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NOTES FROM BREAKOUT SESSION

Who does Townsend Park serve?

Homeless people
Low income people
surrounding neighborhoods especially (Center Square, Pine Hills)
County & State workers
Pedestrians/convenience
non-profits worker especially for lobbying
students
seniors
some spill over from Lark Street

Who should it serve?

More People
more of the government offices
more residential neighborhoods
more pedestrians
more regional
Lark Street visitors

What is the image of Townsend Park?

Positive:

good place to eat, affordable
easily accessible by public transportation
dense pedestrian traffic
diverse mix of existing businesses

Negative:

perceived as unsafe
intersection at lark & Washington not pedestrian friendly/unsafe
intersection at northern & central not pedestrian friendly/unsafe
lack of parking
rundown image
gathering place for the homeless

What should the image be?

Good place to eat
eclectic
attractive
historical, unique
diverse in ethnicities and layers of use

Ideas to improve image:

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better traffic signals

Parking garage on Sherman w/ street level pedestrian causeway
changing code for special neighborhoods (goal: to look occupied)

murals painted by students on boarded windows

technical assistance for window displays

assessing penalties to absent/abandoned landlords

publicize bad landlords

establish public purpose

Make working w/building department easier to manage & permits more affordable

rehab residential

facade improvements

making it easier for the city to make repairs on vacant/abandoned buildings, then to bill/fining owners for repairs

Needs:

Better parking solutions

more pedestrian friendly

more lighting in parking lots

special code enforcement for C-1 neighborhoods

financial assistance for facade improvement thru low/no interest loans and/or grant/matching funds program(s)

More plantings in front of store fronts

possible historic district designation

technical assistance to bring tax assessments more in line with actual building values

\$ for blighted buildings

technical assistance for neighborhood marketing strategies & cooperative advertising

address 'red-lining' practices towards businesses/buildings in this neighborhood by insurance companies