Summit Hill Association
Listening Sessions Report
February 2021
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INTRODUCTION

As part of its Neighborhood Plan revision, Summit Hill Association (SHA) hosted a series of listening sessions to gather input from residents, Grand Avenue business owners and staff from area schools. Five sessions were held during the months of November and December 2020 and January 2021.

SESSION DETAILS

Board members and staff recruited participants through the SHA website, newsletter, Facebook page and personal connections.

Because of the statewide health precautions associated with Covid-19, all sessions were held online using Zoom. Sessions were hosted by members of the consulting group that is supporting SHA in some parts of its Neighborhood Plan revision. The facilitators who hosted the session for Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) neighbors were people of color. Sessions lasted two hours.

At least one Board member attended each session and shared an overview of the process underway to revise the Neighborhood Plan. With the exception of the session for BIPOC neighbors, Board members remained present to listen to participants' responses and answer questions whenever possible.

Questions were crafted to focus in part on the unique perspectives of each group as well as on areas of neighborhood life most relevant to the Neighborhood Plan. Topics ranged from highlights and challenges of living and working here to the sense of connection participants feel to the neighborhood; from new development and housing density to the importance of Grand Avenue; from things participants hope remain the same in the future to things they hope change.

Additional session details are shared below.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Number in Attendance</th>
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<tr>
<td>11/16/20</td>
<td>Grand Avenue businesses</td>
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<td>11/21/20</td>
<td>General audience</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>12/8/20</td>
<td>Renters</td>
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<td>12/12/20</td>
<td>Schools</td>
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<td>1/11/21</td>
<td>Black, Indigenous, People of Color neighbors</td>
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In all, 36 people from across the neighborhood participated in one of the listening sessions. Questions asked in each session are available for review in Appendix A.
SESSION SUMMARIES

Brief summaries from each session are included below, followed by themes that emerged from more than one session.

GRAND AVENUE BUSINESSES

On November 16, 2020, the listening session included eight Grand Avenue business owners, or individuals affiliated with Grand Avenue businesses.

**Positives** Participants shared that while there were many challenges associated with owning a business, they were heartened by neighborhood support for “buying local.” Some have even seen an increase in business, while others reported having long-time neighbors coming in for the first time. While pragmatic about the ongoing national trends regarding retail, they were optimistic and hopeful about the future of Grand.

**Concerns** There was a lot of concern about empty retail spaces along Grand, and about the arrival of national retail chains to the Avenue. There was also discussion about the recent uptick in crime. For example, one business reported being broken into twice in 2020 – a first in 15 years. Parking concerns were shared several times, from several perspectives – limited availability, poor enforcement of parking limits in many parts, and poor signage leading to parking tickets in other parts.

**New Development** While generally supportive of new development, participants highlighted potential challenges, including parking availability. Concerns were raised about the cost of retail space in new development, and that higher rents may lead to fewer local businesses being able to afford locating here. Participants brought different perspectives regarding the heights of new buildings, from some seeing taller buildings as inevitable and necessary, to supportive while also highlighting the need for zoning changes so existing businesses can serve more people, to concerns that letting in even one taller building means all future buildings will be taller as well.

**Housing Density** Again, this group was generally supportive, as more people living in the area will likely lead to more customers. Yet other voices pointed out that more density does not always mean new customers, using Snelling and Selby and Minneapolis’ North Loop as examples where small businesses have not done as well. Concerns were raised, too, about too many high-end units making the neighborhood even less accessible than it already is for many.

**Ideas for the Future** Other ideas included 1) finding more collaborative parking solutions, like partnering with places that don’t use their parking lots all of the time; 2) as more housing is built and more development happens, pay attention to the parallel needs of alternative transit
options; 3) new development needs to be thoughtfully done, with the needs of each block considered.

A final thought shared by one participant:

“If we can lean into where the world is headed, we’ll be in a good position. There’s opportunity in serving different demographics. Be nimble and embrace the unknown.”

GENERAL AUDIENCE

On November 21, 10 people from the neighborhood gathered to share their thoughts and ideas. There was a mix of ages, length of residence here, and lenses through which they viewed the neighborhood.

