



LRSC October Meeting Minutes

10/26/22 | 3:00pm Willie L Hinton Resource Center - Auditorium

Welcome & Introductions - 3:06PM

Commissioners (*= Absent, but excused):

***Jan Baker**
Larissa Barry
***Kate Fletcher**
Rachel Furman
Scott Hamilton
***Andrew Jester**
Uta Meyer

Rachel Cotner
Anna Morshedi – Vice Chair
***Ann Owen**
Wesley Prewett - Chair
***Sheridan Richards**
Jeremy Stehle
***Andrew Vogler**

Guests: none

City Officials: James Owen (Mayor's Office), Lennie Massanelli (Sustainability Officer), Brittany Nichols (Sustainability Educator), Jamie Collins (Director of Planning & Dev't)

Special Guest Speaker & Q/A - Jamie Collins (Director of Planning & Dev't)

Gives brief overview of the Department of Planning and Dev't, highlights:

- Planning Division - future planning, land use, master and neighborhood plans
- Development Division - rezoning, subdivisions, economic dev't
- Permitting Division - adheres to Fire Code, permits new and existing construction
- Engineering Division - new construction
- Enforcement
 - P&D Works hand in hand with Housing and Neighborhoods (over single-family residential)
- Oversees/supports: Planning Commission, Board of Adjustments, City Beautiful Commission, & Historic District Commission, River Market Design Review Committee (phasing out), Local Improvement Districts (older practice)

Q&A:

(Rachel C) A “Master Transportation Plan” in the works - what is the vision and purpose of this plan?

This falls under Planning Division’s purview – was approached by city officials and Rock Region Metro to include bike lanes and trails into the Transportation Plan. These were not as enforceable in their current state/piecemeal form - the Master Plan will help make it enforceable.

ETJ (Extra Territorial Jurisdiction), Master Land Use Plans - only department with authority outside of city limits

Joining with MetroPlan to think regionally

Master Transportation Plan hasn’t been updated in over a decade, only graphics updated and amendments made (in 2019).

(Rachel C) What is the process to initiate having Master Plan (referencing Master Bike Plan)?

This has been underway for 3 years. ETJ needs to be done first, Public Works updated their Master Bike Plan, need Parks to update their Master Trail Plan... all of those are recommended to the Planning Commission. Now these pieces are complete, they can be incorporated into the new Master Plan.

(Wes) How does the public get involved with the Planning processes?

Public hearings are held before it goes to the Planning Commission. Multiple meeting locations with reasonable public notice. Addressing doesn't always mean “agree.” Revisions made before it goes to Planning Commission - this is another public space for people to make comments.

(?) How often are these Plans updated?

ETJ continuously changed during permitting processes; Used to be annual by city staff, now more like every 4 years, Analyze by corridors

(Brit) What role does the River Market Design Review Committee play in the development of the new green space under and around I30?

They are limited in their review authority - no current discussions on how they will be involved. Think of it as a life-long lease on the land by DOT, limited use allowed. Has to be public use (for example).

(Wes) What about the CAP project?

Not on my desk yet, but it will be eventually. Jon H and I were involved with the first plans, but relinquished involvement once it was handed off to construction. DOT has limited budget, much of this discussion feels more like rumors from my perspective. Think it’s a good idea/concept.

(Rachel C) What about Reconnecting Communities Grant?

Have to find matching funds and maintenance dollars - don't see the city and AR DOT going for that.

(Rachel F) Most of these actions seem reactive, how can LRSC be involved in proactive planning to make LR more sustainable?

Would love to have increased staff capacity to be able to plan in this way. Note the previous Neighborhood Master Plans we were a part of. Puts this into the budget request every year, but may not get it (4 planners for future land use and 2 community outreach specialists). Downtown Master Plan is underway.

Example parking downtown - historical data shows we did not always have this much parking. State Capitol development, think seasonal, used to be very vibrant. Westward expansion left downtown areas vacant. City breathes in during the day, breathes out at night. Property rights are federal rights - very limited power telling these grandfathered businesses what they can/cannot do.

(Follow up) Incentives?

