

COVINGTON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

Stakeholder Meeting: Community Character; Historic Preservation; Place Making, Art, & Culture;
8:00 am – 11:00 am

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)

Notes:

Place Making and Cultural District

- Place making is subjective; “know it when you see it”
- Cultural district has been in place since 2009
 - The Abbey has benefitted from it
 - Historic buildings also benefit, new construction does not
- Tourism:
 - There is one museum that is not well-known
 - Covington Heritage Board is developing a walking tour app
 - Branding is in the Covington Master Street Plan
- Development district along the river could be helpful
 - Near old NAPA building, log cabin Riverside restaurant
- Policy consideration for public and private art
 - HDC does not want to be responsible; should an Arts Council be established?
 - Covington Art Association is currently in place
 - Temporary placement (6 months)

Historic Preservation

- Strengthen:
 - Preserve and manage entrance to the city; create a sense of arrival
- Historic beach on Rutledge Street
- Entrance to the city at Highway 90, courthouse at Claiborne Hill
 - Historic preservation is not considered when installing infrastructure
- Could extend the historic district; historic buildings exist outside of the district
 - Impeding circumstances?
- Demolition rules:
 - Currently any building can be demolished
 - Advisory-level charter, Board review
 - 45-day public notice to allow buyout to save a structure
- Keep Covington Beautiful is working with the City for a preservation plan
 - Needs tree inventory as part of the plan

Neighborhoods

- Developers ask the Planning Commission for waivers; need a provision in the subdivision ordinance to prevent waivers
- Need tree planting requirement
 - Village has this requirement (2 in front lawn, 1 in right-of-way)
 - Need a prescription for species; who maintains?
- Drainage is gravity-flow and has an 80% capacity
 - Need to incentivize preventing slab on grade
 - There is no drainage coordination between the Parish, state highway, and Army Corps
 - Need comprehensive drainage plan that coordinates with the Parish and communities up-river
 - Need to codify pervious paving
- City water and sewer does not go past the Tchefuncte River
- Parcel clearing permit exists (only clear in right-of-way)
 - DSLD wants level fill, causes Oaks to die
 - Stage 1 of the Savannahs has clay soil, no drainage, river sand; trees and sod die
- Spring is obtaining lots to be able to expand

Additional Information

- Annexation: need infill before acquiring more land
- Taxes are cheaper in the city than in the parish
- Up for review: 30-year growth management act with Parish
 - City currently gets 25-75% of parish sales tax
- Promote walkability
 - Boston Street needs development (gas, convenience store)
 - Artist housing with tax credits and rent control
- Green spaces can be created from easements or grant purchasing
- Tammany Trace
 - Bikers stop in Abita Springs for restaurants and bike parking
 - Boston and Columbia have few stores/businesses open on weekends

Sincerely,



Blake Crow
Senior Associate

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