Areas of Potential  Connection and collaboration were brought up several times, in several contexts. There was a call for creating ways for people to connect with one another in the neighborhood, for collaborations with other neighborhoods, for quality connections to the people in neighborhoods closest to Summit Hill (partnering, not “helping”), and more purposeful geographic connections to nearby neighborhoods, the Mississippi River area, and bike trails. There was also a recognition that with more people and more density in housing, Summit Hill’s population will continue to diversify. In addition, the many empty spaces along Grand were seen as potential places for more creative expressions, including arts events, business pop-ups, workshops by area residents. Participants thought that some of the Covid-19 changes should stay, like restaurant seating on the street.

Areas of Concern  This group saw the connection between a healthy grand Avenue and a healthy neighborhood, and expressed concern about the current status of Grand. They talked about the link between high property taxes being passed on to small businesses that then can’t afford to stay. They were familiar with the work of the Grand Avenue Task Force, and frustrated by the fact that “city hall” doesn’t seem to be using it for anything. There was also concern about a perceived lack of connection to city leaders, and to nearby districts. Lack of diversity among residents was another concern.

New Development  Participants shared a range of ideas about new development, but seemed to have a positive view of it overall. Some of their perspectives included being planful, not hasty, in bringing new projects to the neighborhood; paying attention to what residents have to say; using the city’s Comprehensive Plan as a framework for communication about what is happening in Summit Hill; following the existing zoning laws; being careful of variance.

What do you hope stays the same?  People love the historic feel of the neighborhood, its aesthetics, its houses, and hope that stays the same. They hope that any new buildings will strive to fit into the current look and feel of neighborhood buildings. They like the diversity of
housing that exists, especially on the west end. While recognizing that there is not a lot of diversity among residents, they appreciate the diversity of people who are already here.

**What do you hope changes?** Participants hope for a renewed and vibrant Grand Ave., and support from the city in promoting what is on Grand. There were several comments about bringing something arts-related, or a new community resource (like a library), or a recognizable destination that will attract people to the neighborhood. There was hope that the public schools would be more widely honored for their work. Finally, the idea of geographic connections to area bike trails was emphasized.

**Public Art and Green Spaces** Look to what other neighborhoods have done with light fixtures, murals, art added to lights, bridges, planters, garbage cans. Support development of a space for performing arts. Nurture relationships between businesses and schools for collaborative projects. Focus on community-driven projects, like making parking areas more appealing with green plantings. Use art to promote community connections.

**Ideas for the Future** One wish was that the neighborhood would create some form of land recognition of the Native Americans who were here long before white people arrived. A hope was that residents would grow in awareness of how economic sustainability can happen, and how important their support of local businesses is. Another hope was that that children can come back to the neighborhood as young adults and not be “othered” for the color of their skin. Yet another hope was that the strengths of the neighborhood – which are sometimes only perceived as challenges – be leveraged to promote positive change.

**RENTERS**

On December 8, 2020, six people who are renters in the neighborhood gathered for a conversation about their experience living here. Participants ranged in age from their 20s to their 40s (maybe 50s?), and had lived here for as few as four months to more than a decade.

**Positives**. This group emphasized the importance of walkability, bike-ability, the convenience of living close to downtown, a farmer’s market, Linwood park, and their proximity to so many interesting shops and restaurants. They also love the aesthetics of the neighborhood, and appreciate the sense of calm that’s here.

**Challenges** Some of the concerns they shared echoed other groups: no community space, no artist spaces, no places to hang out that aren’t a restaurant or bar; lack of diversity among residents; parking. Some concerns were unique to this group: concerns about armed protesters at the Governor's mansion; about a very police-friendly tone to SHA publications, with hopes for exploring other approaches to public safety, too; for speed of cars on Grand and the potential for traffic calming devices.

**Neighborhood Connections** Participants moved to Summit Hill for a variety of reasons, including how close it was to their workplace, the affordability of their apartment, friends’ recommendations, living close to Grand. They feel moderately connected to the neighborhood,
finding new friends in their buildings, at the community garden, in the bars, at neighborhood outdoor musical events. They appreciate that some of the business owners know who they are. But they also recognize that the dominant demographic in the neighborhood is white, middle age plus homeowners, which is a different demographic than them.

**What do you hope stays the same?** Like other groups, the vitality and vibrancy of Grand Avenue was central to their conversation. In addition, they emphasized how important public transportation is, as well as bike-ability and walkability.

