

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE JERSEY VILLAGE
COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING UPDATE COMMITTEE**

August 4, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.

A quorum of the Comprehensive Planning Update Committee of the City of Jersey Village, Texas, convened on August 4, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. via videoconference.

A. The meeting was called to order by Dr. Courtney Standlee, Chairperson at 7:05 p.m., and roll was taken. The following Committee members were present for the meeting:

Courtney Standlee	Judy Tidwell - Alternate
Ashley Hart	Gabriella Cole - Alternate
Brittany Davies	Anthony Martin – Alternate
Peter Jessup	

Debra Mergel, Jennifer McCrea and Amy Weyer were not present at this meeting.

City Staff in attendance: Austin Bless; City Manager, Danielle Cordova; Administrative Secretary.

Also in attendance: Council Liaison Drew Wasson.

1. Designate alternate members to serve in place of any absent Committee Members.

Judy Tidwell, Gabriella Cole, and Anthony Martin were designated to serve in place of absent Committee members.

B. Consider approval of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting held on July 13, 2020

Ashley Hart moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on July 13, 2020. Brittany Davies seconded the motion.

All were in favor; the motion carried.

C. Citizen's Comments

No action was taken; there were no comments from citizens.

D. Discuss and take appropriate action regarding a review of the City's 2016 Comprehensive Plan in order to recommend changes to the planning and zoning commission in accordance with Section 14-23(d)(4) of the Code of Ordinances.

The Committee continued discussion from the July 13, 2020 meeting on the 2014 drafted developed strategies of the Comprehensive Planning Advisory Committee. Dr. Standlee notes additional items the Committee may consider of importance:

- Construction of bypass sidewalks to remedy issues with sidewalk obstruction
- Maintenance to improve the appearance of power lines
- Flood mitigation efforts

Additionally, City Manager Bless suggests the modification of goal five as the last comprehensive plan was passed before the Tax Day Flood of 2016. He notes the goal should include ensuring that flood mitigation efforts and infrastructure are maintained and enhanced to sustain the community's present and future needs.

Dr. Standlee proceed the discussion to goal two: Enhance and expand parks, open spaces, trails, and recreational opportunities and experiences. The Committee recognized the historical accomplishments of goal two as follows:

- Development of a dog park
- Hiring of a Recreation and Events Coordinator
- Expansion of community events (i.e. Easter egg hunt, spring fling, Fourth of July parade, yoga in the park)
- Return of JV lights
- Addition of a community splash pad
- Coordination of a monthly farmer's market and food truck gatherings
- Update of playground equipment at Carol Fox Park
- Development of a city league for children sports
- Completion of the parks and recreation master plan

Committee members indicated additional strategies of goal two for consideration as follows:

- Initiating discussion with Harris County for the development of hike and bike trails
- Connectivity of walkable trails
- Renovation of pool to address wear and tear of facility
- Addition of water park-type equipment to existing pool facility
- Development of adult leagues for baseball, softball, etc.

Members considered various methods for evaluating updates to the city pool. Some suggestions included surveying facilities of nearby communities, the phasing of additions, and increasing the cost of pool passes. Others noted a previous rate increase resulted in resident dissatisfaction; an increase in taxes was also indicated as undesirable. Committee members recommended surveying public opinion to gather additional input regarding renovations to the city pool. The committee shifted the discussion to the topic of pedestrian bridges; a safe bridge to get across the bayou off Equador Street to the hike and bike trails was proposed. City Manager Bless informed the Committee that Harris County Commissioners are working on adding connectivity to the bayou trail near Clark Henry Park and that the City has been in communication with flood control regarding the creation of a walking path from Rio Grande to the future Village Center

site. Members questioned whether the completion of unfinished sidewalks should be considered a priority. Council Liaison Wasson indicated that less than four percent of sidewalks within the city lacked completion. City Manager Bless informed Committee members that contractors are required to connect sidewalks in newly constructed areas. The committee shifted the discussion to the topic of FEMA lots. There are currently four FEMA lots within the city; two on Jersey Dr. between Senate Ave. and Lakeview Dr., one on Zilonis Ct., and one at the corner of N. Tahoe and Hawaii. Committee members recommended utilizing these areas as an attempt to attract a different demographic. Ideas for the utilization of these open spaces included the creation of an adult exercise stop and the addition of adult exercise equipment. Some members suggested using space near the volleyball court close to Carol Fox Park so that individuals with children could make use of the equipment while their kids played nearby.

