

Minutes of the 11th Meeting of the Envision Jefferson 2020 Steering Committee
April 4th, 2002 - 3:30 P.M.
Select Properties Building
2121 Airline Drive, Suite 600

Attendees:

Steering Committee Members

Lee Giorgio, Co-chair	Connie Casey	Wayne Sandoz
Cocie Rathborne, Co-chair	Bruce O'Neil	Shirley Edwards
Norbert White	Ross Liner	Kerri Becker
Donnie Wolfe	Lucien Gunter	Ava Guidry

Jefferson Parish Officials

Dr. Terri Wilkinson, Senior 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

Roxanne Brock, Research Associate

GCR & Associates, Inc.

Larry Ringel, Project Manager

Jefferson Parish Citizen

Fred Matthew

Mr. Joder began the meeting and requested approval for the March minutes. The minutes were approved.

Mr. Joder gave a brief wrap up of the District Workshops. A sheet was handed out that showed the total citizen attendance for each workshop along with Steering Committee members at each meeting. In addition, a short summary was provided for which sessions were considered most worthwhile. Total attendance for the meetings was 260 citizens. Mr. Joder commented that this was successful given that there was a lack of funding for an effective ad campaign. Mr. Joder opened the floor to comments on the District Workshops.

Steering Committee member Norbert White stated that he had attended 3 workshops and that they had been very good.

Mr. Joder stated that there were not many widely divergent issues and that both business and citizens were on the same page. Mr. Joder stated that there was a lot of homogeneity in the issues for each district.

Mr. Joder than discussed the Element Committee. A sheet was handed out that was an official register of liaisons for the Element Committee. Mr. Joder stated that the target

Minutes of the 11th Meeting of the Envision Jefferson 2020 Steering Committee
April 4th, 2002 - 3:30 P.M.
Select Properties Building
2121 Airline Drive, Suite 600

number had been reached, adding that most of the Element Committee liaisons had attended a District Workshop and were therefore familiar with the process.

Mr. Joder then addressed the scheduled four Element Committee meetings. Mr. Joder had spoken with GCR representative Larry Ringel and informed the Steering Committee that the first meeting would take place on Saturday, May 18th, 2002. Mr. Joder then turned the meeting over to Mr. Ringel.

Mr. Ringel informed the Steering Committee that the first Element Committee has a guest speaker to get participants excited about the process. Mr. Ringel had spoken with Mr. Ed Durabb and Dr. Terri Wilkinson from the Planning Department to have Dr. William Freilich attend the first meeting. Dr. Freilich is a nationally known attorney on land use law and has extensive knowledge in smart growth and growth management. Mr. Ringel stated that he will be meeting with the Planning Department to finalize the Element Committee meetings and what they want to accomplish at each meeting. Mr. Ringel stated that the schedule that was handed out at the last Steering Committee meeting will be followed. Mr. Ringel concluded that now that there is a finalized list of Element Committee liaisons, arrangements to book a suitable meeting location can begin.

Mr. Joder then discussed adding GCR to the plan. Mr. Joder stated that two forms of communication have been sent out. A letter from Mr. Tim Whitmer has been sent to the UNO Foundation addressing the need to amend the existing UNO contract to subcontract with GCR. The Jefferson Parish Administration goes before the Council on April 24th, 2002 to extend the contract with UNO from September 30th till December 31st 2002, to add resources and to revise the scope and responsibility of the contract. Mr. Joder stated that at the current time, GCR and UNO were proceeding as if a contract had been made.

Steering Committee member Lee Giorgio stated that he had spoken with Tim Whitmer about the budget and from where additional funding will be obtained. Mr. Giorgio stated that there will a slight overrun for this. Mr. Giorgio then stated that funding for GCR will be budgeted for next year. Mr. Giorgio concluded that the deal from UNO and GCR was considerably less than other similar sized jurisdictions had paid for plans. Mr. Giorgio stated that the GCR funding has not been approved as of yet.

Mr. Joder also mentioned the second form of communication from Mr. Louis Savoye that laid out a set of objectives that had to be met in order for it to pass with the council. UNO, GCR and the Planning Department had to then come to terms with who does what.

Steering Committee member Lucien Gunter asked about the cost of the plan at this time. Mr. Joder stated that there had been three subcontracts with the Parish in the amount of \$275,000. Changes to the budget and the scope of work will put the figure over by \$150,000. The Parish also gave \$60,000 with a match of \$240,000 to the Regional Planning Commission for the transportation element of the plan. UNO has also obtained funding from a TCSP grant for \$225,000. Mr. Joder stated that the budget was up to \$1.5

Minutes of the 11th Meeting of the Envision Jefferson 2020 Steering Committee
April 4th, 2002 - 3:30 P.M.
Select Properties Building
2121 Airline Drive, Suite 600

million. A million dollars has been funded by the Parish and \$500,000 has come from outside sources.

Dr. Terri Wilkinson stated that they had spoken to Dr. Freilich and that he would have charged three million dollars for this project.