Arkansas does not delegate that authority to municipalities. City taxes are capped by law as well. Set up an Economic Dev't Commission and Tax could be a vehicle for incentivizing in-fill, land use... Difficult to convince the general public. Parking minimums have been removed from the downtown area ("UU" urban use zoning).

I'm looking more about how Planning and Dev't decisions affect everybody else, less swayed by business cases. Example traffic overflow from Chick-fil-A onto Broadway – may need to go to the Board of Adjustments.

Citizen Input

none

City Director & Liaison Input

Director Capi Peck not able to attend.

James Owen shares RFP update. Procurement has the RFP, but they're pretty tied up with budget. Hope to have that meeting soon - probably about 70% "there"

Policy review update, Memo has been created and lives on share drive under Policy Review folder, outlines steps to engage with stakeholders and city staff to increase policy adoption. MO and LRSC met to try this approach and "test" several of the focus areas and identify HOW and WHEN city staff support. Main takeaway = include Director of the appropriate Department first to advise where current policies live, identify stakeholders and delegate city staff to the work. LRSC/MO will take Policy Memos for

introductory meetings, compile resources, and return to the Commission with a report. Strategies for each policy area and department could be very different, but having this standard operating procedure should help us going forward despite these challenges and past stalled efforts.

We suggest we take this form into working team meetings this month, trial, and provide feedback.

LRSC General Report

- a. Consent agenda (*Uta makes motion to approve; Rachel F seconds; motion carries*)
 - b. Discuss Ann Owen's offer to host December 7th meeting at her house – *everyone agrees, condensed meeting agenda, more casual event with food, will send out details soon*
 - c. Jobs of Tomorrow update (Rachel Furman) – *AAEA announced 2 mil apprenticeship with AR Center of Data Science awardee; different from original idea Karen Z. worked on. Table until 2023.*
 - d. Neighborhood Presentations (Anna) - *Want to refocus for 2023 and begin more outreach*
 - e. SAP resolution update - *will be finalizing language and creating strategic timeline; meeting at 1pm November 2nd*
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LRSO General Report

- a. Cooperative Task List Updated
 - i. Cooperative Sign Up
 - b. Parks & Rec Sustainability Master Plan update - *New goal of Leland's - create a Sustainability Policy & Procedure Guide to identify science based targets that may include biodiversity, building performance, and land conservation. Will be internal policy that could include natural environment policies the SC has identified over the years. Considering a Natural Environment Policy Forum for the SC hosted by SO and Parks and Rec to review focus areas and community input from 2019-2020.*
 - c. Website updates, including GRCP, GG4E, Summit Series and more
 - d. GRCP: Clinton School intern, Micah Beck - update
 - e. Central High: Youth representative, Gryffyn May - update - *meeting with Gryffyn next Tuesday*
 - f. Next Green Events - Volunteer on "Cooperative Sign Up" above
 - i. Harvestfest, Oct. 22nd - report
 - ii. Family Day with Arkansas PBS, Nov. 5th
 - iii. America Recycles Day Event - November 12th from 9am-12noon at Little Rock Zoo
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New Business

Partner with ODEI to host a fundraiser/info session for Urban Agriculture at Dunbar Garden. Maybe a film screening of "DIRT" with panel discussion. – *Brittany: Waiting on this for now, a Clinton School*

student has been interviewed by MO, LRSO, and ODEI and expressed intentions for a Capstone project that would include developing an interactive map of pressing health and infrastructure needs that would be paired with resilience programming tools to empower the 4 areas identified by the Targeted Community Dev't Initiative. Urban Agriculture could be a piece of that. James Owen is also working on a grant for Dunbar Community Garden that touches this issue as well. Waiting on fundraising event idea until more of these other options are explored.

Discuss a letter to support blocking zoning changes for Bale Chevrolet @ Cantrell & 430 - Anna makes motion to create Ad hoc to write letter; Uta seconds; motion passes. Rachel F. will spearhead this effort by sharing current version of letter draft via email.

E-scooter revenue discussion - Anna makes motion to continue support of Jonesboro Corridor project; Uta seconds; motion carries. Wes will share SC's recommendation with Dr. Landosky and Director Peck.

Meeting Adjourned - 4:34pm