

Elsmere City Employees Listening Session
City Hall
Thursday, January 28, 2016

What do you value most about the city of Elsmere?

- Smaller community
- Older residents
- Tight knit, hometown feeling, but is eroding - due to rental properties
- Public safety
- Public works is great, roads are cleaned, potholes are better
- Quality schools and teachers; problems are with parents and kids coming from bad home environments; truancy problems
- Positive interaction with children during special events in the school/community

Strengths:

City council gets along well, not adversarial

Family video store and skating rink

What are the weaknesses of Elsmere? What could be improved?

- Graffiti problems
- Public parks are not suitable for children
- Police could be more aggressive
- Population is stagnate
- Not quality businesses and people living here
- Truancy problems are large here
- Parking and traffic control at elementary school
- Transient population – can't make people care
- Need an ordinance for rental properties
- Absentee landlords
- There is no brand here – old
- Nothing to draw anybody here
- No restaurants, most things on Dixie highway is blighted
- Not aggressive about going after
- Known as the community to buy drugs or sell drugs
- Need transportation options for seniors – need to educate what is available
- Houses are so bad the odor is noxious – been reported, filled out forms, but nothing happens
- Not seen on the interstate signs, not on the map

- Lifeline ministries is a problem – transient people are bring brought to the community because of their services being offered.

What are the opportunities for Elsmere?

- Building new or cleaning up to make things better
- Have someone to focus on business development, recruitment and retention, full time
- Need a full time code enforcement officer/police officer, backed by the council to do their job/ability to take action.
- We need baseball fields, place for children to play – current location is not good now because of its proximity to the trailer park
- Make a parking lot and tennis court out of the existing trailer park, add a concession stand – need to get rid of the fence, looks like a prison yard
- Between Kenton street and Main Street not in good shape
- Need quality, well established anchor restaurants and Kroger
- Jimmy's roller skating rink
- Meals on wheels for seniors
- Medical supplies for after hospital care
- Housing stock is deteriorated, too small for today's tastes

What are the threats facing Elsmere?

- One or more of the existing industries leaves
- Drugs
- Abandoned properties, rentals, crappy structures
- Housing to attract the young people to come live here

How do we get more people involved?

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What should be the #1 priority?

- Development – new life, new business – maximize the space we do have