



Planning News

City of Baton Rouge-Parish of East Baton Rouge, Louisiana

May, 2003

THE GROWTH CENTER COMMUNITY PLANNING PROCESS

The Growth Center Community Planning Process kicked-off on Tuesday, April 29. The first Growth Center to be discussed was Growth Center 1, which is located at the intersections of Highland Road with Lee Drive and Burbank Drive with West Lee Drive. An enthusiastic crowd of over 70 citizens attended the meeting and witnessed the Planning Commission Staff presentation on urban design. Over the next five years the Planning Commission will continue with public meetings throughout the Parish to focus on urban design guidelines in Growth Centers.

The purpose of the public meetings is to give residents, patrons, business owners and land owners opportunity to participate in planning for their Community or Regional Growth Center. Elements to be studied in each Growth Center include transportation, land use, environmental features, and design.

Topics for discussion at the meetings include Horizon Plan land use, bicycle, pedestrian and transit facilities, landscape improvements, and possible design guidelines for future construction in Growth Centers.

“Growth Center Community Planning,” as the name indicates, is based primarily on active community participation. At the conclusion of each public meeting, citizens have the option to form their own committee and begin a community-based planning effort with the assistance of the Planning Commission and other design and planning professionals.

Growth Center Community Planning is a call to action for citizens interested in raising the standard for community design.

This community-based planning effort will involve residents, businesspeople, landowners, and patrons of each Growth Center working together as a committee to identify specific design assets and challenges within their community. The committee will then work with the Planning Commission to identify the proper

tools available to address those assets and challenges. Using this framework and professional assistance, the committee can then create a set of urban design guidelines to be used by the Planning Commission when reviewing future development and redevelopment.

Growth Centers are areas of concentrated higher intensity uses such as shopping, services, offices, public facilities,

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Horizon is Still Happening...



The Chairwoman's Report

By Audrey Nabors Jackson
Planning Commission Chairwoman



The Planning Commission will conduct its next workshop on June 10, 4:00 p.m to discuss policies and procedures of the Planning Commission.

The Planning Commission workshops take the form of panel discussions and lectures on different aspects of planning and development. These workshops are an excellent learning tool for new

Commissioners, and an effective way for veteran Commissioners to keep up to date regarding the latest community planning news and research.

Topics on the agenda for the May workshop include enabling legislation, goals and objectives, and procedures. The Policies and Procedures Subcommittee consists of Frank Muscarello, Herb Gomez, Danny Spencer and Audrey Nabors-Jackson. The Subcommittee reviews and evaluates Planning Commission policies and procedures, and may suggest possible improvements or revisions.

The Planning Commission's goals and policies include:
Goal 1. *Apply consistent policies through decision making and actions.* Planning and zoning decisions are rendered according to criteria and regulations established in the land development codes, capital improvement program, and Master Plan; previous land development decisions; and advice from other appropriate agencies.

Goal 2. *Treat all applications and individuals fairly and objectively.* Community input is provided for all land development decisions through public meetings and hearings. Ethics will predominate in all case decision-making.

Goal 3. *Provide planning services that are consistent with the goals and objectives of the Master Plan.* Adequate personnel are available to carry out the on-going implementation and coordination of the Master Plan. The Planning Commission sets clear objectives and guidelines for the Planning Director to further set and achieve short term goals and objectives and plan for implementation.

Goal 4. *Promote the education, awareness and involvement of the citizens in the planning process.* The Planning Commission and Mayor-President continue collaboration in gaining community involvement.

Goal 5. *Guide and direct growth and development to encourage economic vitality and employment opportunities throughout the community while positively impacting the Infrastructure, the Environment and Public Services.* Land development decisions are rendered with consideration to the Strategic Plan for Economic Development, the Parish's natural environment, and the Parish's infrastructure.

A third workshop will concentrate on the details of zoning and land use and the relationship of one to the other. Topics for this workshop include Horizon Land Use categories and the Unified Development Code.

The fourth and final workshop of 2003 will take the commissioners step by step through the application process. This workshop will give Planning Commission members a comprehensive understanding of the process from the applicant's point of view.

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Planning Commission

Audrey Nabors Jackson, Chairwoman; Herb Gomez, Vice Chairman; Jay Devall; Ervie Ellender; Frank Muscarello; Danny Spencer; Graydon Walker and W.T. Winfield.

Planning Commission Staff

Troy L. Bunch, Director; Ellen A. Miller, Assistant Director; Chris Cleland, Manager, Advance Planning and Research; Jessica Firment, Manager, Current Planning; Mihwa Jang, Manager, Geographic Information System; Carrie Broussard, Alison Gibbs, Warren Kron, Jr., Dorothy McDaniel, Prakash Narayanan, Madhuri Adapala, Woodrow Muhammed, and Brent Soileau, Gus Wesson, Planners; Gilles Morin, and Jonathan Williams, Interns.



THE GROWTH CENTER COMMUNITY PLANNING PROCESS (cont...)

medium and high density residential development, cultural, entertainment and recreational activities.

Regional Growth Centers include regional shopping centers, institutions, high density office and residential complexes, medical centers and other major activities serving the entire parish. **Community** Growth Centers include community shopping centers, medium to high density office and residential complexes, public and recreational facilities and similar activities serving community areas.

Growth Centers were originally designated in the 1992 Horizon Plan. The Planning Commission studied these areas in more detail for the first update of the Horizon Plan 1992-1997, and exact boundaries were delineated for each Growth Center. For the second update of the Horizon Plan, 1998-2002, these boundaries were studied and amended or re-affirmed with input from the community during the Neighborhood/Subarea Planning Process.

