

These are the combined summary of suggestions for the Windsor Heights Vision Plan which were generated by members of the Windsor Heights Neighborhood Association at the general membership meeting held on January 25, 2009. See the meeting minutes for more details.

Housing

Start

- Start enforcing existing ordinances that protect neighborhood aesthetics.
- Start adopting more ordinances designed to protect property values, quality of life, and the positive aesthetics WH is known for.
- Start encouraging more home ownership vs. rental properties by marketing the city to people who are relatively likely to be long term residents (see Quality of Life section below)
- Start managing rentals more effectively. Improve the inspection process, enforce current requirements and maintain the quality of rental properties.
- Start a housing rehabilitation assistance program that will allow residents, especially new residents, to bring their property up to neighborhood standards. If one already exists, improve public awareness and consider making more money available. Create a definition of rehabilitation so everyone understands the purpose and scope of the program.
- Create a group / community service to help older residents / fix up homes
- Expand senior living options
- Control Property Taxes

Stop

- Stop the trend of more and more rental properties.

Continue

- Retain the ordinance that limits a residence to housing no more than three non-related adults per household.

Urban design, Image, and Land use

Start

- Add signage at major entry points to identify WH
- Look for possibilities to add “pocket parks” wherever practical
- Define the image WH is to represent. What do we mean by image?
- Family Friendly
- Progressive, Wireless
- Develop positive attitude with business. Help businesses improve image.
- Green image, practice conservation.

Stop

- Businesses deteriorating, hurts image

Continue

- Quiet Image
- Community Image
- Small Town feel
- Develop Unused Land

Economic Development

Start

- Start holding public referendums on all bonding issues, including TIF.
- Start requiring competitive bidding for all city contracts > \$5,000
- Start increasing the transparency of development plans. Publicize study sessions.
- Start developing ideas to improve and revitalize Sherwood Forest

Stop

- Stop discouraging small businesses (displacing them with redevelopment projects; other)
- Stop any thought of creating a Park and Ride in WH.
- Stop thinking of our landlocked status as a negative and instead consider it as a positive in that it allows us to focus on what we have.

Continue

- Continue seeking and using feedback from the Chamber of Commerce
- University ave. / town center development

Parks, Recreation, Quality of Life

Start

- Develop a “brand” for the city that emphasizes our high quality, affordable housing, mature trees, small town atmosphere, convenient location, responsive city government, excellent police and fire protection and excellent public works. Use that brand to attract new property owners (not landlords) who share those values.

- Focus on attracting a diverse population including young families, but weighted toward residents who are more likely to become long term residents (i.e. people in mid thirties and older who are financially stable)
- Start increasing public education and awareness of proper walking and biking on our streets (i.e. bicycle with traffic flow, walk against it)
- Long range plan with schools to use Cowles School Property
- Recognize economic conditions and respond
- Promote Quality of Life by doing more to promote the various civic organizations that exist in WH.
- Reestablish police presence in the neighborhoods via police cruiser or possibly even bicycle patrols.
- Divide the city into zones and focus specific needs to the appropriate zone. Priorities in one zone may not be an issue in other zones.

Stop

- Stop allowing parking on streets from 2:00 a.m. – 6:00 a.m.
- Stop allowing large commercial vehicles to be parked on streets and in driveways.

Continue

- Continue holding citywide public events like those that take place in Colby Park
- Sponsor City Wide Events
 - Parade, Movies, add other events too
 - Public events – quality of life
 - Keeping neighborhoods involved
- Continue providing helpful police services, like vacation home checks.
- Colby Park Improvements
- Public Bike Trails
- Assure that our police, fire dept. and public works dept. employees are competitively paid so we can attract and retain the best personnel.

Transportation and Infrastructure

Start

- Start more aggressively and with greater urgency resolving sewer and drainage problems in those areas known to have problems, especially residential areas.
- Start introducing traffic calming techniques.
- Start more diligent enforcement of speed limits and traffic signals on all streets.
- Start burying utility lines wherever feasible. All new utility lines should be buried.
- Clarify the ordinance regarding fence height. From whose side of the fence will the height be measured?
- 5-Year plan to replace / update sewers
- City –wide wireless system

- Educate Citizens about infrastructure
 - Sewer systems, water, etc.
- Verify if there has been an assessment of all infrastructure items to find out needs. Publish and publicize the replacement plan.
- Add bike racks around city
- Sidewalks
- Promote Mass Transit

Stop

- Not applicable.

Continue

- Continue providing good city and public works services like police protection, fire protection, street maintenance and snow removal.
- Continue providing good bus service.
- Hickman corridor improvements