Call to Order.

Mayor Riley called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m. and welcomed guests from the local AIA Chapter, AIA representatives Erin Simmons and James Sherrell, Councilmember Baldridge.

Staff members present included: City Manager Lambert, City Secretary Feutz, Interim Development Director Flores and Intern Word.

Mayor Riley introduced the members of the SDAT preliminary visit team from the American Institute of Architects (AIA), Erin Simmons, the Director for Design Assistance from the Center for Communities by Design and Leon Valley SDAT Project Manager James Sherrell from Chattanooga, Tennessee. Mayor Riley explained that they have met with several groups from the City and welcomed the AIA’s comments and support for the process.

Local AIA Chapter representatives included: Tim Baisdon, Gopinath Akalkotkar, Christine Vina, Richard Armstrong, Diane Hays, Taeg Nishimoto, David Bogle, and James Andrews.

Mr. Baisdon led the discussion explaining some of the issues he saw as a former resident and interested party in Leon Valley: economic development with urban sprawl, water, transportation, revitalization and identity, and the importance of the highly valued library in the community. Mr. Sherrell and Ms. Simmons explained that the SDAT is most successful when local AIA is active with the implementation and encouraged the AIA members to be involved in the SDAT process.

At 9:00 a.m., Mayor Riley thanked the AIA members and welcomed members from the Citizens Neighborhood Progress Committee, Trade and Market Days Committee and the Community Events Committee.

Mayor Riley again introduced the AIA representatives, Erin Simmons and James Sherrell and provided a brief explanation of the purpose of this preliminary visit by the AIA in preparation for the SDAT arrival later in the year.

Ms. Simmons and Mr. Sherrell asked the group to share what they hoped the SDAT could solve and asked that what were their concerns for Leon Valley. Members expressed their wishes for results from the SDAT that would provide:

- A unified theme for the City
- Economic Development funds for incentives
- Traffic congestion
- Destination place for night life
- A downtown
- Central focus for the City
- Healthy City
- Business retention
- Opportunities for undeveloped residential property

Identify center of City
Attract younger residents and business
Walking connections
Underground utilities
Prettier city
Pedestrian friendly community
Destination Business location vs. commuter highway
One resident stated that they didn’t want Leon Valley to be a parking lot that you drive through.

Ms. Simmons thanked everyone for their comments and left at 9:45 a.m. for the airport.

**Adjourn.**

Following continued discussion, Mayor Riley thanked Mr. Sherrell for his visit and everyone for their attendance and comments. Hearing no further business and hearing no objections, Mayor Riley adjourned the meeting at 10:19 a.m. and encouraged everyone to return when the SDAT visits in the Fall.

Chris Riley  

ATTEST:  Mayor  

Marie Feutz  
City Secretary

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