Dr. Standlee proceed the discussion to goal five: Ensure that transportation, public services, and utilities are maintained and enhanced to meet the community's present and future needs.

The Committee recognized the historical accomplishments of goal five as follows:

- Authorization of golf carts to be used on city streets
- Procurement of a new street sweeper
- Elevation of homes utilizing FEMA funds
- Flood mitigation grants
- E100 project
- The addition of bike racks at the golf course, pool, splash pad, and Carol Fox Park

Committee members indicated additional strategies of goal five for consideration as follows:

- Support for emergency services
- Cell phone free/ hands free zones (depending on state law)
- Prohibiting drivers under 18 from using communications while driving (depending on state law)
- Reduction of on-street parking
- Diverting sidewalks to bypass residential driveways
- Continue efforts to implement the Long Term Flood Recovery Plan and mitigate future flooding in the city.

Members questioned the no left turn signs located near Jersey Village High School. The signs currently state no left turns can be made from 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. City Manager Bless indicated the purpose of the signs is to ease traffic flow during school drop off times. Council Liaison Wasson advised the signs also help to reduce cut through traffic. The implementation of speed cushions was suggested as a method for traffic reduction. City Manager Bless pointed out the traffic study conducted in 2016 suggested otherwise and noted that cut through traffic has reduced significantly since the construction improvements of highway 290. Additional suggestions indicated by Committee members include the strategy of ensuring continued efforts to mitigate flooding and future flooding within the city as well as the continued implementation of long-term flood recovery.

The Committee shifted the discussion to the topic of goal six: Provide public facilities to maintain community safety, and serve existing and new development in an efficient and cost effective manner.

The Committee recognized the historical accomplishments of goal six as follows:

- Construction of the new Public Works building in the city's extra territorial jurisdiction
- The addition of two new fire trucks
- Creation of the Jersey Village mobile application
- Completed design of the golf course convention center and club house and new city hall
- Upgraded city financial and utility billing software for more efficient and cost effective technologies such as e-bills for utility billing and city financial transparency
- Recipient of Transparency Award from State Comptroller
- Installation of emergency siren utilizing grant
- Installation of SCADA system to monitor water and wastewater plants
- Completion of the new soundwall barrier along Seattle Street
- Installation of safety cameras citywide

Committee members indicated additional strategies of goal six for consideration as follows:

- Continued efforts for the development of city facilities such as City Hall and Jersey Meadow Club House
- Transparency on the improvements of existing and new developments
- Maintain emergency volunteers
- Utilize EMS and fire department volunteers in an effort to alleviate pressure on police
- Make CPR training / CPR readiness available to community and members of the public
- Utilize fire/ police department for community initiatives (i.e. car seat installations)

The committee continued to engage in discussion regarding the development of the new City Hall. City Manager Bless indicated there is a development agreement in place with developers intending to construct within the proposed Village Center. Committee members indicated developing City Hall in a cost effective manner, maintaining transparency, community engagement, and competitive bidding processes as items that should be considered of significant importance.

With no further discussion, Chairperson, Dr. Standlee proceeded to the following agenda item.

F. Adjourn

Chairperson, Dr. Courtney Standlee adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for August 18, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Danielle Cordova
Administrative Secretary, City of Jersey Village

Harry O. Ward, P.E.
Director of Public Works, City of Jersey Village