Mr. Gunter stated that he had been conditioned to a million dollars and so was not uncomfortable with this figure. Mr. Gunter asked Mr. Ringel if he was comfortable with this figure.

Mr. Ringel stated that he was. Mr. Ringel stated that he had been working with UNO and the Planning Department for over a month and a half and that there needed to be a product in 6 months.

Steering Committee member Shirley Edwards asked if there was no cap on the cost for the plan.

Mr. Ringel stated that he hoped not as there was no going back a second time to amend the contract.

Mr. Giorgio stated that the plan cost more than was planned but was still less in the current market. Mr. Giorgio stated that the next step was to educate the Councilmen so that they feel comfortable in participating in the process. The scope of work is also being amended and resources are being split. Parish President Tim Coulon, Mr. Louis Savoye and Mr. Tim Whitmer have been very active in the process. Mr. Giorgio hoped that a draft for the plan will be available in the immediate future so that there will be something to look at.

Steering Committee member Donnie Wolfe stated that he agreed with Mr. Giorgio with getting more people involved and in particular that the Parish was highly involved with the plan. Mr. Wolfe asked for a copy of the objectives that Mr. Savoye had discussed.

Mr. Joder stated that if Mr. Savoye was asked for a copy of the objectives from the Steering Committee that he would give it to them.

Steering Committee member Connie Casey asked that if the Council had already seen the figures for the new plan.

Mr. Giorgio stated that the meeting for the Council was for asking for additional funding for the plan in the amount of \$150,000.

Mr. Joder stated that the change in scope and change in responsibility from UNO to GCR has added costs to the original amount of the plan. However, this additional funding of \$250,000 has only put the plan over by 60-70 thousand dollars over where we would

Minutes of the 11th Meeting of the Envision Jefferson 2020 Steering Committee
April 4th, 2002 - 3:30 P.M.
Select Properties Building
2121 Airline Drive, Suite 600

have been anyway. Mr. Joder added that there had been discomfort with the Citizen Participation effort, whose results have been successful. Mr. Joder concluded that the Element Committee process was another area where there are doubts but as in other aspects of this plan one just needed to bear with it.

Mr. Gunter stated that bringing in GCR will add firepower to the plan. Mr. Gunter asked Mr. Ringel if GCR will bring in a slightly different flavor or strategy to the plan.

Mr. Ringel stated that GCR will not be making any changes to the nature or the flavor of the plan. GCR will just be adding technical and resource staff.

Mr. Gunter stated that this process is made of certain about of citizen and professional input. Mr. Gunter stated that there was a lot of weight put on citizen input but not enough on professional input. Mr. Gunter hoped that Mr. Ringel could inject more professional input as the plan processes while not ignoring the citizen input.

Mr. Ringel stated that GCR will provide a blend of the two.

Dr. Terri Wilkinson stated that professional input has been hidden from view. Dr. Wilkinson added that UNO has been involved in a highly technical effort with the Land Use survey which requires a lot of manpower and effort. This professional input has been ongoing for over a year.

Steering Committee member Cocie Rathbourne asked what was being done to maintain the Land Use survey.

Dr. Terri Wilkinson stated that UNO, GCR and Planning met with Mr. Louis Savoye who is the head of Code Enforcement to work on a translation from LBCS codes in the Land Use data to match permitted uses in the zoning ordinances. In addition, information from the Land Use data is being developed into a scheme for a computerized form so that Code Enforcement can type information into the computer to update land uses as they give out permits.

Private Citizen Fred Matthews stated that he had asked for a list of non-conforming uses in the Parish and was told there was no information available. Mr. Matthews stated that there were lots of complaints from people receiving violations when there is not a history of that area. Mr. Matthews stated that this was especially difficult when there is a change of job description for a building.

Mr. Joder stated that at this stage enough information was available to proceed with the technical aspect of the plan but there are still many glitches. However, due to the land use survey, Jefferson Parish has one of the most sophisticated data sets for land use for a major jurisdiction.

Minutes of the 11th Meeting of the Envision Jefferson 2020 Steering Committee
April 4th, 2002 - 3:30 P.M.
Select Properties Building
2121 Airline Drive, Suite 600

Mr. Rathborne stated that he was worried there would be lapse in updating the information.

Mr. Ringel stated that the administration was working towards ways to get new building permits and occupational licenses, so that changes that occur are reported immediately to the database.

Mr. Joder stated that one of the main problems was the issue of check flags for problem parcels, and that it takes time to fix.

Mr. Giorgio stated that the modeling can now proceed. Mr. Giorgio discussed the market study and a capacity model and it was in this capacity that the professional input will come into force. These models will then be presented to the Steering Committee.

Steering Committee member Kerri Becker asked Mr. Ringel for the intended dates for the Element Committee Meetings.

Mr. Ringel stated that meetings were scheduled for:
Saturday, May 18th, 2002
Saturday June 15th, 2002
Saturday September 14th, 2002
Saturday October 19th, 2002

The Steering Committee agreed to not meet next month and that the next Steering Committee meeting will be announced when a date has been decided.

The meeting was then adjourned.