

City of Joliet

150 West Jefferson Street
Joliet, IL 60432



Meeting Minutes - Final

Wednesday, December 3, 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

Terry D'Arcy, Elaine Bottomley, Warren Dorris, Nora Gruenberg, Jen Howard, Hugh O'Hara, Steven Randich, Juan Rico, Jim Roolf, Theresa Rouse, Diana Viveros and Damon Zdunich

Absent

Cesar Cardenas, Wendell Martin, Christopher Parker, Doug Pryor and Boise Walker

ALSO PRESENT: Deputy City Manager Christa Desiderio, Media Engagement & Communications Director Rosemaria DiBenedetto, Community Development Director Dustin Anderson, Planning Director Jayne Bernhard, Planner Raymond Heitner, Planner Francisco Jimenez, Legal Assistant Katy Fyksen, and Community Development Administrative Assistant Lauren Helland

Wendell Martin, Boise Walker, and Councilman Cardenas arrived at approximately 10:05 a.m.

Christopher Parker arrived at approximately 10:30 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes 11-5-25

[TMP-9269](#)

Attachments: [CPAC Meeting Minutes 11-5-25.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Nora Gruenberg, seconded by Elaine Bottomley, to approve Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes 11-5-25. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: D'Arcy, Bottomley, Dorris, Gruenberg, Howard, Martin, O'Hara, Randich, Rico, Roolf, Rouse and Viveros

Absent: Cardenas, Parker, Pryor and Walker

Abstain: Zdunich

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Vision, Goals & Objectives: Joliet Comprehensive Plan

[TMP-9267](#)

Lamar Johnson Collaborative consultant, Lesley Roth, provided updates on public engagement, reviewed each chapter of the Comprehensive Plan Vision, Goals, and Objectives document, and introduced Phase 3 of the Comprehensive Plan, which would focus on key recommendations.

The review of Chapters 1 through 3 led to discussions about the total number of surveys, Community Workshop #1 attendance, and intentional community engagement for Community Workshop #2.

Ms. Roth and the Committee reviewed Chapter 4, which outlined visions and goals for the areas of Economic Development, Multi-Modal Mobility, Future Land Use and Development, Environment and Natural Resources, Utilities and Infrastructure, and People, Places, and Belonging. Committee members generally agreed the goals were appropriate. Discussion centered on neighboring borders, legacy neighborhoods, parcel-level data, potentially combining Multi-Modal Mobility Goals 1 and 6, simplifying goal language, addressing zoning updates through a separate process, linking transportation decisions to environmental benefits (including adding an objective under Environment and Natural Resources Goal 3), ensuring equitable broadband access with multiple providers, and reflecting the City's diversity within City staff.

Ms. Roth reviewed seven key priorities in Chapter 5 and explained the Committee would rank them at another time in preparation for the project's next phase.

Thematic Workshops

[TMP-9268](#)

Planning Director Jayne Bernhard noted that the Housing and Neighborhoods Working Group and the Transportation Working Group would meet in December at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers and encouraged people to preregister.

A member inquired about attendance, and Ms. Bernhard responded that turnout would be driven by the Committee's leadership.

STAFF REPORTS

Ms. Bernhard reported that the City and Dr. Theresa Rouse were planning a January 9th roundtable with local school superintendents on land use, housing, and workforce economic development and explained that the Public Workshop #2 would take place in February at the Downtown Joliet Public Library.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Dr. Rouse reported on District 86 updates, including upcoming Hufford and Gompers ribbon cuttings and open houses, new athletic fields, geothermal systems, and exterior murals. She also mentioned the building addition at Thomas Jefferson Elementary and upcoming public hearings on the proposed closure of Marshall Elementary.

Boise Walker noted that the East and Southeast Regional Alliance meeting conflicts with the December 9th comprehensive working group meeting.

Diana Viveros encouraged supporting local small businesses by attending Latino Economic Development Association (LEDA) lunch events at downtown restaurants.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Cesar Cardenas, seconded by Elaine Bottomley, to approve adjournment. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: D'Arcy, Cardenas, Bottomley, Dorris, Gruenberg, Howard, Martin, O'Hara, Parker, Randich, Rico, Roolf, Rouse, Viveros, Walker and Zdunich

Absent: Pryor

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.