After the public meeting for each Growth Center, interested citizens have an opportunity to work on a Growth Center Urban Design Committee with their Metropolitan Council member and the Planning Commission to focus on urban design for their Growth Center. These committees will be made up of residents, property and business owners, and representatives from the design and development community.

The Growth Center Public Meeting for Growth Center 2 is scheduled for May 29, at 6:00 p.m. at Bluebonnet Regional Branch Library. Growth Center 2 is located at the intersections of Burbank Drive with Gardere Lane and GSRI Avenue with Gardere Lane. Other public meetings for 2003 will be held on July 15 for Growth Center 3, August 12 for Growth Center 4 and September 16 for Growth Center 5. Visit the Planning Commission website for updates and more information about Growth Center Community Planning.

BATON ROUGE PLANNING IN THE NEWS

“Panel Seeks Input on ‘Growth Center’”
The Advocate, Monday, April 28, 2003

“Planners Want Lee Drive-area Proposals”
The Advocate, Wednesday, April 30, 2003

“Nowhere Walks Plague Growth”
The Advocate, Friday, May 9, 2003

“Experts Discuss Growth”
The Advocate, Friday, May 16, 2003

Notes from the Director



GEOSPATIAL WORLD 2003

By Troy L. Bunch,
 Planning Director

East Baton Rouge Parish has partnered with the Army Corps of Engineers in developing the Parishwide “Foundational”

Geographic Information System (GIS) program. During the past several years, we have completed the transportation layer, building, hydrology, subdivision lots and zoning layers. This year we will complete parcel layer, GPS, LIDAR w/ contour, sewer, and drainage layer and municipal boundaries including police, fire, council, and voting districts.

The Planning Commission and Information Services have developed a website for the public to access this information. This website will help you locate any parcels within the East Baton Rouge Parish, excluding the cities of Baker and Zachary. Searching for a parcel can be done by Parcel ID, Address, Lot Number, and Subdivision. Each parcel has over 30 pieces of information, including subdivision, planning district, council district, zoning and land use information. The Planning Commission and Information Services are still testing and improving this GIS website and hopefully we have this site available to the public in the fall of 2003.

Mihwa Jang, GIS Manager, presented the work completed by the Planning Commission and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at the Geospatial World 2003 conference on May 20 in New Orleans. The focus of the conference was on real-world applications for geospatial resource management, land information management, and geospatial intelligence to provide executives, managers, and users with smart solutions for making smarter decisions. The session titled “*Techno-Partners: US. Army Corps of Engineers, Local Government and the Private Sector*” demonstrated local governments and private sector consultants, the Corps of Engineers successfully assisted in developing a GIS system in East Baton Rouge Parish. This system has been tailored to meet the parish’s specific needs, including infrastructure management, planning and zoning, permits, emergency 911, and environmental planning.

PLANNING AHEAD

- May 21** **Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting**
5:00 p.m., Governmental Building, Room 348
- May 29** **Growth Center 2 Public Meeting**
6:00 p.m., Bluebonnet Regional Branch Library
9200 Bluebonnet Boulevard
- June 18** **Metropolitan Council Zoning Meeting**
4:00 p.m., Governmental Building, Room 348
- June 23** **Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting**
5:00 p.m., Governmental Building, Room 348
- July 15** **Growth Center 3 Public Meeting**
6:00 p.m., Bluebonnet Regional Branch Library
9200 Bluebonnet Boulevard
- July 16** **Metropolitan Council Zoning Meeting**
4:00 p.m., Governmental Building, Room 348
- July 28** **Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting**
5:00 p.m., Governmental Building, Room 348

Field Notes

Planning Commission Geographic Information System Staff attended a GeoMedia Professional 5.0 training course on April 28 to May 2. The training course was presented by Quality and Employee Development. A certified GeoMedia trainer reviewed some basic aspects of GeoMedia, including using different tools to organize and analyze data, digitizing new geometry, edit existing features, and create and print maps.

Planning Commission Staff attended “*Smart Growth for All. A Blueprint for Baton Rouge,*” a Smart Growth Summit, presented by Plan Baton Rouge on May 15 and May 16 at the Old State Capitol. The symposium focused on development, housing design and public policy-making.

Alison Gibbs, Economic and Demographic Coordinator, attended the Louisiana Brownfields Pilot Conference on May 8 & May 9 in New Orleans. This was the first annual meeting for state brownfields programs. Topics discussed at the conference included expanding programs through increasing the amount of grant funding, improving community outreach and leveraging resources.

Mihwa Jang, GIS Manager, attended the Geospatial World 2003 Conference in New Orleans on May 19 to 21. GeoSpatial World is the annual international training and management conference of the Intergraph GeoSpatial Users Community.

Alison Gibbs, Economic and Demographic Research Coordinator, attended the EPA Region 6 Brownfields Conference on May 20 & May 21 in Fort Worth. Topics discussed included the application process for the new brownfields grants, maintaining and documenting a brownfields inventory and Economic Development Administration opportunities for brownfields programs.

Check out our website
(www.brgov.com/dept/planning/)
for more information.

Staff Spotlight

Congratulations!

April 2003- Warren Kron, Planner, Advance Planning Division, was “Employee of the Month” for April 2003.

May 2003- Dorothy McDaniel, Land Use and Special Studies Coordinator, was “Employee of the Month” for May 2003.

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