

Minutes of the 14th Meeting of the Envision Jefferson 2020 Steering Committee
September 5, 2002 - 3:30 P.M.
Select Properties Building
2121 Airline Drive, Suite 600

Attendees:

Steering Committee Members

Lee Giorgio, Co-Chair	Connie Casey	Shirley Edwards
Cocie Rathborne, Co-Chair	Kerri Becker	Bruce O'Neil
Buck Barkley	Erie Hebert	Wayne Sandoz
Norbert White	Ross Liner	Joanne Mire
Donnie Wolfe	Lucien Gunter	

Jefferson Parish Officials

Ed Durabb, Planning Director
Dr. Terri Wilkinson, Senior Planner
Brenda Richard-Montgomery, Community Development Programs Director

GCR & Associates, Inc.

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

Burk-Kleinpeter, Inc

Ed Elam, Senior Planner

Urban Planning and Innovations

Monica Kelley

Regional Planning Commission

Jim Harvey, Director of Planning

Mr. Ringel began the meeting at 3:35 p.m. The minutes of the July 11, 2002 Steering Committee meeting were moved, seconded and approved with no exceptions.

Mr. Ringel led a discussion of project management and public relations activities accomplished since the last Steering Committee meeting. He explained that a newsletter had been published and distributed. Over 1,100 newsletters were mailed to members of the Steering Committee, Element Committee, participants at the Planning District Workshops, media, elected officials, Planning and Zoning Advisory boards, and others that have expressed interest in the initiative. Copies were distributed to the Parish Office buildings, libraries and recreation centers. Copies were also distributed to the JEDCO offices.

Mr. Ringel advised that the web site had been completely revamped and moved to the gcr server and will be used as the primary vehicle in making plan documents and status information available to the public. Arrangements have been made to have the next Element Committee meeting professionally videotaped for distribution to Cox cable and parish libraries. Mr. Ringel also mentioned that he had completed a project management plan to guide future plan activities.

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The Committee then briefly discussed the Vision Statement and ballot that will be presented at the September 14, 2002 Element Committee meeting.

Mr. Giorgio informed the Committee that he had a phone conversation with Mr. Lauer preceding the meeting and had discussed his concern for including business, jobs and economic development issues in the planning process. Including portions of the Jefferson Edge document into the Master Plan was encouraged. Both documents should be consistent.

Mr. Ringel then presented the proposed land use categories and alternate sketch planning scenarios to the Committee. He explained that both documents would be discussed at the September 14, 2002 Element Committee meeting.

Mr. Wolfe and Mr. O'Neil had several concerns and comments relating to reference to public and private schools, clustering, lack of a stated maximum density in the High Density Residential land use category, and general confusion in the number of categories. Mr. Barkley asked how the proposed land use categories relate to zoning and if the land use plan would be a guide or a mandate.

Mr. Durabb and Ms. Wilkinson responded that the plan would be a guide document and that the zoning ordinance would govern. The land use plan would first be adopted and at a later date, the zoning ordinance would be reviewed and revised to make it consistent with the land use plan. In the interim, the current zoning ordinance governs. They explained that the land use plan would be a "living" document, in that it could be updated periodically with amendments as the needs of the Parish dictated and would have a formal detailed review in its entirety every five years to incorporate new population and job trends and projections. Ms. Wilkinson pointed out that the proposed land use categories were descriptive in nature and that one zoning category could apply to multiple land use categories.

Mr. Barkley pointed out that the description of the land use category entitled "Environmentally Sensitive Areas" made reference to "...areas *primarily* outside of the hurricane protection levee." He questioned the need for the word "primarily". The Planning Team agreed that the word was unnecessary and would remove it from the description.

Mr. Rathborne led a discussion about the origin of the Goals and Objectives document and the process that would be followed in the "adoption" process. Mr. Ringel explained that this document was the outgrowth of the work the Element Committee did at their June 22nd meeting. The Planning Team took the Element Committee's Goals and "re-packaged" them into the Goals and Objectives document. The Element Committee's Goals were grouped into five general divisions and structured to include Objectives, or quantifiable statements to further define each Goal. Many of their Goals better fit as Objectives rather than Goals and some Objectives were added by the Planning Team to complete the document. The Planning Team will present the Goals and Objectives document to the Element Committee at their September 14th meeting for discussion and comment. The Element Committee will evaluate and rank each Goal and Objective at the meeting.

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Mr. Rathborne asked the Planning Team to make it clear to all involved that the Goals and Objectives document was a product of the Element Committee process and not a product of the Steering Committee.

Ms. Becker encouraged fellow Steering Committee members to attend the Element Committee meetings. Mr. Giorgio pointed out the value of Steering Committee involvement in Element Committee meetings. He noted that the “business” perspective many of the Steering Committee members could bring to the table affords a requisite balance with civic and community interests found in the Element Committee membership.

The next meeting of the Steering Committee was set for Monday October 7, 2002 at the Select Properties Building. The meeting was then adjourned.