**What do you hope changes?** Their discussion focused on their hope that there will be less resistance to development in the future. They see the importance of emphasizing housing density in the neighborhood, and how higher housing density may lead to more transit options. They wonder about using some of the current parking lots for new development. Because they are regular walkers, they know the status of area sidewalks, and hope more maintenance is I the future.

**New Development** Participants shared that the new buildings are not affordable, and their hope that any new development will include more affordable housing. They appreciated that different types of buildings appeal to different people, and that a mix of housing types is a positive. They expressed a hop that new buildings could both fit into the neighborhood aesthetic, and look different from one another.

**Ideas for the Future** Some similar ideas to other groups emerged in this session, too: that art could play a role in connecting people; that there isn’t currently anywhere for groups to meet; it would be great to have an outdoor meeting space; that banners or hanging flower baskets or some other artistic expression could add to neighborhood pride, and make Grand look more creative and unified; that relaxed permitting has led to more outdoor seating which is a positive; that adding parking stripes for parallel parking along Grand may help alleviate some of the parking challenges.

**SCHOOLS**

> “We want to be connected with you. Schools are the center of the neighborhood.”

On December 12, 2020, eight representatives from area schools convened to talk about their experiences and perceptions of the Summit Hill neighborhood. Participants were staff members or part of a school’s parent organization. Schools represented included Central High School, Highland Park Senior High, Ramsey Middle School, Global Arts Plus and Randolph Heights Elementary.

**Positives** Many of the same positives that other groups shared were echoed by participants in this session. There is great appreciation of the neighborhood businesses, restaurants and Grand in general. Other mentions included Summit Hill neighborhood’s beauty and charm, and the strong sense of ‘Saint Paul pride’ here. School representatives appreciate the amount of
parent involvement, and the number of community volunteers involved in school-based programming.

**Negatives** Traffic and pedestrian safety are high on the list, especially in winter. Plowing – or lack of timely plowing, especially on the smaller streets – came up as well. Paired with parking restrictions, visitors to the schools often find parking difficult. The recent increase in crime was also mentioned. Additionally, while students regularly interact with neighborhood businesses, there is a lack of diversity in business owners. Students of color cannot interact with people who look like them. And some businesses are not friendly to students in general, and students of color especially.

**Housing Density** Increased housing density is viewed favorably, with a few accompanying concerns. While more families may lead to increased, sustainable enrollment, that may put pressure on schools already at capacity. There will be a need for increased transit infrastructure as well. Parking is already a challenge near some of the schools, and may become even more difficult. With more people, the need grows to pay more attention to pedestrian and bicycle safety. Participants also discussed importance of affordable housing

**Impact of Development** New development was also viewed positively, with hopes that it might be aimed at a range of people, and not only the ones already well-served by area businesses. One comment that resonated with others was that “Businesses’ long-range customers are in our schools right now. I hope they start paying attention to that fact.” Participants see potential for new partnerships with new businesses, creating connections for students.

**Ideas for the Future** First and foremost, school representatives want SHA to connect with students to include their voices as part of the Neighborhood Plan revision. They also had many questions about the role SHA might play in neighborhood projects. For example, schools have partnerships with some area businesses and colleges, but would welcome more. Is there a role for SHA in supporting these types of partnerships? There is a need for additional street signage in some areas. Could area businesses support that? Could SHA play a role in facilitating that? There is a need for area businesses to recognize the changing demographics of residents, students and their families. Might SHA prompt diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives for businesses?

Particularly notable was how pleased this group was to have been invited into the process. They shared that there has not been any purposeful connection between schools and SHA. One participant shared, “This is the first time in my 14 years at Central that I’ve sat down and talked with you.” Participants expressed their hopes for continued connection, communication and partnership.

**BLACK, INDIGENOUS, PEOPLE OF COLOR (BIPOC) NEIGHBORS**

This listening session was initially scheduled for January 6, 2021, but was re-scheduled due to all that was happening in Washington, D. C. that day. There were not as many people
available on the new date of January 11, but four people gathered to talk about their experience living in Summit Hill neighborhood. All four were longtime residents, having lived in the neighborhood between 17 and 23 years.

**Positives** Like other participants in other sessions, this group appreciates the walkability of the neighborhood, as well as the schools, proximity to work, the old houses and the historic feel of the houses. They talked about how the neighborhood feels like a small town – in a positive way. Their children feel safe here, and feel competent getting around the city.

