

## COVINGTON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

Stakeholder Meeting: Healthy Communities and Parks, Recreation, and Open Space  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Date: December 5, 2019  
Project Number: 1805  
Meeting Date: October 08, 2019  
Location: Covington City Hall (317 N Jefferson Ave, Covington, LA 70433)

### Team Members Present:

- Dana Brown (DBA)
- Blake Crow (DBA)
- Taylor Fehmel (DBA)
- Angela Chalk (HCS)

### Notes:

#### *Parks, Recreation, and Open Space*

- Need an inventory of facilities (restrooms, lighting, etc.) and their conditions
- The recreation center is small, needs to be tied into the sidewalks, the National Guard cut down its trees
- Seniors need small areas with shade, benches, walking paths; enjoy sitting to socialize, safety, water features
- River Forest's sewerage treatment area is maintained by the City
- Issues:
  - Accessibility is needed in the parks
  - Need pocket parks located close to residences instead of large parks far away
  - A 10-min walk buffer may still require crossing a highway
  - Bike paths need colorization and sharrows
  - Need to make the fairgrounds multi-use; currently only single event purpose used once annually
  - There is a sewerage plant near ballfields
  - West 30s has no direct path from HA park to Tammany Trace
- Ideas:
  - River Forest has a powerline easement with the potential for a greenway
  - Convert 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue Park into a passive park
  - The Mayors Council proposed a physical activity station for Nose Park
  - Drainage in fields
  - Need an all-inclusive playground with universal design
  - The space around Depores Street playground could be used

#### *Healthy Communities*

- Social deterrents of health can be analyzed by zip code
- Need for bike/ped connectivity and alternative transportation
- A Complete Streets policy is awaiting adoption by City Council
- HMGP grant to retrofit with permeable paving and green infrastructure
  - Are there local grants for businesses to switch from concrete to permeable surfaces?

- STP has the highest parish suicide rate; has a higher life expectancy and quality of healthcare
- Need a tobacco ordinance in the city and parish
  - 23% tobacco use in parish relates to nearly 80% of people avoiding that business

*Desired Changes*

- Improve mental health and substance abuse programs; domestic abuse
  - Debate: publicize vs. privatize
- Angel Program: converted an old bar into a regular AAA meeting location
- Diversion programs exist but do not match the needs
- Seeking increased awareness and justice reform
- 6-10 community members from each district are to join the Mayor's Council
- Helping Hands in the Savannahs: community-based senior assistance

*Additional Information*

- Katrina caused tree loss and brought in "outsiders"
- West 30s has a lot of "negative" buildings and uses
  - There is an undesired maintenance building across from the park
- Applied to the LA Healthy Communities Coalition for Bogue Chitto Park
- City Map: Eat Shop Dine includes an inventory of bike racks, trails, etc.
- NAMI app provides information on housing, mental health, etc. by zip code

Sincerely,

*Blake Crow*

Blake Crow  
Senior Associate

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