

Homestead Community Day Meeting Summary

Particulars:

Saturday, August 6, 2022

12 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Frick Park, Homestead

Purpose:

Pashek+MTR attended Homestead Community Day to collect community feedback regarding the four key issues that will inform the implementation stage of the comprehensive plan process. Residents filled out a short survey based on the key issues and informed the consultant what they love about their community.

A summary of takeaways from the meeting is provided below.

Takeaways:

- **What would you improve about your neighborhood?**
 - One of the most frequently mentioned suggestions was **increased police presence**. Residents argued that a community watch or police patrol would deter adults from illicit activities such as drugs, alcohol, and gun violence within the parks and neighborhoods. Residents referred to West 12th Ave. as a street in need of more police patrol or community watch.
 - Another issue that residents mentioned was **road safety**. Specifically, residents stated the need for speed bumps to slow traffic. Additionally, residents suggested crossing guards or police to help children cross Borough streets. Residents also suggested that the Borough fix uneven streets to aid pedestrians and cars. Lastly, community members identified West 15th Ave as a road with speeding issues.
 - Community members also suggested **beautification** within the community such as street cleaning, more gardens and flowers, tree pruning, murals, and colorful sidewalks. Residents also suggested that the Borough gets rid of blighted properties. McClure St. was specifically mentioned as a street in need of cleaning.
 - Residents also argued that **bus stop upgrades** would improve their neighborhoods. Community members suggested better lighting around bus stops as well as seating would be beneficial to residents. Some community members stated that they would appreciate an expansion of the bus system into West Homestead.
 - Another frequently mentioned issue was more **activities for kids and youth** as well as attracting young families to the area. Specifically, residents

- suggested a spray park and free or affordable activities for kids. Lastly, residents mentioned more bike trails to provide safe places for kids to ride.
- Regarding **municipal government**, residents mentioned a need for stormwater infrastructure and flood prevention improvements.
 - Other suggestions included more cultural events, activities for seniors, and more affordable options regarding shopping and stores.
 - **What would make it easier to get around your community?**
 - A majority of residents who responded to the survey mentioned that they relied on public transit. Their suggestions included:
 - Community transportation such as a van or a shuttle system for seniors
 - More bus shelters
 - More bus stops
 - Increase the frequency of buses
 - Provide routes to more communities
 - Expand the bus system into West Homestead
 - Some residents suggested improvements for pedestrians who walked around the community including:
 - Longer crosswalk times
 - Better sidewalks and streets (residents specifically mentioned West 12th Ave., Ann St., and streets in Munhall)
 - Other suggestions related to traffic included:
 - Post or communicate the train schedule to aid traffic flow
 - Time traffic lights to and from the Waterfront better
 - Better infrastructure, roads, and bridges
 - More notice on upcoming construction
 - Bike lanes
 - **How can the Steel Valley communities work together better?**
 - A majority of residents expressed that the Steel Valley communities should come together as one and collaborate. Specific suggestions included:
 - More diversity in community leadership
 - More neighborhood events that involve all three communities
 - Collaborate with surrounding communities
 - Do more together and not separately
 - Merge the municipalities
 - Share recycling services
 - Get the community more involved with the government
 - Support each other
 - Bring leaders of the three communities together more

- Other suggestions from residents included:
 - Affordable childcare for working families
 - Improve library foot traffic
 - Involve community members to assist with youth development
 - Bring more business opportunities and get to know businesses within the community
 - Host job fairs with community businesses
- **How can we include residents and business owners in the growth of Steel Valley?**
 - Residents provided the following suggestions for including residents and business owners in the growth of Steel Valley:
 - Knocking on doors and getting to know the community
 - Mail surveys
 - Facebook polls
 - Community town halls
 - Contact business owners and include them in community meetings (and community meeting robocalls)
 - Allow meetings to be viewed on Facebook or YouTube
 - Increase communication between business owners and local leadership
 - Get younger residents involved in municipal government
 - Residents also had the following suggestions for businesses within in the communities:
 - Increase the number of neighborhood businesses such as grocery stores
 - More businesses throughout the communities such as discount or convenience stores
- **What do you love about Homestead?**
 - A majority of residents mentioned that their favorite things about Homestead are the people and the sense of the community. Other comments included:
 - The community is like an extended family
 - The bus service, you can go anywhere
 - Homestead started the Steel Valley
 - Community Day
 - The parks