

**Notes & Minutes from the LACPC Retreat of 11/04/04**

Retreat Context:

The Lehigh Acres Community Planning Corporation met on November 4, 2004 to participate in a facilitated retreat. The goals for this retreat were two-fold: 1) To develop some common vision, values and ground rules for working together as a group, and 2) to come out of the meeting with an idea of the subcommittees that would address various components of the community plan.

The tone of the meeting was relaxed, and an atmosphere of discussion was encouraged. Participants were walked through a series of questions about their desired future for Lehigh Acres, its current weaknesses, which Subcommittees might address those weaknesses, the values the group should bring to the process, and finally ground rules for working together.

The first two elements of the meeting, the vision and weaknesses, are essentially substantive in nature. These will be revisited, revised, and reframed as the community is invited into the discussion. The group recognized that this is only the beginning of the process and that in the end the vision belonged to the community. The latter elements (Subcommittees, values, and ground rules) are related the process by which the LACPC will conduct this important work.

A summary of this discussion follows:

Substantive Element: Vision

Participants at the retreat answered the following question: What would you like your grandchildren, or two generations from now, to say about Lehigh Acres.

It was....

- Safe
- Home
- A lovely community
- Somewhere to enjoy life
- Continually improving
- Comfortable
- Self-aware
- Self-contained
- Self-reliant
- Prosperous
- Somewhere to live, work and play
- Somewhere good to go to school
- Somewhere to raise a family
- Somewhere to celebrate a well-earned retirement

It had...

- Good schools
- Something to do (especially for kids)
- Involved citizens
- Pride
- Sense of community
- Arts and culture
- Close employment
- Industry in community
- Updated facilities
- Green space & Wildlife
- Clean Air and Water
- Smart Growth
- Higher education opportunities
- Good health care
- Good transportation system
- Good restaurants
- Government services
- Good shopping
- A good physical infrastructure

.... Our citizens love Lehigh Acres

Substantive Element: Weaknesses

Lack of...

- Zoning
- Services: i.e., arts and entertainment
- Road system
- Transportation system (i.e., bus routes, bus shelters)
- Attractive buildings
- Attractive signage
- Architectural standards
- Landscaping
- Sidewalks/bike paths
- Defined community entrances
- Unity and organization to promote the public interest
- Vision and Buy-in by Stakeholders
- Senior Services
- Inclusion in County-wide decisions
- Influence (in County decisions)
- Access to Decisions (at County level)
- Representation (in County decisions)
- Government Services (i.e., Human Services offices)

Too Many...

- Ugly utilities (i.e., substations, etc.)

Process Element: Subcommittees

Subcommittee	Chair and Members (as of 11/4/04)
Community Involvement	Grace Parish and Keith Richter
Finance Committee	Colin Feng and Keith Richter
Sidewalks, Bicycles Paths, and Greenways	Willard Baker
Utilities and Infrastructure	Ralph Hemingway (?)
Roadways and Public Transportation	Charlie DeFelice and Willard Baker
Parks/Recreation/Youth Activities	Frank LaRosa
Law Enforcement/Public Safety	Colin Feng and Pat McDonald
Architectural Review and Code Enforcement	Bo Turbeville, Ollie Conover, John McWilliams?
Conservation and Beautification	John Miller
Community Healthcare	Sister Simmons and Sue LaLeike?
Charitable and Civic Organizations	Liz Eilf and Lisa Gohele?
Planning/Zoning/Land Use	Wayne Elrod and Desmond Barrett (co-chairs)

- LACPC recognizes that as the process moves forward Subcommittees may be expanded or absorbed according to need.
- LACPC also recognized that each Subcommittee will be expanded as to additional members and volunteers.
- ? indicates Committee Member has not yet accepted nomination
- Chair, where identified, is highlighted in yellow

Expectations of Subcommittees

- Make recommendations to LACPC
- Work together and coordinate through Chairman of the LACPC
- Solicit public involvement
- Follow Florida State Sunshine Laws
- Bring regular reports to the LACPC board meetings

Process Element: Values of Planning Process

Our process maintains the values of...

Integrity

Selflessness

Respect

Open-Minded

Cooperative

Compromising

Inclusive

Imagination

Fairness

Promoting the Common Good

Process Element: Ground rules for Working Together

We agree that...

We will make a commitment to coming to meetings; and have commitment to the planning process

We will add a disclaimer on non-board opinions

We will speak to and through the chair in formal meetings

We will not interrupt each other and let all voices be heard

We will leave past and current differences “at the door”

Conflict with civility is okay

Other Important Agreements:

Participants in the retreat agreed that...

Formal meetings will ensure that LACPC demonstrates inclusion by setting tables to lessen the separation between the panel and participants.

A videotape of Roberts Rules of Order will be obtained and passed among the members as a training tool. At some point, LACPC will arrange for ½ hour training session.

The facilitator from FGCU will assist in designing the planning process; keeping effort true to its purpose and values; ensure the process stays on track and on schedule; assist in identifying experts to assist on various issues of priority for community; facilitate the large group stakeholder meetings, encouraging wide participation and discouraging any personal attacks or group domination; facilitate information flow between LACPC.