would be discussed as the next agenda item.

Mr. Hebert asked if the element assembly work plan would be itemized for each element. Mr. Joder noted that they would be. Mr. Hebert noted that he is not qualified to evaluate the work plan. Dr. Wilkinson noted that this was the second draft of the UNO work plan and that once the detailed scopes of work are completed for the rest of the project, more detail would be included in the work program. Several members of the Steering Committee commented that rather than the Steering Committee, the Planning Department is in a better position to review the work program.

Mr. Joder then began discussing the draft of the first Envision Jefferson 2020 newsletter by pointing out some of the major points and items covered in the newsletter. Dr. Wilkinson noted that the article written by Mr. Ed Durabb, Director, Jefferson Parish Planning Department, would be cut to fit on the back cover. Mr. Joder said that 10,000 newsletters would be printed and he explained the distribution system. He said that every citizen who attended an education meeting would receive a newsletter by mail and that they would be placed in various public locations throughout the parish. He also noted that there would be a copy placed on the website. Several Steering Committee members mentioned the possibility of placing ads on public access television and placing contact phone numbers in the newsletter.

The discussion then centered on whether distributing newsletters is the best method to get the message out about the Envision Jefferson 2020 effort. Ms. Casey noted that usually about 200 of the 10,000 people who might see the newsletter would potentially be interested in coming out to a public meeting, which would not be bad. Mr. Joder noted that in the Metairie CBD process, most people who turned out at meetings heard about them from a newspaper article, and that this would be a major part of the campaign to get out information about the district workshops by feeding information to reporters who cover Jefferson Parish affairs. Mr. Joder also noted that he hoped that the media campaign would also include members of the Steering Committee appearing at a press conference or in news articles championing the Envision Jefferson 2020 process. A

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motion was then made to approve the newsletter with the proposed revisions and its distribution. The motion was seconded and Mr. Joder asked for any further discussion. Norbert White said that the newsletters should be put out at Jefferson Parish Council meetings, and Steering Committee member Vinicio Madrigal, M.D., asked if they could be sent out in the parish's water bills. Mr. Joder responded that it would be possible, but that certain difficulties relating to separating out bills based on planning districts had to be worked out. Mr. Barkley asked if the newsletter would be sent out monthly. Mr. Joder noted that they would be sent out corresponding with major events in the planning process. Steering Committee members suggested numbering each newsletter with the first being "Issue 1" and excluding references to seasons (fall) and dates in order to allow flexibility in the timing of subsequent newsletters.

The next item discussed was the Envision Jefferson 2020 website, and it was determined that a counter to track the number of hits should be included on the website. It was also suggested that the planning team log telephone inquiries made about the planning effort, including if citizens are interested in the project and if they would like to attend meetings in their planning district when they are advertised.

Mr. Joder then updated the Steering Committee on the remaining educational presentations, and noted that the meetings were not scheduled, but would be by Monday, October 8th, 2001. Mr. Joder noted that the meetings would be advertised in the Picayune section of the newspaper that is distributed to each household in Jefferson Parish.

Mr. Joder then updated the Steering Committee on several items:

- Market Study: Mr. William Smolkin is continuing to work on the market study
- RPC: The Regional Planning Commission is continuing to develop their materials and presentation in conjunction with the district workshops
- UPI: Urban Planning Innovations is continuing to develop their materials for the district workshops
- The planning team is waiting on submission of reports by October 15, 2001 from the various parish departments to help the planning team identify information to present at the various workshops
- McCrossen/Taylor is ready to schedule district workshops by October 15, 2001

Mr. Joder discussed that there are a number of issues needing resolution before the district workshops can begin, including finishing the land use data entry. Mr. Joder then

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noted that the first three district workshops would be in Lake, Metairie Ridge, and Pontchartrain planning districts.

The final item discussed was the meeting schedule. Mr. Barkley inquired about the need to meet every month. Mr. Joder noted that since the Steering Committee was keenly interested in the planning team's preparedness for the district workshops, it is important to continue to meet on a monthly basis. The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, November 1st, 2001, at the Select Properties Building located at 2121 Airline Drive at 3:30 pm. The meeting was then adjourned.