**Challenges** Participants highlighted the fact that Summit Hill is a very white, gentrified neighborhood, with few people of color. In addition, they sense a resistance to change related to diversity, even with the broader cultural shifts going on. There is no celebration of differences, nor representation of people of color in neighborhood publications. They are often the only person of color wherever they go in Minnesota. While that has simply been a reality of living here for a long time, one person shared that she does not always feel safe now due the tone of national politics. In addition, participants shared that they often feel a sense of loneliness. That is due in part to the fact that they do not have deep or significant conversations with neighbors. In fact, neighbors are sometimes the source of microaggressions. One participant shared that while out trick or treating with her children on Halloween – on her own block – a neighbor asked, “What neighborhood are you coming from?” Another participant shared that her children feel negatively judged by others because they attend public schools. Since parents in Summit Hill neighborhood send their children to so many different schools, it is hard to build community with other parents. Crime was mentioned a concern as well, particularly the change in types and increase in number of crimes recently.

**Grand Avenue** While they shared many positives about Grand, they have concerns, too. About the empty storefronts, and how generic it feels, and about how corporate it has become. The lack of diversity of business owners was mentioned, and one person shared a story about the frustrations they know that someone experienced when trying to open a business on Grand. Another person talked about how well some parts of the Twin Cities have incorporated art into their streetscapes, and that art could be a means of honoring culture on Grand.

**Impact of Development** There was conversation about the need for mixed use development, in line with the city’s 2040 Comprehensive Plan. As part of that, one participant talked about the need for affordable places for aging residents to move. People want to stay in the neighborhood, but many cannot afford the high-end prices of condos that have been built recently.

**What do you hope stays the same?** Participants talked about how development can negatively impact a neighborhood, but how some recent development has been done well. There is concern about the number of houses being torn down in other parts of the city, and hope that Summit Hill houses will remain the same.

**What do you hope changes?** Participants would like to see more diversity of businesses on Grand, including more ethnic restaurants. They hope for more diversity of people too – racial,
cultural, economic. They also think that more connection to nearby neighborhoods is important.

**Ideas for the Future** One of the questions posed was about the possibility of changing the main purpose of new businesses on Grand from profit to people, i.e., could the city, or SHA or another entity support the launch of more businesses led by people of color? They also hope that SHA and other neighborhood publications note how absent people of color are from their publications, websites, etc., and make changes moving forward.

Finally, participants expressed their thanks for having been invited to participate, and for the fact that SHA created a BIPOC-only space for this listening session.

**THEMES ACROSS GROUPS**

Some ideas were repeated across more than one listening session. Ideas most often expressed are shared below.

| Grand Avenue is at the core of the neighborhood’s identity. People sincerely appreciate the small businesses on the Avenue and want them to be successful. Participants recognize that a thriving Grand Avenue contributes to a thriving neighborhood. | People appreciate many other things about the neighborhood as well – its walkability and bike-ability, its charm, its proximity to downtown, Linwood Park and the farmer’s market. |
| People want to be connected – to one another, to Summit Hill Association, to other District Councils, to nearby neighborhoods. |
| New development is generally regarded in a positive light, but many cautions were also expressed. Beware of too much too fast; consider recommendations for the look and height of new buildings; think about the impact on local businesses; do whatever is | People recognize the potential that public art might play in promoting neighborhood pride. Might schools and businesses be conduits for making something arts-related happen? |
There is growing diversity in the neighborhood’s population, but BIPOC neighbors and students at area schools are not always treated well by others. What role can SHA play in advancing diversity, equity and inclusion?

While more housing is needed, the need for affordable housing is especially important. What can SHA do to promote building different types of housing?

Look to other neighborhoods – here and in other states – for lessons learned regarding new development, housing density and parking solutions.

### FINAL THOUGHTS

At the end of each session, participants were invited to respond to a group of final, wrap-up questions:

- Are there other topics you’d like to bring up, even if we don’t have time to dig into them today?
- Is there anything more you want to share about anything we’ve discussed?
- What else do you want the staff and Board of SHA to know?
- What do you imagine the neighborhood will be like in 10 years?

