

**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LEON VALLEY, TEXAS, JUNE 19, 2008**

The City Council of the City of Leon Valley, Texas, met on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of June 2008 at the Leon Valley Conference Center, at 6421 Evers Road, Leon Valley, Texas, for the purpose of the following business, to-wit:

**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS - 8:00 A.M.**

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**Call to Order.**

Mayor Riley called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m. and asked that the minutes reflect that the following members of Council were present: Baldrige, Dean, and Nelson.

City Manager Lambert and City Secretary Feutz were also present.

**Discussion with members of the City Council, visitors from the American Institute of Architects, the public, staff, and others in preparation for the Sustainable Design Assessment Team's visit later this year.**

From 8:00 a.m. until 11:45 a.m., City Council, staff members, and AIA representatives Sherrell and Simmons met with community groups.

Each group met for approximately 45 minutes with the AIA members and members of City Council throughout the morning. At each meeting, Mayor Riley introduced Erin Simmons, Director for Design Assistance from the Center for Communities by Design at the American Institute of Architects in Washington, D.C. and architect James Sherrell from Chattanooga, Tennessee. Mayor Riley explained that the AIA members were meeting with several groups over the day and part of the next day to listen to Leon Valley and what each views as issues that are of concern to the City of Leon Valley, its businesses and its residents. Mayor Riley invited members of the groups to introduce themselves and to open discussion for the AIA members. She also explained that the AIA members would go over the purpose of this visit at a general meeting with the public at 7:00 p.m. this evening.

The first group to meet with the AIA and Councilmembers were former Mayors and Councilmembers: W. Geraghty, H. Lange, D. Riley, M. Hacker, C. Weisenberger, M. Semmelmann, M. Meffert, A. Baldrige, C. Poss, and R. Rangel.

Every 45 minutes, groups changed to maximize the number of citizens, community groups and the public which could meet with the AIA team. Following the Mayors and former Councilmembers, groups who met with the AIA team and included: the Park Commission, the Library Board of Trustees, the Zoning Commissioners and the Board of Adjustment members

General discussion among meeting attendees centered on issues that members felt the AIA visitors should know about Leon Valley and concerns for Leon Valley's sustainability:

Retain and grow business community	Need Community facelift
Promote City's positive points	Improve economic development efforts
Attract people to Leon Valley	Find financial resources for sustainability
Find business and developer incentives	Promote a healthy environment
Build a positive image	Enhance recreation area amenities
Upgrade existing strip centers	Preserve city services
Identify how the City will look in the future	Build hike and bike trails for connectivity

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Improve City signage  
Traffic control and street program  
Control flooding  
Conserve Water  
Address City infrastructure deterioration  
Enforce Code compliance  
Streetscapes add value to community  
Beautify the City  
Landscape and xeriscape  
Retain small town atmosphere  
Keep grassroots Library as a community support

Area pools tie families to community  
Connect history, information, education in community system  
Value library and expansion plans  
Preserve important historical site  
Build on Sister City Program  
Identify the heart of the City?  
Increase recycling programs for City  
Define the picture of Leon Valley  
Increase Homeowner Associations  
Welcome all newcomers  
Encourage pride in ownership

At 11:35 a.m., Mayor Riley announced the group would move to a meeting with the Leon Valley Area Chamber of Commerce, at Cha Cha's Restaurant at 5616 Bandera Road, Leon Valley, Texas 78238, for lunch and to provide the Chamber with information about the SDAT process.

Following the lunch, the group reconvened at the Leon Valley Conference Center at 6421 Evers Road, Leon Valley, Texas at 1:30 p.m..

Groups began meeting again for every 45 minutes until 4:45 p.m. Groups that met with the AIA members and City Council included: the Business Alliance, a representative from Northwest Vista College, the Bandera Road Site - Community Advisory Group, and the Earthwise Living Committee and TxDOT.

Mayor Riley always introduced the guests from the American Institute of Architects, Ms. Simmons and Mr. Sherrell, and encouraged attendees to provide the visitors with their thoughts on Leon Valley - what they liked, what was important, and what they hoped the SDAT process would provide the community.

Comments in the afternoon group included:

No toll roads  
Traffic mitigation  
Economic Development  
Make a town center  
City signage  
Educational center in Leon Valley  
Stormwater program development  
Monitoring EPA progress  
Build on recycling program

Need LV to become a "destination"  
Beautification needed  
Need aesthetically pleasing fencing  
Build pride in Leon Valley  
Build community  
Promote City's proximity to high tech and medical facilities  
Improve traffic patterns  
Make Leon Valley sustainable for future

Mayor Riley recessed the groups at 4:45 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Mayor Chris Riley

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City Secretary

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**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING - 7:00 P.M.**

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**Reconvene the meeting.**

Mayor Riley called the meeting to order again at 7:03 p.m. and welcomed everyone back to the meeting with the AIA members.

The following members of Council were present: Baldrige, Dean and Nelson.

City Manager Lambert, City Secretary Feutz, Fire Chief Irwin, Intern Word, Library Director Trent Police Chief Wallace, and Public Works Director Vick were also present.

**Public Hearing for the citizens and businesses to hear about the SDAT Process from the AIA and to provide a time for public comments and questions on the upcoming SDAT process.**

Mayor Riley welcomed and introduced the members of the SDAT preliminary visit team from the American Institute of Architects (AIA). Mayor Riley introduced Erin Simmons, Director for Design Assistance from the Center for Communities by Design at the American Institute of Architects in Washington, D.C. and architect James Sherrell from Chattanooga, Tennessee. Mayor Riley explained that the AIA members had been meeting with citizen groups all day and would be leaving on Friday but during the meetings were listening to Leon Valley and what we view as issues that are of concern to the City - its businesses and its residents.

Ms. Simmons provided history and an overview of the SDAT process which started in 2005. She reviewed the phases of the project and what the goals were for the future 3-day charette. She described how the full SDAT team would tour the City, meet with stakeholders and small groups and provide a forum for the general public to comment on what they thought the City needed. She stated that work groups would meet and process information received to make a recommendation report. On the final day of the charette, a public presentation would be made on the SDAT team's findings. She added that about 60-90 days after the visit, a full report would be delivered to the City. Ms. Simmons stated that for about one year following the SDAT visit, the team members are available as resources to the City and that the local chapter of the AIA was available as the City begins implementing the plan developed together with the SDAT. Ms. Simmons stated that after one year, an assessment visit would be made to see how the City was progressing.

The meeting attendees were invited to provide their comments for the process and they included:

Walkable community to link with VIA  
Out-patient health services site needed  
Promote Rapid Mass Transit  
Economic Development needed

Beautify Leon Valley  
Enhance park features  
Provide walking trails  
Protect open space in City

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Open areas for pets for recreation  
Retain and attract businesses  
Traffic mitigation on Evers Road  
Abate graffiti  
Conserve water projects  
Harvest rainwater  
Flood control  
Neighborhood grocery - small grocery  
Improve City image

Provide sense of welcome  
Develop town center  
Promote renewable energy sources  
Attract higher education outlet in City  
Provide incentives - environmental programs  
Provide incentives - business development  
Boost sales tax - find out how  
Attract business, shoppers, visitors

**Adjourn.**

Following discussion, Mayor Riley thanked everyone for coming and encouraged them to return when the full SDAT Team comes to Leon Valley later in the year. She thanked the visiting AIA guests for their help and the audience for the comments. The meeting was adjourned by 8: 45 p.m..

ATTEST:

Chris Riley  
Mayor

Marie Feutz  
City Secretary

*Approved by unanimous vote of City Council at the Regular City Council Meeting of July 15, 2008*