

The Family Issue Group will work towards advocating for increased spaces for families to gather, feel acceptance and belonging, and build relationships with neighbors. In their experience, the existing programs and spaces do not exist evenly throughout the City of Cleveland, or Cuyahoga County. Families, especially with children and teens, need a place that is safe, fun, stable, accessible so they can be more involved in their communities. Kids need a safe and appropriate space to complete homework when their own homes may not be suitable and traditional spaces are closed (for a holiday, or other reasons). Furthermore, the group will advocate for a way to make these spaces sustainable long term in terms of brick and mortar space, staff, and funding.

The group is open to discussing a wide variety of ways to accomplish this goal. Some options included building new rec centers or YMCAs, or renovating old ones, working with churches to use their spaces, keeping schools open later in more places in addition to the SNR sites (which were not universally understood), and even approaching athletic foundations to sponsor spaces.

The conversation began around things that are working in the city, such as the parks system. The parks are a space that the members felt met all of the requirements above, except these spaces are not available all year long with the weather. Likewise, with recent shootings on a school playground, families are concerned that their kids cannot just go outside and be kids. Nowhere seems to be safe today. Libraries have been found to be too small or that they are not conducive to the variety of activities families need access to and libraries also often close on school holidays, which leaves families with no place to go. Rec centers throughout the city vary in quality and programming.

The agenda for next month is to think about the following items, and members should bring ideas with them to start with:

1. Identify the larger structure and power brokers that might be in the way or that might be allies in this quest who have the ability to support this idea long term
2. Confirm what we are asking for
3. Identify the resources (people/relationships, money/things, knowledge) we possess today that we can leverage in this project? Which resources do we still need to develop?
4. Brainstorm what information we need to be effective. (ex. lists of existing afterschool and programs with their locations and hours and a contact, recent articles to direct the conversation, etc.)
5. Think about how do we incorporate others and train them to participate, and who?

Not enough community space (after hours)

- Safe
- Accessible
- Build Relationships

Build new/ Renovate a recreation center

7 Votes

Utilizing Churches

6 Votes

Effect the Library space

5 Votes

Additional schools as SNR sites (School as Neighborhood Resources)

4 Votes

Opening more schools (for after school and community)

3 Votes

Expand "Wrap Around" model (schools)

2 Votes