Participants in the middle three sessions were given a link to an online, interactive, visual collaboration tool to add their responses. Appendix B includes their responses from that platform.
The Summit Hill Association listening session project was carried out by Johansson Consulting LLC. Group facilitators were Brigid Riley & Kia Moua. Technical support was provided by Carissa Hernandes and Siena Milbauer and Katharine Wood.
# Appendix A – Listening Session Questions

## Businesses Listening Session
November 16, 2020

### Introductions
- Name
- Which neighborhood business you’re affiliated with
- Your role with the business
- A Tweet-length “something” about the business that others may not know

### Opening Questions
- What is something positive currently going on in the neighborhood?
- What is something challenging currently going on in the neighborhood?

### Focus Area Questions
We appreciate how many of you participated in the Grand Ave. Business Owners Survey SHA conducted last year (2019? 2018?), and want you to know that what you shared has been reviewed and will continue to be reviewed as SHA moves forward on developing its Neighborhood Plan.

There are three areas of interest we’d like to touch on tonight:
- Parking
- New development
- Impact of housing density

### Parking
- First, we know how big an issue parking is for area businesses. If you were to summarize a business perspective on parking, what would you tell someone?
  - What would someone else add?
  - Is there a different perspective?

### New Development
- Second, we know that new development will continue to happen in the neighborhood. In the Grand Avenue Business survey, we noticed business owners’ wish for the city to pay more attention to the physical streets and sidewalks when planning for new development. What else from a business perspective do we need to keep in mind regarding new development?
  - What would someone else add?
  - Is there a different perspective?
Appendix A – Listening Session Questions

Impact of Housing Density

- Third, we've seen that increased housing density is a trend that is here to stay. From a business perspective, what advantages do you see to increased housing density?

- Again from a business perspective, what disadvantages do you see to increased housing density?

- What would someone else add?

- Is there a different perspective?

Closing

- Are there other topics you’d like to bring up, even if we don’t have time to dig into them tonight?

- Is there anything more you want to share about anything we’ve discussed?

- What else do you want the staff and Board of SHA to know?

- Imagine it’s 10 years from now. Describe what the scene is like on Grand Avenue...The stores, sidewalks, roadway...
# General Audience Session

**November 21, 2020**

## Introductions

- Name
- How long you’ve lived or worked in the neighborhood
- A Tweet-length “something” you appreciate or really love about the neighborhood

## Opening Questions

- What would you name as a big concern in the neighborhood?
- What would you name as an area of great potential in the neighborhood?
- Share a frustration you have in living/working here.

## Focus Area Questions

Thinking ahead 10 years from now….

- What do you hope remains the same about Summit Hill neighborhood?
- What do you want to see change?

We know that new development will continue to happen in the neighborhood.

- From your perspective, what does SHA need to keep in mind regarding new development?

(If time permits)

- What role might public art or culture play in further enhancing the neighborhood?
- What would make Grand Avenue a better place to shop, eat, and play?
- What role might our neighborhood green spaces play in further enhancing the neighborhood?

## Closing

- Are there other topics you’d like to bring up, even if we don’t have time to dig into them today?
- Is there anything more you want to share about anything we’ve discussed?
- What else do you want the staff and Board of SHA to know?
- What does Grand Avenue look like to you in 10 years? Describe what the scene is like on….the stores, sidewalks, roadway...
**Renters**
December 8, 2020

**Facilitator**

**Overview of this session**
Time, flow, moving things along, recording

**Introductions**
- Name
- How long you’ve lived in the neighborhood
- A Tweet-length “something” you appreciate or really love about the neighborhood

**Opening Questions**
What’s it like to live here?
- How do you get around?
- How much of your shopping can you do within the neighborhood?
- How much of your entertainment budget is spent in the neighborhood – at restaurants, bars, other types of entertainment?
- What isn’t so great about living in this neighborhood?

**Focus Area Questions**
Why this neighborhood?
- How did you choose this neighborhood to move to?
- How connected do you feel to the neighborhood? Share an example of that.
- What’s something you wish you’d known about the neighborhood before choosing to move here?
- What do you hope remains the same about Summit Hill neighborhood moving forward?
- What do you want to see change?

