

Memo

To: Project File
From: Jose Barro
CC: Tom Holden, Joey Furr, Felton Prosper, Kasey Couture
Date: July 18, 2005
Re: Donaldsonville Master Plan 10944.0

Meeting Notes

Attendees:

Mayor Leroy Sullivan - City of Donaldsonville
B.J. Francis – City of Donaldsonville
Carl Capone - City of Donaldsonville
Felton Prosper –USACE
Tom Holden – Holden Associates
Joey Furr – JFDS
Jose Barro – SJB Group

We presented the conceptual plans for the Mayor and city officials to comment. Using a city map, Jose Barro explained the different points of discussion for today's presentation: primary entrances, Railroad Ave. "Main Street", Louisiana Square/Courthouse, Crescent Park, Bayou Lafouche/Riverfront and recreation park.

Primary Entrance – Jose presented the conceptual idea of building a monument sign using elements taken from the Courthouse bldg. The monument sign will be located along the major entrances to the city on Hwy 3069 and LA Hwy 1. The sign would be a 3 dimensional structure wall and clock tower. Along the face of the main wall will have the words "Welcome to Donaldsonville, Founded in 1806." The tower will resemble the Courthouse tower. Materials could be brick, metal studs, and asphalt shingles.

Main Street- Tom presented the conceptual ideas. The concept is to provide landscape islands, mid-block islands with trees, benches and brick street crosswalks. These islands at mid-blocks will reduce the number of street parking available. However, the design team will look at possible off-street parking options available. Additionally, Tom will be providing possible improvements to the façade of the buildings. Also possible color scheme for the buildings will be addressed. Carl stated that the

city council just approved the formation of a Downtown Development District committee. The still do not have the seven members in place. Once the members are selected, we will meet with them to discuss the ideas.

Louisiana Square / Courthouse - Jose presented the conceptual ideas for the Square. First, the Armory building and the existing parking will be removed from the square to restore the square back to its original historical configuration. The parking will be relocated along each side of the square. By removing the building and the parking, the plaza will be have visibility from all the streets. The street in front of the courthouse will be converted into a pedestrian walk. Each end of the street will be closed off with removable bollards for possible future use of the street or for emergency access. Across the street, in front of the courthouse, a sitting plaza will provide shade for visitors to the courthouse to gather or take breaks. A fountain will provide sound effects to the plaza's visitors. At the Railroad Ave. side of the square a memorial fountain will be built. This fountain will be the anchor at that end of the park. The remainder of the park will be left as open lawn for festivals, reunions, or just free play for the citizens.

Carl mentioned to look closely at the parking area next to the courthouse. He believes that there is not sufficient room to provide parking spaces.

Crescent Park - Jose presented the conceptual plan for Crescent Park. The major change to this park will be the reconstruction of the gazebo in the center of the park and the parallel parking along the side streets. Carl and the Mayor commented that they would prefer to see the gazebo moved back to its original location. The gazebo should be large enough to accommodate a band or a large group of politician. The locale is used during elections for public debates and the people sit on the lawn areas to listen to the debates. During the Fourth of July's celebration under the current conditions, a temporary bandstand has to be provided next to the gazebo for performances.

Bayou Lafouche- Joey presented the Bayou Lafouche concepts. The concept is to provide a walkway along the banks of the bayou for strolls. Along the bayou, there will be picnic pavilions, a farmer's market and possible small restaurants. The bayou walkway will be connected to the future riverfront development. At the heads of the bayou, there will be an interpretive center for the interpretation of the Mississippi River and its tributaries. The Mayor and Carl would like to see the walkway extended on both sides of the bayou. In two weeks, the Mayor is meeting with several parishes, city officials and Senator Landrieu for the development of a master plan for Bayou Lafouche. He has asked that Joey provide him with corrected plans for the Bayou Lafouche improvements in Donaldsonville to begin the discussions.

Recreational Park - Joey presented the concepts for possible improvements for the existing baseball park and the proposed park. In the existing baseball park, the concept is to improve Lala Regira Field and to build additional ball fields around the major field. New entryway will provide convenient access to the ball complex. The existing roadway through the park will be removed. DPW will continue to use their current facilities. The current open-air structures will continue to serve the community as open-air pavilions. Across Thibaud Street, a new park facility will be constructed with soccer/football fields and a recreation building. Carl would like for Joey to present the conceptual plan to Mr. Lemann.

What's next?

The design team needs to make the necessary corrections and additional drawings to present to the City Council. After discussion with the team, Jose will give the Mayor some dates for the meeting. The Mayor said that he would call a special meeting for the presentation.