

# Quality of Life Planning: What it means for you and your neighborhood



**SO YOU WANT A BETTER  
COMMUNITY ?**

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# What makes a good plan ?



- Is it feasible, realistic, & attainable ?
- Does it truly reflect the community's needs? And how do you know?
- Is there a sense of consensus around the final plan?
- Is there a sense of community-ownership?
- Does it count on both needed resources and existing resources to make the plan happen
- Is it detailed but also flexible at the same time?
- Is it comprehensive?

# Quality of Life?



- What is the type of neighborhood/community that you want your children to grow up in?
- Are there good schools? Is it safe? Is there accessible healthcare?
- Are there recreational and cultural opportunities?
- Is there a vibrant retail/commercial corridor?
- Is there quality affordable housing?
- Do neighbors talk to each other?
- Is there a sense of community and hope for the future?

# Where do we begin?



- Who's Who?
- What are the existing sets of relationships?
- Which ones need to be strengthened?
- Whose voices are less heard ?
- Who yields influence in formal and non-formal ways?
- Do youth have a seat at the table? The elderly?
- How can we build report and culture of cooperation before we begin to plan?

# What already assets or resources already exists?



- What successful programs, initiatives, or services already exist that need additional support and or expansion?
- What else can be thought of as “community assets”, informal civic groups?, a volunteer soccer coach, a church, a vacant lot, community members with specific skills or expertise?
- Understand that you don’t have to re-invent the wheel, and there’s a good chance there’s already positive things going on in that community.

# Pre-planning



- Know and understand the internal dynamics at play of that community
- Who are the “leaders”
- What are “hot” issues
- What kind of history exists between groups and people?
- How are you perceived as a community group?  
University student? Government official?

# The meetings



- What kind of facilitation will you employ, and does it ensure that everyone's voice is heard?
- How will your meetings be documented, scribed ?
- How will you handle unforeseen circumstances, “Oops no one showed up to the meeting”?
- How will you handle unforeseen characters? “Will someone please tell that old man to shut up already!”
- How will you diffuse people with a clear agenda?
- Evaluate/debrief every meeting before meeting ends.
- Act like a planner, think like a community organizer

# Post meeting



- Whose going to organize all the notes and turn them into something that makes sense and is helpful, and how quick will you turn that around?
- What are some issues/topics that came up that require more research, information between meetings?
- Given some of the ideas to specific individuals or groups need to be there? Police ? Park & Rec officials?
- What were the group dynamics like, and what can you do to improve them?
- Who was missing ? What voices weren't heard?



# What does it all mean?



- Acknowledge that everyone plays an important role, and everyone has expertise! Community members, university reps, and government.
- Community's should drive the plan, and partners provide direction, and the gas money!
- Partnership, partnership, partnership!! The possibilities are endless when people utilize each other's strengths and compromise for the greater good! Everyone can share the credit !!