



**Comprehensive Plan Update
Minutes - Steering Committee Meeting #2**

October 18, 2018, 11:30am – 1:00pm
Yenni Building, 1221 Elmwood Park Blvd, Suite 601, Jefferson, LA 70123

Attendees

Steering Committee Members

Bob Evans
Bruce Layburn
Bruce Richards
Bruce Wainer
Derek Chisholm
Jackie Madden
Kelly Hand
Lee Giorgio
Liz Van Dervort
Lloyd Tran
Mike Boudreaux
Tony Ligi

Jefferson Parish Staff

Terri Wilkinson, Director, Planning Department
Juliette Cassagne, Assistant Planning Director,
Planning Department
Melissa Guilbeau, Senior Planner, Planning
Department

Consulting Team

Ross Liner, Digital Engineering
Tiffany Peperone Pitre, Digital Engineering
Matt Rufo, Asakura Robinson
Alex Miller, Asakura Robinson
Mayu Takeda, Asakura Robinson

Absent Steering Committee Members

Stan Salathe

11:35 – 11:37am Welcome

Meeting called to order. Committee Chair Bob Evans welcomed the Committee.

11:37 – 11:40am Introductions & Minutes

Roll is called, and the minutes from Steering Committee Meeting #1 are approved. Kelly Hand motioned, Jackie Madden seconded.

11:40am – 12:10pm Public Input Overview

Matt Rufo presented:

- Review of the plan update process
- Envision 2020 Goals by Element

Terri Wilkinson explained that the existing plan’s large number of goals, objectives and policies can make it difficult for staff to use and suggested the idea of eliminating objectives and policies and including just goals in the Plan update.

Bob Evans agreed and suggested keeping objectives as benchmarks towards goals. Goals would stay firm and objectives would change. He agreed to addressing Terri’s request when the time comes.

Matt Rufo provided an overview of the public meetings and discussed the turnout.

- Steering Committee members commented on the low turnout and the need for more robust outreach through social media and the use of a list of contacts kept by the Parish administration.
- Terri Wilkinson discussed future use of publicinput.com to increase input, as well as the engagement of 9th grade civics classes in six high schools. Publicinput.com will allow the integration of data across departments, including transit, with Sharon Leader, and the hazard mitigation plan.
- Liz Van Dervort suggested each Committee member get a unique link to send out survey for a friendly competition among members.

Matt Rufo presented the key takeaways from the public meetings around land use, housing, transportation, community facilities, design, and other topics.

12:11 – 12:56pm Opportunities & Constraints

Matt Rufo next facilitated a group discussion of high-level opportunities and constraints facing the Parish over the next twenty years. Key challenges discussed included adapting the Parish’s housing stock to maintain existing residents and attract new households and preparing for potential drops in demand for retail space. Committee members named diversification of housing types and strengthening neighborhood amenities and walkability as important opportunities for the Plan update to address. The table below summarizes all committee member comments during this discussion.

Opportunities	Constraints
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open lands • Housing affordability • Bigger lots, different housing options / choices • Density increases in certain areas • Walkable neighborhoods • Mixed use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who lives here now / Who will be here in the future? (Aging / slow growth) • Consideration of current zoning, implications for mixed-use • Desire for trailers based on affordability. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Investigate affordable

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infill development • Attract young people and families • Maintain single family home areas • Live/work lifestyle • Quality of life <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Safety ○ Recreation ○ Schools • Sub-area planning initiatives • Improved public transportation/connectivity • Green infrastructure • Storm water management (incentives) • Avondale area • Jobs, attract higher salary • Improved apartment developments • Condo development 	<p style="text-align: center;">alternatives?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Duplex, ADU, modular pre-approval? • Declines in retail demand and manufacturing • More areas needed with key combination of resources: safety, schools, walkability(?), green space • No growth at the state level • Cannot compete with New Orleans as entertainment destination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Or can we? Fat City, River Shack • Not enough advocacy on transit • Quality of education system • Coordination on state/federal highways • Sidewalks and walkability infrastructure • Current housing stock • Density/infrastructure cost issues for affordable and workforce housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “It’s too expensive to own” • Maintenance and improvement of aging rental • Fragmented land ownership in older neighborhoods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Difficult to assemble • Tax delinquent properties
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Mike Boudreaux asked about the percentage of what was accomplished from the 2020 Comp Plan.

Terri Wilkinson noted that there will be a report card presented at the next Steering Committee meeting.

Matt Rufo facilitated a discussion on the opportunities and constraints, as well as gaps in the 2020 plan.

Comments by Committee members:

- Bob Evans noted the aging population in Jefferson Parish, and how this has changed the needs of the parish since the last comprehensive plan was drafted.
- Jackie Madden noted the increased requests to put trailers on lots as result of lack of affordable housing.
- Committee members discussed accessory dwelling units as a potential option to increase density and create affordable housing.

- Committee members discussed the importance of Millennials for future population growth, and what they want to see in the parish.
- Bruce Wainer talked about the difficulty of creating affordable housing as a developer.

12:57 – 1:04pm Closing Comments and Review of Next Steps

- Matt Rufo summarized the discussion, identifying the greatest challenge as sustaining the parish's population, and the greatest assets as good schools, libraries, and other amenities to attract people.
- The next meeting will be December 6, where the Committee will go over the progress of implementation of the 2020 plan. A separate meeting for land use will be scheduled early 2019.
- The second round of public meetings will be held in the spring.

1:05pm Meeting Adjourned

- Motioned by Bob Evans, seconded by Jackie Madden.