



Southside Steering Committee  
City of Paducah | Planning Department | March 22, 2022

**Summary:** This meeting will dive deeper into the planning process, discuss value statements, and begin setting a vision for recreation in Southside neighborhoods.

1. **Discussion:** Open ended questions on what makes a neighborhood great
  - *What neighborhood do I live in?*
  - *How can the city and neighbors work together?*
  - *What skills do I bring to the committee?*
  - *What do I value in a community?*
  - *What qualities make up a great place to live?*

Members discussed aspects of neighborhoods they admire. Items and ideas mentioned include: activities, reliable access to activities, shared space for interaction, accessibility, sidewalks, art/music, beauty, proud neighbors, pleasant (no mosquitos or litter), stability in neighborhoods, skilled homeowners, and mixed uses (commercial and residential).

Members discussed what they value in community. Items and ideas mentioned include: gathering space, safety, village, checks and balances, security to live freely, connection, commitment to neighbors, relational empowerment.

Members discussed skills they bring to the committee: financial knowledge of commercial lending and mortgage lending, first line information on families from the local public school system, public housing connections and institutional knowledge, faith and connections to faith communities, skills and knowledge public health initiatives and their funding, entrepreneurial perspectives, creative problem solving, and long-time residential experiences from Southside neighbors.

2. **Planning Process:** Where we are in the planning process

The committee discussed the 5 Areas of Concentration for the Southside Neighborhoods Initiative (Housing, Recreation, Financial Opportunity, Infrastructure & Connectivity, and Neighborhood Vitality), and how the committee will be briefed on each area, and help to define pain points and needs of the neighborhood related to each area. This meeting focused on Recreation. The committee had an opportunity to review the Paducah Parks and Recreation [Master Plan](#) ([Executive Summary here](#)), and discuss the mission, goals, and facility priorities outlined in the plan.

The group used their discussion of great neighborhoods to formulate three value statements that the group agreed described their views of recreation best. The discussed how these values aligned with the Parks Department Master Plan, and how programs that further these values served neighbors. As each value statement was evaluated, group members discussed potential programming to help realize these values.

- **Every neighbor can access a green space or public recreation area:** create connections with existing parks, and consider adding additional green spaces where park amenities do not exist.
- **Neighbors at all ability levels can enjoy park amenities:** consider reviewing accessibility of park amenities and bathrooms, including equipment, features, and design.
- **Neighbors have a variety of recreation options to choose from:** consider adding additional programming to existing park spaces. Ideas included:
  - Water-based recreation – Island Creek, Ohio River
  - Flexible green space to be used for gathering, concerts, games
  - Quiet space
  - Wi-Fi access
  - Kickball diamond
  - Seating – bleachers and picnic shelters
  - Shade
  - Electricity
  - Specialty area for very small children
  - Programming in partnership with the Library and schools to bring education to park spaces, i.e. summer spelling bee or book mobile visits.

### 3. **Vision:** Next steps for recreation.

The Parks and Recreation Department is looking to make facility improvements to Coleman Park in the Walter Jetton neighborhood. Items for discussion included upgrading the horseshoe area and the baseball backstop. The committee agreed that the baseball diamond area should keep its backstop, and that the backstop could use an upgrade. It was also agreed that the horseshoe games needed an upgrade. They would like to consider replacing some horseshoe lanes with cornhole equipment. The committee agreed to host a community engagement event to facilitate a larger discussion on these upgrades.

### 4. **Next Steps:** Next meeting and action items

City staff will bring the discussion of the group to the Parks Department for evaluation. A follow up report will be discussed at the next meeting.

*Next Meeting: May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022*