

Minutes of the 13th Meeting of the Envision Jefferson 2020 Steering Committee
July 11, 2002 - 3:30 P.M.
Select Properties Building
2121 Airline Drive, Suite 600

Attendees:

Steering Committee Members

Lee Giorgio, Co-chair	Connie Casey	Pauline Morgan
Buck Barkley	Erie Hebert	Shirley Edwards
Norbert White	Ross Liner	Joanne Mire
Donnie Wolfe	Lucien Gunter	

Jefferson Parish Officials

Ed Durabb, Planning Director
Dr. Terri Wilkinson, Senior Planner

University of New Orleans College of Urban and Public Affairs

Wendel P. Dufour Jr., Principal Planner
Roxanne Brock, Research Associate

GCR & Associates, Inc.

Larry Ringel, Project Manager
Chris Emmer, Land Use Planner
Roy Smith, Land Use Planner

Regional Planning Commission

Jim Harvey, Director of Planning

Burk-Kleinpeter, Inc.

Ed Elam, Senior Planner

Jefferson Parish Resident

Fred Matthew

Mr. Ringel began the meeting at 3:35 p.m. Ms. Edwards moved for approval for the June minutes. Ms. Mire seconded and the minutes were approved with no exceptions.

Mr. Ringel led a discussion on the Vision Statement. He explained that the starting point was a draft Vision prepared by Mr. Lauer following the May 18, 2002 Element Committee meeting. That draft was reviewed by the Steering Committee June 6, 2002 and recommendations made to the Planning Team to ways to improve upon the draft. The Planning Team then made some changes to the Lauer draft and presented the re-worked document to the Element Committee on June 22, 2002. The comments made by the Element Committee were then incorporated into the following statement and presented to the Steering Committee for discussion:

Jefferson Parish is committed to planning and developing as a community with a rich quality-of-life by enhancing the integrity, value and character of our neighborhoods.

We recognize our quality-of-life depends on providing ample opportunities and access to convenient housing, jobs, shopping, transportation, and local recreation and by preserving our significant natural and historic resources.

Mr. Ringel explained that the first paragraph in the Vision reflected the consistent themes coming from the Planning District Workshops, Element Committee meetings and Steering Committee meetings: Quality of Life, Neighborhoods, and Sense of Community. The second paragraph represents ways to achieve the primary emphasis contained in the first paragraph.

Following a short discussion, the Steering Committee concluded that the second paragraph presented items more appropriately included as Goals, rather than as part of the Vision. The Steering Committee recommended removing the second paragraph from the Vision proper, and assuring that the thoughts contained in the paragraph are included in the Plan as Goals or Objectives. Missing from the first paragraph was a recognition of the business community. Accordingly, the Steering Committee asked the Planning Team to rework the Vision as presented to include a “business” reference and further streamline as appropriate.

Mr. Giorgio asked that the Steering Committee members provide any additional comments to Mr. Ringel in a timely manner for inclusion in the next iteration of the Vision.

The meeting then addressed the issue of Goals. Mr. Ringel explained that the June 22, 2002 Element Committee meeting conducted a Goal-writing exercise. Goals were developed under four umbrella categories: Environmental, Administration, Design, and Transportation. After the meeting, the Planning Team aggregated the work of the Element Committee into four goals for each category, representing a fair and accurate interpretation of their work. A listing of these Goals was presented to the Steering Committee for comment.

The Steering Committee had concerns with the wording contained in several of the “Environmental” Goals. The Goals presented used the terminology “manage” in association with “wetlands” and “hurricane protection levee”. After discussing the terminology used in describing the land inside of the Hurricane Protection Levee and the fact that wetlands are managed by the Corps of Engineers, the Steering Committee asked the Planning Team to re-work the Environmental Goals to eliminate confusion and conflicts related to managing jurisdictional wetlands and development within the

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Hurricane Protection Levee. The Planning Team explained that the intent of the Goals was to balance developmental growth with green space as land inside the hurricane protection levee is brought into commerce. Mr. Giorgio expressed concern over the difficult permitting process and asked the Planning Team to keep that problem in mind as they work on the Plan.

Mr. Ringel stated that the Planning Team would re-work the Goals based on the sentiments expressed by the Steering Committee to eliminate points of confusion. Once the Goals are re-written, they will be mailed to the Element and Steering Committees for review, comment, and ranking.

Dr. Wilkinson explained that after the Goals are written, the Planning Team will structure Objectives, or quantifiable statements to further define each Goal.

Mr. Wolfe asked how access to Lake Pontchartrain would be addressed in the Plan. Mr. Durabb explained that the Objective phase of the Plan would address lake access.

Mr. Hebert asked the Planning Team to pay added attention to maintaining schedules and sticking to agendas at future Element Committee meetings. He asked that future meetings be restricted to three-hour length to encourage citizen participation.

The next meeting of the Steering Committee was set for September 5, 2002 at the Select Properties Building. The meeting was then adjourned.