We know that new development will continue to happen in the neighborhood.
- How appealing are the newly built apartment buildings to you vs. the older buildings and subdivided homes?
- Do the new buildings attract people who already live here, or they more about bringing new people into the neighborhood?
• From your perspective, what does SHA need to keep in mind regarding new development? 
  (If time permits)
• What role might public art or culture play in further enhancing the neighborhood?
• What role might our neighborhood green spaces play in further enhancing the neighborhood?
• What would make Grand Avenue a better place to shop, eat, and play?
### Schools
**December 12, 2020**

#### Introductions
- Name
- What school you are associated with
- Your role there
- A Tweet-length “something” about your school that others may not know

#### Opening Questions
**Current currents in the neighborhood**
- Share how does your school interacts with the broader neighborhood…with the people, other schools, neighborhood organizations?
- From your perspective, what is something positive currently going on in the neighborhood?
- What is something challenging currently going on in the neighborhood?

#### Focus Area Questions
**Housing**
We’ve seen that increased housing density is a trend in Saint Paul.
- From a school perspective, what advantages do you see to increased housing density?
- What disadvantages do you see to increased housing density?
- From a school perspective, what does SHA need to keep in mind regarding neighborhood housing?

**Other Development**
We know, too, that new development will continue to happen in the neighborhood.
- What impact does commercial development in the neighborhood have on your school?
- From a school perspective, what does SHA need to keep in mind regarding new development?

#### Safety
- What neighborhood safety concerns are you facing?
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<th><strong>Appendix A – Listening Session Questions</strong></th>
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<td>• What role could you imagine the neighborhood association playing in terms of addressing safety concerns?</td>
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<td><strong>Opportunities</strong></td>
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<td>• What opportunities do think will be front and center for your organization in the coming years?</td>
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<td>• What opportunities can SHA capitalize on in the future to best support the neighborhood?</td>
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<td><strong>Future</strong></td>
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<td>• What do you hope remains the same about Summit Hill neighborhood moving forward?</td>
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<td>• What do you want to see change?</td>
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<td><strong>Closing</strong></td>
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<td>• Are there other topics you’d like to bring up, even if we don’t have time to dig into them today?</td>
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<td>• Is there anything more you want to share about anything we’ve discussed?</td>
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<td>• What else do you want the staff and Board of SHA to know?</td>
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<td>• What do you imagine the neighborhood will be like in 10 years?</td>
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## Introductions

Questions
- Name
- How long you’ve lived or worked in the neighborhood
- A Tweet-length “something” you appreciate or really love about the neighborhood

## Opening Questions

**What’s it like to live here?**
- How do you get around?
- How much of your shopping can you do within the neighborhood?
- How much of your entertainment budget is spent in the neighborhood – at restaurants, bars, other types of entertainment?
- What *isn’t* so great about living in this neighborhood?
- Is there anything else that you would name as a big concern in the neighborhood?
- What would you name as an area of great potential in the neighborhood?

## Focus Area Questions

**Why this neighborhood?**
- How did you choose this neighborhood to move to?
- How connected do you feel to the neighborhood? Share an example of that.

**Thinking ahead 10 years from now….**
- What do you hope remains the same about Summit Hill neighborhood?
- What do you want to see change?

**Development**
We know that new development will continue to happen in the neighborhood.
Appendix A – Listening Session Questions

- How appealing are the newly built apartment buildings to you vs. the older buildings and subdivided homes?
- From your perspective, what does SHA need to keep in mind regarding new development?

Housing Density
We’ve also seen that increased housing density is a trend that is here to stay.
- What advantages do you see to increased housing density?
- What disadvantages do you see?

(If time permits)
- What role might public art or culture play in further enhancing the neighborhood?
- What would make Grand Avenue a better place to shop, eat, and play?
- What role might our neighborhood green spaces play in further enhancing the neighborhood?

Closing
- Are there other topics you’d like to bring up, even if we don’t have time to dig into them tonight?
- Is there anything more you want to share about anything we’ve discussed?
- What else do you want the staff and Board of SHA to know?
- In 10 years, what will Grand Avenue look like? Describe the scene, stores, restaurants, sidewalks, roadway...

Thank you!
- A neighborhood survey will be coming out soon, watch for that.
- Visit the SHA Neighborhood Plan webpage for project updates.
- There will be a community gathering – probably on Zoom – to share a progress report about the Plan in the spring. We hope you’ll join us then.
Summit Hill Association
Businesses Listening Session

BRIGID12  NOV 16, 2020 01:35AM

Are there other topics you’d like to bring up, even if we don’t have time to dig into them tonight?

