



Community One
Love Your Neighbor

What is a Quality of Life Plan?

We have published a Quality of Life Plan for the Tepe Park neighborhood that will serve as the guardrails for Neighborhood Revitalization work through Community One. While this is a big deal for us and Tepe Park neighbors, you may be wondering, “What’s a quality of life plan??”

Let me ask you a question first: What are the things that make life enjoyable?

If I think about answering that question personally, I think about things like spending time with family and friends, having good health, doing a job well, having new exciting experiences, eating good food, being able to read and learn, and the all-important one of laughter.

If you were to poll 1,000 people, there would be some different things named, a few oddities, maybe a couple obvious ones I missed, but I’d wager a guess that 5-6 strong themes would emerge, and those themes would be close to what I just outlined.

Knowing what creates a high quality of life is not difficult, but staying focused and pushing your life resources into these areas to make them abundant, that is the difficult part and where the challenge lies.

Well a neighborhood Quality of Life Plan basically takes the question of, “What makes life enjoyable?” from the personal level and moves it to a community level. It pulls the real neighbors together and asks them a series of questions aimed to draw out the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of their neighborhood, and then asks them to envision a day in the future when every resident has the opportunity to access all the things that help make life enjoyable.

In conversations over the last 25 years as the approach has been adopted in neighborhoods all over the nation, the same themes emerge over and over again, and with Tepe Park it was no different. Here are the six areas the neighbors themselves identified as priorities:

1. Promote neighboring and community.
2. Increase jobs and economic activity.
3. Improve education and life skills.
4. Increase access to housing.
5. Improve community safety.
6. Improve quality of life and healthy living.

Neighboring, jobs, education, housing, safety, healthy...things that most people take for granted until they are taken away. For many people in our city these things are just assumed. There is no question of if they are a part of life, but more about what they will look like and what choices exist within them. For many others in our city, their surrounding environments do not naturally support these basic elements needed for an enjoyable, abundant life. The Quality of Life Plan helps build these into neighborhoods.

The final important note in regards to the Quality of Life Plan is that it helps create focus and alignment. It's been said that if you get 5 people in a room you'll get 6 opinions. Try getting a whole neighborhood into the room! The Quality of Life Plan puts all the goals and objectives into one living document that helps everyone stay on track and join in wherever they are most passionate and fit best to create maximum impact in the neighborhood, for the neighbors.