

Meacham Park Focus Group Summary

A total of three focus groups were held. They were on Sept 13, September 23 and September 25. The first two sessions were at Turner School. The final session which was primarily for the youth of Meacham Park was held at St. Mathews CME Church. During these sessions 35 residents showed up to answer two questions about the future they wished to see for Meacham Park.

Question One

If you left Meacham Park today and came back five - ten – twenty years from now what is it that you would like to see here? How do you want it to be different? How do you want it look? How should it feel? What should it be like to live here? Raise a family here? Retire here?

We have divided the responses to the first question into four broad categories. The number appearing after each of the categories is number of responses recorded.

- 1) Public Safety and Health (20)
- 2) Sense of Community (21)
- 3) Physical Environment (15)
- 4) Youth (15)

Based on the responses the focus group participants seemed to care about each of the four categories equally. There was much discussion about the need to create a safe environment for children, more opportunities for youth and a place where parents could feel comfortable that their children would be safe.

The following chart contains the responses to the first question. Because there is overlap some of the responses are shown in more than one category. A few responses given by participants have been moved to the response section for question two.

| Public Safety and Health | Sense of Community | Physical Environment | Youth |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less police officers • Park safe for children—no gambling, no drugs • Turner School—a community center • Neighborhood buildings being used for services • Young children | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More men involved • Harmony & peace between people • Older people helping younger people • Unity • Unified churches • Improved neighborhood | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very clean—trash cans available • Mature trees—like rest of Kirkwood • Families taking care of yards • Homes well kept & repaired • Property maintained (2) • Properties | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More kids with Cecil • More activities for kids • Better role models • Young ladies communicating • Park safe for children • Turner—a community center |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • playing in park • No kids hanging at corners • Groups of kids hanging—receiving same treatment (limits on group size) as in the rest of Kirkwood • Church (Baptist) providing space for recreation center • A safe community • Limited police presence • Illegal activities addressed by police in a timely manner • Intergenerational activities • Christian based youth center • Age appropriate recreation for children, adults—community center • Constructive activities for children • Scholarships available that encourage education beyond high school • No longer any drug dealing/gambling on streets/street corners • Signage— | <p>leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respect • Pride in neighborhood • More men involved in community • Moral character—linkages among families, school & community • Residents feel ownership to improve community • Vehicle in place to organize volunteering • Drama free • People showing respect for other people • More unity—parents & others correcting children • Happiness • Better understanding • Young ladies communicating • Welcoming and peaceful • Different ethnicities feel comfortable in neighborhood | <p>worth over \$200K</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased home ownership • Sign at main entry to landscaped and main-tained • Clean streets • Upkeep of homes • Blight eliminated • Less trash (3) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young children playing in park—age appropriate play • Christian based youth center • Comfortable with kids playing in park • Age appropriate recreation for children—community center • Constructive activities for children • Scholarships available that encourage education beyond high school • Children treated equally in school district • Parent responsible for their kids (2) |
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| <p>“children playing”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children treated equally in school district • Blight, drug dealing eliminated | | | |
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Question Two

What things do you believe need to happen within the Meacham Park community to move toward the vision on the board?

The responses to question two have been divided into two categories. General ideas on what the residents of Meacham must start doing and specific actions that can be taken. While the responses to question two varied, there seems to have been wide spread agreement that the residents working together and working with a purpose could change the future of Meacham Park.

What was recognized by the group seems to have been that success would require that many more residents get involved in helping Meacham Park become a great place to live.

| General | Specific Actions |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources • Get more people involved • Get young people involved • Get churches involved • Engage parents • Teach empowerment • Empower ourselves • Look out for and encourage each other • Locate/identify resources/models/ideas to improve/strengthen community to help shape how we move forward | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop action plan • Strengthen neighborhood association • Re-activate revitalization committee • Find out who we are—gather demographic info • Engage P.E.A.K. in working on education improvement—5 step program, etc. • Residents informed about rules/regulations/ordinances • Community liaison person • 5 step program for children; education • External linkages strengthened |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• More responsible adults• Parents assuming responsibility for kids• Greater presence of churches in community | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• More residents employed• A working relationship with police department• More activities for older youth |
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