

Community Visioning Workshop Summary

Following is a transcription of community feedback collected during a community meeting held on September 4, 2008 in support of the University Neighborhood Improvement Plan process. Community responses were recorded during a facilitated discussion and on comment cards returned at the end of the meeting. A graphic representation of the facilitated discussion accompanies this transcription.

Neighborhood Vision

- The neighborhood should have entrance features at locations where major arterials enter the neighborhood.
- Less attention to moving traffic through the neighborhood in a fast manner, and more attention to a more people-friendly streetscape.
- Have more stylish street lights. Remove the standard and ugly galvanized steel light poles.
- A safe neighborhood where children can play in the front yard and feel safe to walk to school and play at the park.
- Identified and trained area leaders with the ability to attain and capture funding resources.
- Delivery of neighborhood priorities, such as cleaner neighborhoods; safer walkable areas; safer and attractive residential streets; affordable housing for multiple levels of ownership and single family, multifamily and elderly; vital business district; parks and community centers.
- Know neighbors and neighborhoods bring people together
- Integrate the university and the neighborhood
- Vibrant Miracle Mile
- Clean and safe neighborhood
- Pride in ownership
- Effective communication between the UOP, Miracle Mile and residents
- Historic buildings and streets
- Safe traffic intersections
- Improving resident connection across the neighborhood

Neighborhood Assets

- Lots of trees
- Narrow residential streets
- Streets are laid out in a grid that allows for better movement of cars, bikes and those who wish to walk.
- Mixture of different styles of homes
- There are many assets!
- Miracle Mile Merchants' Association
- University of the Pacific
- I think folks are ready to begin taking back their areas.
- Miracle Mile

Neighborhood Assets (continued)

- Miracle Mile Business Association
 - Farmers Market
 - Trees
 - Parking and Traffic Calming
- Historic buildings, such as the Adult School
- Meandering tree-lined streets
- Caldwell Park: Need to increase use
- University of the Pacific and its students
- Inter-generational neighborhood
- Affordable area
- Calaveras River
- Neighborhood Parks
- Diversity of Character
- UOP Police
- Food, Family, Faith
- Stockton: An All-American City with important history
- Citywide vision to galvanize and energize the community
- Keeping University a strong neighborhood
- Coordination with the County: joint powers agreements (JPA) and services

Neighborhood Challenges and Opportunities

- Revisit all existing street Specific Plans that have been approved by the City Council and make changes to these documents that reflect what the neighborhood wants.
- Any plans for street improvement prepared by City staff needs to be approved by representatives of the neighborhoods.
- Like Brookside, the neighborhood should be able to have private security patrols that would help City Police in keeping crime down.
- Start a community newsletter
- Panhandlers
- Speeders on Kensington etc.
- Blight
- Lack of community gathering areas and open/park areas
- Neighborhood apathy
- Vacancy along the Miracle Mile
- Lack of cohesiveness and vision for the Miracle Mile
- El Dorado Avenue is a barrier and limits neighborhood cohesiveness
- Quality of retail is not as great as it could be
- Garbage cans on Harding Way
- Teen activities/center
- Bringing together University and Miracle Mile
- Trees on commercial streets
- Antique fair
- Graffiti and trash
- Transportation along Pacific Avenue

Neighborhood Challenges and Opportunities (continued)

- Involving youth in school programs
- Address design and neighborhood image at gateways; for example Jack in the Box
- Panhandlers on streets
- Parades and sports teams at UOP
- Improved city services
- Support the faith community
- Social issues
- Healthy and affordable food options
- Pedestrian safety
- Safety/nuisance in neighborhoods, especially noise
- Neighborhood empowerment – budget for improvements, Seattle model
- Community and school gardens
- Website as a community resource: University neighborhood, Miracle Mile
- Strong communication, message boards along the Miracle Mile
- Effective strategies
- Trees cut on El Dorado Street unnecessarily
- Community fair and celebrations
- Calaveras River as a community recreation opportunity
- Neighborhood health walk
- Improve/support school and education, volunteering opportunities for schools and UOP students
- Pedestrians walk around Caldwell Park
- Traffic and architectural compatibility of redevelopment
- Collaboration between miracle mile and community
- Changing perception of community as “safe”
- Longer hours for retail along the Mile, including a pilot program
- Underutilized resources, such as neighborhood parks
- Establish links between neighborhoods, especially rentals and multifamily housing
- Community center/central facility/gathering place, or a neighborhood center

Neighborhood Preservation Opportunities

- Rehabilitation between the Pacific and Pershing Bridges. This is the northern edge of the University Neighborhood. There are some intersections between these efforts and somehow they should be connected.
- The Miracle Mile
- Old and historic building (El Dorado School etc.)
- The trees
- Oxford Circle
- Park at the end of Kensington
- Historical ambiance