

**Summary of Community Responses**  
**Neighborhood Action Committee Meeting #3**  
December 4, 2008

**Vision**

Community members identified additional qualities and features they would like incorporated into the University Neighborhood vision statement. The list below includes suggested amendments and changes expressed during the meeting.

- The title "University Neighborhood" is too confusing due to the presence of UOP and various sub-neighborhoods in the area. NAC members suggested referring to the area as the "University Community".
- Change "University Neighborhood Improvement Plan" to "University Community Improvement Plan".
- Include reference to maintaining a range of high-quality housing options and typologies in the neighborhood, particularly units affordable to a wide range of income levels.
- The Calaveras River should be considered part of the planning area, even though it is located along the northern border of the University Neighborhood area.
- Promote the Arts in the neighborhood.
- Neighborhood churches should be referenced as community assets.
- Broadly articulate "quality of life" as a concept in the first paragraph, instead of listing each quality aspect separately.
- Include references to the neighborhood residents' rich cultural diversity.
- "Neighborhood Associations" seems like an inappropriate, confusing way to reference neighborhood leadership groups. Potential alternative monikers include neighborhood watch groups, neighborhood action groups or advocacy groups.
- Include reference to high-quality retail.
- Include a reference about University Neighborhood being a welcoming place that cares about its children.
- Include reference to the Miracle Mile Merchants' Association in a way that avoids creating a "laundry list" that loses the vision quality.

**Neighborhood Improvement Principles**

During a facilitated discussion community members commented on the eight neighborhood improvement principles included in the Emerging Plan Framework, and suggested additional principles for inclusion in the final plan. Following is a list of community members' responses to the neighborhood improvement principles.

### *Walkability and Pedestrian-Friendliness*

No comments

### *Connectivity and Mobility*

No comments

### *A Mix of Neighborhood-Serving and Destination Commercial Services*

No comments

### *Sense of Place and Identity*

- Clarify language about the “built environment” and the “natural environment”.
- Include a gateway into the neighborhood on Pacific Avenue from the north.
- Include language about reinforcing communities with gateways and markers denoting sub-neighborhoods within the University Neighborhood. Possible markers could include signage and wayfinding enhancements, landscaping and streetscape improvements, and public art installations.
- Look at Portland’s neighborhood programs as a model for promoting neighborhoods.
- Eliminate visual clutter through removal of billboards, strengthening of signage code enforcement, consolidation of and/or removal of signage in keeping with the character and desired aesthetic quality of the University Neighborhood.

### *Community Cohesion*

- Add references to bike path and transit connectivity.

### *Neighborhood Beautification*

- Improve community partnerships with the City to address beautification concerns through streamlining official permit processes for tasks such as tree trimming.

### *High-Quality Parks and Gathering Places*

- Encourage a partnership with S-Mart to help activate Caldwell Park through the creation of outdoor dining opportunities or a café.

### *High-Quality Community Programs and Services*

No comments

### *Inclusivity (additional principle suggested during NAC meeting)*

- Include references to supporting a healthy, vital housing stock affordable to residents at a range of income levels.
- Add language supporting and celebrating the neighborhood’s cultural diversity.

## Strategy Framework

Following the discussion of neighborhood improvement principles, community members commented on a Strategy Framework Diagram that presented a two-tiered hierarchy of improvement strategies to encourage revitalization in the area. The first tier identified three Primary Improvement Strategy areas that should receive priority focus in the University Neighborhood. The second tier included three Supporting Improvement Strategies to encourage revitalization in the area. The list below includes community responses to the framework diagram.

### *Primary Improvement Strategy A: Land Use, Design and Character*

- Eliminate visual clutter through removal of billboards, strengthening of signage code enforcement, consolidation of and/or removal of signage in keeping with the character and desired aesthetic quality of the University Neighborhood.

### *Primary Improvement Strategy B: Transportation and Circulation*

- Calm traffic on neighborhood arterials and collector streets.

### *Primary Improvement Strategy C: Economic Development*

No comments

### *Supporting Improvement Strategy D: Community Connection and Identity*

- Improve signage and install neighborhood markers to enhance wayfinding and navigation in the area.
- Form neighborhood coalitions to advocate for funding and clean-up with the City and community groups.
- Enhance and augment streetscapes on major arterials and collector streets to create a unified character in the area.

### *Supporting Improvement Strategy E: Programs and Facilities*

- Partner with the School District to support the integration of schools into community life through joint-use facility agreements and the co-location of services, e.g. branch library.
- Improve partnerships with the Parks and Recreation Department and neighborhood churches to increase neighborhood community program offerings.
- Promote the University Community as a pilot community to demonstrate school-community partnerships.

### *Supporting Improvement Strategy F: Public Safety*

No comments

### *Supporting Improvement Strategy G: Parks and Recreation*

- Identify funding sources to support the enhancement of neighborhood parks such as the S-Mart Community Partnership Program.
- Identify parcels for parks along the Miracle Mile and in neighborhood areas currently lacking open space.
- Secure state clean-up funds for contaminated parcels.
- Identify funding sources to support environmental remediation and installation of recreational amenities along the Calaveras River between Pacific Avenue and North El Dorado Street. UOP has already secured funding to enhance and maintain the river as a neighborhood open space amenity between North Pershing Avenue and Pacific Avenue.
- Partner with groups such as the Friends of the Lower Calaveras River to maintain and enhance the river across the city.
- Encourage effective partnerships with the City Parks and Recreation Department to enhance neighborhood parks, recreation facilities and programs.

### Strategy Diagram

The meeting concluded with a discussion of the Draft Strategy Diagram, a graphic representation of the concepts detailed in the Emerging Strategy Framework. The diagram provided general direction for future neighborhood improvements, and emphasized opportunities at key neighborhood nodes, major arterials and in the area's residential neighborhoods. Community members' suggested additions and changes to the diagram including the following:

- Add community churches to the map.
- Install sidewalks along the edge of Caldwell Park on Allston Way.
- Install sidewalks around the perimeter of American Legion Park and a well-marked entryway to improve pedestrian access.
- Identify a location for a branch library in the neighborhood.
- Identify parcels for pocket parks along the Miracle Mile and in the areas east of Pacific Avenue. Possible locations on the Miracle Mile include: 1) Pacific Avenue at Castle Street; and 2) Pacific Avenue at Walnut Street.
- Install a gateway and street improvements at the north end of Pacific Avenue. The Miracle Mile PBID has a mock-up of an entryway for the north and south ends of Pacific Avenue, and will share the design with the group at a future NAC meeting.
- Create a neighborhood-serving retail and activity node near the intersection of North El Dorado Street and Castle Street and Adams Street.
- Install crosswalk improvements at the intersection of Castle Street and North El Dorado Street.
- Extend the diagram's pedestrian linkage arrow on Castle Street to East Hampton Street and continue to North California Street.
- Explore possible recreational trail opportunities along the former Union Pacific right of way through the College View neighborhood.

- Create a recreational trail and enhance neighborhood open space on the south side of the Calaveras River.

### **Additional Strategy Concerns**

- Contamination on former gas/service station parcels along Pacific Avenue could hinder development as parks or other landscaped gathering places.
- “Orphan Sites” left by owners require attention to remedy neglect. State funds may be used to remediate qualifying sites.
- Representatives from neighborhood schools and the school district have not attended NAC meetings to date. Participation of school representatives is essential to further integrate the schools into the neighborhood improvement planning process.