

City of Joliet

150 West Jefferson Street
Joliet, IL 60432



Meeting Minutes - Final

Wednesday, August 6, 2025

10:00 AM

City Hall, Council Chambers

Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee

Committee Members:

Mayor Terry D'Arcy

Councilman Cesar Cardenas

Elaine Bottomley

Warren Dorris

Nora Gruenberg

Jen Howard

Wendell Martin

Hugh O'Hara

Christopher Parker

Doug Pryor

Steve Randich

Juan Rico

Jim Roolf

Dr. Theresa Rouse

Diana Viveros

Boise Walker

Damon Zdunich

Citizens who are unable to attend the meeting can email comments in advance of the meeting to publiccomment@joliet.gov.

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Present	Cesar Cardenas, Jen Howard, Wendell Martin, Hugh O'Hara, Doug Pryor, Steven Randich, Juan Rico, Jim Roolf and Diana Viveros
Absent	Terry D'Arcy, Elaine Bottomley, Warren Dorris, Nora Gruenberg, Christopher Parker, Theresa Rouse, Boise Walker and Damon Zdunich

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager Beth Beatty, Deputy City Manager Christa Desiderio, Media Engagement & Communications Director Rosemaria DiBenedetto, Planning Director Jayne Bernhard, Economic Development Director Paulina Martinez, Planner Raymond Heitner, CDBG Program Manager Jackie Lozada, Legal Assistant Katy Fyksen, and Community Development Administrative Assistant Lauren Helland

Boise Walker arrived at approximately 10:03 a.m.

Christopher Parker arrived at approximately 10:15 a.m.

Councilman Cardenas left at approximately 11:15 a.m.

Christopher Parker left at approximately 11:30 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes - 7-02-25

[TMP-8829](#)

Attachments: [CPAC Meeting Minutes 7-02-25.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Hugh O'Hara, seconded by Jen Howard, to approve Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes 7-02-25. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Cardenas, Howard, Martin, O'Hara, Pryor, Randich, Rico, Roolf, Viveros and Walker

Absent: D'Arcy, Bottomley, Dorris, Gruenberg, Parker, Rouse and Zdunich

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Comprehensive Plan Survey Update

[TMP-8842](#)

Lamar Johnson Collaborative consultants Lesley Roth and Prayag Bagde joined via Microsoft Teams. Ms. Roth provided an update on the Comprehensive Plan survey and asked Committee members to either complete the survey or identify 12 contacts to share the survey link with. The Committee discussed options for distributing paper surveys, outreach strategies, and shared their impressions of the survey.

Ms. Roth provided an update on the July 9 Focus Group meetings and explained a summary would be shared with the Committee. There was a discussion regarding the internal distribution timeline for the summary, additional engagement opportunities for Focus Group participants, and the timeline for Working Groups.

Comprehensive Plan Workshop #1

[TMP-8843](#)

Ms. Roth explained the first Comprehensive Plan Workshop would take place on September 17 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and provided an overview of the welcome station. Planning Director Jayne Bernhard explained that Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee members would be asked to staff the welcome station in 90-minute shifts. Ms. Roth described additional Comprehensive Plan Workshop stations.

There was a discussion on using the Focus Group summary to develop workshop questions, to explain station flow, and to consider station word choice.

Ms. Bernhard explained the next Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee meeting would take place on September 3.

Comprehensive Plan Vision

[TMP-8844](#)

Attachments: [Vision Statement Handout.pdf](#)

Ms. Roth explained Phase Two of the Comprehensive Plan was for stakeholders to think aspirationally about a vision for Joliet and provided an example of a Comprehensive Plan vision statement. Committee members used the Vision Statement Worksheet to write a Comprehensive Plan vision statement. Jim Roolf, Boise Walker, and Wendell Martin read their vision statements aloud.

Comprehensive Plan Goals

[TMP-8846](#)

Attachments: [Goals Handout.pdf](#)

Ms. Roth described the goal formation process and provided an example of a

Comprehensive Plan goal. Committee members used the Goals Creation Worksheet to write a specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART) goal based on one of six topic areas, including Housing and Development, Economic Development, Transportation, Land Use and Development, Natural Resources/Open Space, and Infrastructure and Utilities. Jen Howard, Juan Rico, and Mr. Martin read their goals aloud.

STAFF REPORTS

Ms. Bernhard described Comprehensive Plan promotional items, including tote bags, cards, stickers, and polo shirts. Ms. Bernhard explained the City adopted the Downtown Joliet Equitable Transit Oriented Development (ETOD) Plan at the July 15 City Council meeting and highlighted the Interstate 80 Des Plaines River Bridge Community Plan community meeting that occurred on July 22.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Walker highlighted the need for improved visual appearance, economic development, city-wide cleanup, and stronger enforcement by city and county governments.

Mr. Rico noted areas needing enforcement attention, including landscaping, trash management, and overfilled dumpsters, and later addressed enforcement of businesses located in road construction areas.

Ms. Howard emphasized reinvestment in abandoned properties and holding landlords accountable for property maintenance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Wendell Martin, seconded by Boise Walker, to approve adjournment. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Howard, Martin, O'Hara, Pryor, Randich, Rico, Roolf, Viveros and Walker

Absent: D'Arcy, Cardenas, Bottomley, Dorris, Gruenberg, Parker, Rouse and Zdunich

This meeting will be held in an accessible location. If you need a reasonable accommodation, please contact The City Clerk Office, 150 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432 at (815) 724-3780.