

Spirit Valley Core Investment Area Plan

... to foster a vibrant and walkable neighborhood center

Vibrant Spirit Valley – Table Exercise

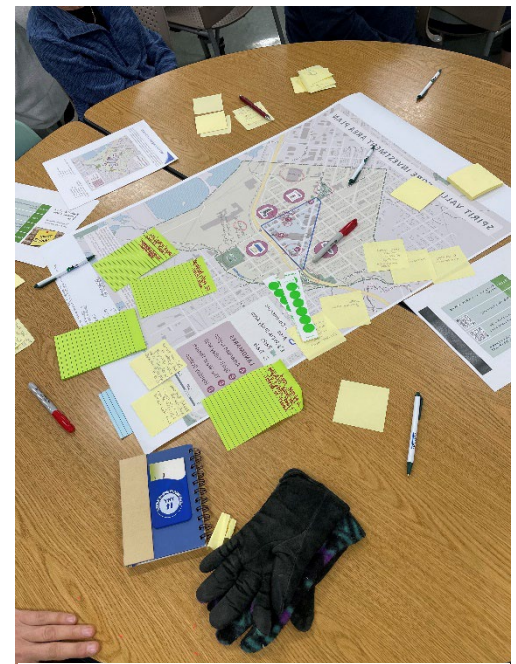
Community Meeting – December 3, 2024, 5:30 p.m., City Center West

Summary: Participants worked with their tablemates to generate a list of the top 5 responses to the following question:

What would make Spirit Valley a more vibrant neighborhood center?

Participants were given 6 dots to be placed on the responses they felt were most important.

- 42 dots – Kmart Issues
 - 12 dots – Remove/repurpose Kmart (housing?)
 - 12 dots – Access to use Kmart parking lot for redevelopment
 - 12 dots – Re-grid Kmart mall (car-free zone in business district)
 - 5 dots – Kmart complex needs to go
 - 1 dot – Remove/replace/use Kmart building
 - 0 dots – Kmart/Spirit Valley Mall development
 - Mixed use residential and shopping
 - 0 dots – Kmart lot repurposed
 - Community gathering
 - Small business start-up/incubator in Kmart
 - Across I-35
 - Ice rink/park/concert/green space/food trucks
- 41 dots – Bike and Ped issues
 - 13 dots – Pedestrian and bike infrastructure (with night-sky friendly lights)
 - 11 dots – Better neighborhood connectivity
 - Safe trails
 - Pedestrian walkways
 - Bike lanes to businesses
 - 5 dots – Walkability
 - Internal walks through the “triangle”
 - Outer perimeter not well-maintained
 - Street crossing
 - 12 dots – Traffic calming and pedestrian friendly (worst are N. Central, Grand, 59th Ave W.)



Vibrant Spirit Valley issue identification table discussions



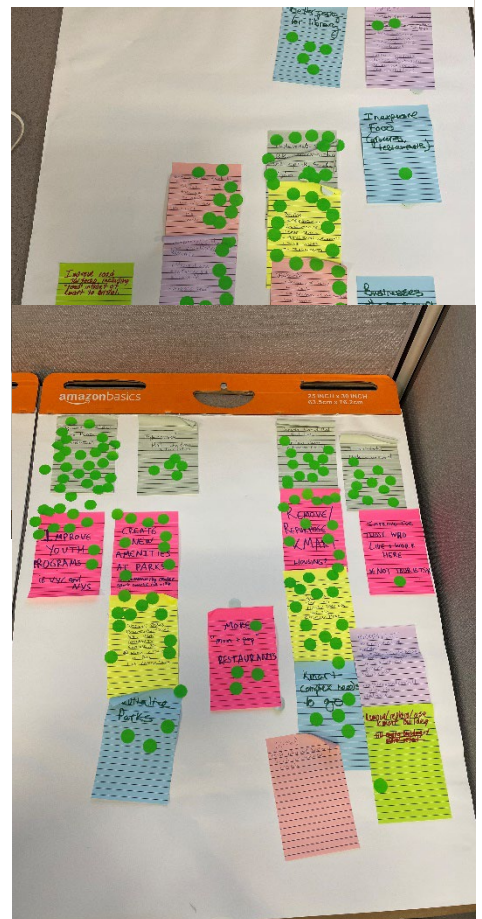
Table captain reporting their table's top issues



- 2 dots – Connections from Irving Neighborhood through to Menards and big box anchors (including public transportation, safe pedestrian and bicycle access)
- 26 dots – Upzone to allow more dense residential
- 23 dots – Parks issues
 - 9 dots – Create new amenities at parks (ie. community center, sport courts, ice rinks)
 - 10 dots – Pocket parks (benches, art play) for free community gathering
 - Music and movies in the park like Chester Bowl
 - 4 dots – Revitalize parks
- 21 dots – Culture and traditions issues
 - 8 dots – Library that includes:
 - Meeting space, community center, tool lending, open weekends
 - Parks (music, plays, movies)
 - 5 dots – Better parking for library
 - 8 dots – Traditions that give Spirit Valley identity
 - Street dance, parade, gathering place
 - Wussow's, Zenith Book Store
- 18 dots – Commercial issues
 - 1 dot – Inexpensive food (groceries, restaurants)
 - 4 dots – More “mom and pop” restaurants
 - 5 dots – Businesses that support the whole community (not Lincoln Park)
 - 0 dots – All the empty buildings/more retail
 - 8 dots – Investment in retail
 - Entertainment corridor on Central Ave. with dining and opportunities for empty storefronts
 - Restaurants/cafes/diners with diversity/LGBTQ
 - Shopping – retail, specialty shops, smaller shops, sustainable
- 12 dots – Improve youth programs (ie. Valley Youth Center and Neighborhood Youth Services)
- 10 dots – Interstate underground
- 5 dots – High speed rail from downtown to Twin Cities
- 2 dots – Safety (parks, street crossings)
 - Snow cleaning
 - Social/housing services for the unhoused
 - Underutilized parks due to safety concerns, cleanliness, needles (especially for children)
- 1 dot – Improve for those who live and work here (not tourists)
- 0 dots – Improve road surface, including “road” in front of Kmart to Bristol St.



Participants placing dots on top issues from table discussion



Top issues from each table (colored sheets) with dots placed by all participants to identify most important issues