



Growth Center Community Planning

GROWTH CENTER PUBLIC MEETING NOTES- CITIZEN QUESTIONS

Who will be members of the Growth Center Community Planning Committee?

The Growth Center Urban Design Committee will be composed of the Metropolitan Council member for the area, residents, business and property owners, and representatives from the design (architects, landscape architects, and planners) community and the development community.

Who can citizens speak to about proposed bike routes?

The Capital Region Planning Commission has a Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Committee which is currently working on bike routes throughout the parish.

What are some funding options for implementing urban design in Growth Centers?

There are small grants and project funds available from various sources in Baton Rouge. The Planning Commission staff will continue to identify funding sources for implementation of the Growth Center Community Program. The Planning Commission staff will also continue to identify sources of “in-kind” contributions and low-cost implementation methods.

What about consolidating or burying utility lines in the Growth Centers?

The main consideration in burying existing utility lines is the cost. All new developments are required to bury utility lines. Consolidating utility lines can greatly improve the aesthetic appeal of an area and is encouraged to be included in urban design district guidelines.

What about sidewalk development, linkage and maintenance?

These are vital issues to consider when promoting a more pedestrian-friendly environment. The City-Parish Department of Public Works will be involved with the committee process and will assist in identifying methods for sidewalk development, linkage, and maintenance. In addition, the citizens themselves through the committee process will work to raise awareness of the importance of sidewalk development and maintenance.

Can urban design guidelines be retroactive?

Urban Design Guidelines are very rarely, if ever, immediately retroactive. In general, the guidelines apply to new development or re-development within an area. Some localities allow business/land owners a “grace period” of 2-5 years in which to implement the Urban Design Guidelines. The Growth Center Community Design Process is a collaborative process which involves landowners, business owners, residents, and other stakeholders. The concerns of each type of stakeholder will be considered through the committee process, and an appropriate implementation period will be designated.

What can be done to have more design control over private development?

Become actively involved in planning and development activities in the community. The Growth Center Community Planning Program enables communities to form a “checklist” of features to be included in private development within current zoning guidelines.

What can citizens do to find information about proposed developments in their community?

The Planning Commission has a Resource Center to answer concerned citizens questions. The Planning Commission office is located at 1755 Florida Street, Third Floor.

How will the Growth Center Urban Design Committee be formed?

The Growth Center Urban Design Committee will be formed by the Metropolitan Council member or members for the area with input from the Planning Commission. The committee will be no more than 20 people and should include residents, business and property owners, representatives of the design (architects, landscape architects, and engineers) community and development community. Citizens who would like to participate are encouraged to consult their Metropolitan Council member.

Why is urban design being focused only in the Growth Centers and not the entire parish?

Urban Design is a new tool available to citizens of the Parish to increase the aesthetic appeal of their communities. Starting on a smaller scale with the Growth Centers Community Planning Process, the Planning Commission will be able to promote the tool and give citizens an understanding of the process on a smaller scale before any steps are taken to bring urban design to the entire parish.

How were the Growth Centers selected for meetings?

The Growth Centers were originally numbered in the Horizon Plan approved in 1992. The Planning Commission will be following the numbering established by Horizon Plan in the Growth Center Community Planning Process meeting schedule.

How long is the process to establish urban design guidelines?

The Planning Commission has developed a sample 9-month timeline for the Growth Center Community Planning Committees to complete their work on a Growth Center.

What about development in the area before urban design guidelines are accepted?

Developments in the Growth Center before urban design guidelines are accepted must follow the guidelines already established in the Unified Development Code. Developments will not be required to follow urban design guidelines until an ordinance is accepted by the Metropolitan Council.

Are the Growth Center Urban Design Committees obligated to follow the official boundaries of the Growth Centers in the formation of a urban design district?

No, the Growth Center Urban Design Committees are not obligated to follow the Growth Center boundaries set by the Planning Commission. Urban Design Committees have the discretion to form their own boundaries for the urban design guidelines.

Will the urban design committees be able to address park and recreation concerns?

Representatives from BREC will be invited to all committee meetings in discussing urban design for Growth Centers. Citizen comments from all Growth Center public meetings that address parks are also forwarded to BREC.