Business Improvement Districts?

Commercial Land Trusts?

Where does diversity/equity fit into any growth plans?

What else do you want the staff and Board of SHA to know?

I would encourage the board to reach out to some of the city’s poorer neighborhoods like Summit–University and Frogtown, which aren’t so far away, and listen to some of the challenges they’re dealing with. How can SHA make changes that support & help those neighborhoods?

Is there anything more you want to share about anything we’ve discussed?

Find and share an image of your hopes for the future of Summit Hill Neighborhood.

What does Grand Avenue look like to you in 10 years?
Grand future
Summit Hill Association
Businesses Listening Session
BRIGID12   NOV 16, 2020 01:35AM

Are there other topics you’d like to bring up, even if we don’t have time to dig into them tonight?

sustainability in neighborhood, compost collection in alleys, front yard boulevard vegetable gardens,

Are there creative models from around the country that we can import for supporting "desirable" business on grand avenue? e.g. some type of cooperative ownership of/investment in a store?

What else do you want the staff and Board of SHA to know?

Renters
Thank you for engaging renters in this conversation. They are a critical voice in the SHA community

Is there anything more you want to share about anything we’ve discussed?

I'm not sure which question/topic this should fall under but I really think we need to encourage the value of renters/tenants in Summit Hill. There is often a misconception all over of renters being "transient" and "not engaged in their community because they move around more frequently" and that property/home owner voices carry a stronger weight. Summit Hill is currently 50% renter and 50% homeowner.

Positively and proactively engaging the multifamily property owners, tenants, and home owners to work together would be great. All of these people bring vibrancy into Summit Hill and support the local businesses, schools, green space, etc. I wish more collaboration between the groups would occur.

Find and share an image of your hopes for the future of Summit Hill Neighborhood.

I would love to see Linwood Park utilized more for public gatherings, music, live performance, fall or spring meet and greets.

What does Grand Avenue look like to you in 10 years?

more winebars. seasonal popup shops for artisanal products.

library dropoff/pickup. Apprentice ships with local high schools with businesses, or community engagement
would a free Grand avenue shuttle increase business?

an example of this would be Express Bike Shop......would love to see and support more businesses like this.
Are there other topics you’d like to bring up, even if we don’t have time to dig into them tonight?

Is there anything more you want to share about anything we’ve discussed?

I brought up the question of diversity in the neighborhood—since majority white neighborhoods don’t happen by accident, I would love to see SHA engage with something like Mapping Prejudice to investigate use of racial covenants in Summit Hill and then lead conversation reckoning with the results and what they mean for the neighborhood.

What else do you want the staff and Board of SHA to know?

Find and share an image of your hopes for the future of Summit Hill Neighborhood.

What do you imagine Grand Avenue will like look in 10 years?
Find an image and post it below.
Summit Hill Association
Schools Listening Session
BRIGID12  NOV 16, 2020 01:35AM

Are there other topics you’d like to bring up, even if we don’t have time to dig into them today?

Community Resources
Clothing exchange, is there a giant neighborhood garage sale?

Continue to keep racial equity front and center as you work to improve and develop this area.

Can the SHA bring potential partners together? If there is a known business or community organization that is looking to partner with schools, is it possible for SHA to do the matching/introductions?

Is there anything more you want to share about anything we’ve discussed?

Please consider schools as central to our community as you consider decisions.

Keep us in the conversation as you move forward as an organization.

Put schools at the center as partners

Annual conversations

What else do you want the staff and Board of SHA to know?

Include young people in the discussion for future planning

Keep lines of communication open going forward

Include student voice!

Communication is key, and welcomed by schools!

Ongoing dialogue about opportunities that benefit schools, businesses and the neighbors.

Ensure youth voice is at the table

What do you imagine the neighborhood will be like in 10 years?

I see a lot of younger people moving in with corresponding businesses and transportation demands.

a vibrant, busy, dynamic place to be and want to be.
Much more diverse

Find and share an image of your hopes for the future of Summit Hill Neighborhood.

Diversity
Affordable housing for all

Racially diverse and equitable!

Internship opportunities

Students active and engaged in the community and taking action to continue to improve and grow opportunities for all.

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