

YOUTH FOCUS GROUP REPORT

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

#	ISSUES	POINTS
1	Lack of employment opportunities. People are being laid off from companies, such as Kimberly Clark, Lutheran, and Thrivent and they can't find another job that pays a salary to support their families. The consequences are that the food pantries are overwhelmed, not only by the "type of people" that you would expect to see at a food pantry, but by families.	2
2	Many of the jobs that are available in the area are not "quality" jobs – they don't pay insurance.	2
3	Young people are beginning to find it difficult to find jobs that fit with their school schedules.	
4	When large chain stores, such as Walmart, move into the community there is a negative impact upon local businesses. Smaller, stores are unable to compete against Walmart, especially when they have 4 stores in one town.	2
5	When local businesses close, instead of reusing the existing buildings, new strip malls and chain stores are developed further out of the city, leaving vacant building in the downtown area.	4
#	OPPORTUNITIES	POINTS
1	Downtown Appleton, small scale shops, boutiques, art galleries, coffee shops, PAC, Lawrence University, improved storefronts.	2

HOUSING: ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

#	ISSUES	POINTS
1	Lack of community awareness of social problems, such as homelessness: the emergency shelter has 75 places and it is turning people away every night.	2
2	Lack of choice in housing –there seems to be small homes and large expensive homes with not much in between.	
#	OPPORTUNITIES	POINTS
1	Habitat for Humanity	

TRANSPORTATION: ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

#	ISSUES	POINTS
1	Some High Schools are starting to charge for riding the school bus.	
2	Not enough parking at schools.	
3	The current driver education program is very lax – people can pass without knowing the rules of the road. Feel unsafe in school parking lots as a result.	2
#	OPPORTUNITIES	POINTS
1	Public transport system is excellent. There is a reliable, friendly, easy to use, safe service. New service between Oshkosh and Neenah.	6

UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES: ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

#	ISSUES	POINTS
1	Need for greater involvement of community police in the schools – relating to gang issues and the wearing of drug apparel, drug use and selling (strong feeling that teachers and administrators are not willing to deal with these issues).	3
2	Need for more youth recreation facilities in the community.	
3	Older communities, such as Doty Island, are seeing a reduction in community facilities – local schools are closing down.	
4	Size of high schools (3,000 students) plus large class sizes has a negative impact on the level of interaction between students and teachers and between students and administrators.	
5	Lack of connection and interaction between schools. Would like to see an integration of school councils, public and private.	
#	OPPORTUNITIES	POINTS
1	Excellent park system that offers lots of community events for everyone, including young people.	
2	Young people have easy access to a range of different activities, including recreation, through the school system, community clubs and organizations, such as United Way,	1
3	The community makes a real effort to meet the needs of young people: ice skating center, youth futures mall, harmony café, teen court, young life, life teen, Kings daughters, Kiwanis, optimists, rotary etc.. The community is giving both in terms of time and money.	1
4	Appleton Catholic Educational System (ACES) and Twin Cities Educational System (TCES) provide a good service	
5	A number of organizations exist to address and help those with disabilities, including the Special Olympics and ARC.	8
6	Many fine arts opportunities exist: youth symphony, the attic theatre, Lawrence University, the PAC	1
7	Mentoring and tutoring programs for teens	5
8	Strong youth volunteer culture that is recognized by the community	7
9	Communities are neighborly and friendly, especially toward people who are new to the region	

AGRICULTURAL, NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES: ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

#	ISSUES	POINTS
1	The quality of new strip malls is poor.	
2	Insufficient attention is given to drainage issues when new buildings are constructed, which often results in flooding in the parking lots.	
3	Need more fieldtrips to environmental centers, such as Mosquito Hill, to foster concern for the environment, particularly at Grade School level.	
4	There is a lack of diversity in the schools and the community and consequently a lack of services for those people who are living in the community	4
5	There is a Wisconsin tradition of heavy drinking which is perpetuated through advertising, especially at sports events. Heavy drinking by teens	9

	and drunk driving is a major issue.	
6	There is a lack of interaction between Hispanic, Hmong and white young people in the schools	6
#	OPPORTUNITIES	POINTS
1	Many opportunities for performing arts, many are free	
2	Opportunities with parks, "neighborly" feel	

LAND USE: ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

#	ISSUES	POINTS
1	There is a negative impact on the environment as new buildings tend to be poor quality.	1
2	As local businesses close down and chain stores, such as Walmart, move to superstores, buildings are left vacant. Vacant buildings create a safety risk.	
3	New schools located in the "middle of nowhere" with no sidewalks or cross walks.	
#	OPPORTUNITIES	POINTS

INTER GOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION: ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

#	ISSUES	POINTS
	Lack of connection between schools and the community, both could benefit by having more contact.	
#	OPPORTUNITIES	POINTS

IMPLEMENTATION: ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

#	ISSUES	POINTS
#	OPPORTUNITIES	POINTS
1		

TOP THREE ISSUES

#	ISSUES	POINTS
1	There is a Wisconsin tradition of heavy drinking which is perpetuated through advertising, especially at sports events. Heavy drinking by teens and drunk driving is a major issue.	9
2	Lack of interaction between Hmong, Hispanic and Whites in the schools	7
3	When businesses close down the buildings are left empty and instead of reusing them, new, poor quality strip malls are built further out.	4

TOP THREE OPPORTUNITIES

#	OPPORTUNITIES	POINTS

1	Addressing disability issues through ARC and the Special Olympics	8
2	Public Transportation System	6
3	Strong ethos of volunteerism among young people	6

VISIONING EXERCISE

#	What would you like to be preserved?
1	History and tradition, the old parts of cities.
2	Environmental areas.
3	Opportunities for fine arts.
4	Community spirit, which focuses on giving both in terms of time and money.
5	Positive attitude of people making a difference.
6	The historic side of Appleton.
7	The public transportation system.
8	Youth organizations.
9	Different types of people

#	What would you like to be changed?
1	Greater involvement from parents/students in schools.
2	More effective use of law enforcement.
3	Stricter discipline and enforcement with respect to drug and alcohol use. (There is no need to sell alcohol at Little League baseball).
4	Greater community/school involvement where youth are regarded as a resource for the community.
5	Increased funding for schools and senior citizens.
6	An increase in diversity.
7	Increased interaction between different populations: Hispanic, Hmong and whites.

#	What would you like to be created?
1	More spaces for young people to "hang out".
2	More youth organizations – a Foundation for Teens.
3	More recreational activities for youth
4	A forum where students from programs at different high schools could communicate and discuss issues, programs etc., a type of student leadership board.
5	Community awareness programs to build and educate people about volunteerism in the community and in the schools
6	A Student Task Force to hold focus groups with students around the area, which would focus on education/school concerns.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

The following comments were submitted in writing.

Recreation: Wiouwash bike trail linking Calumet and Winnebago, new trail head on HWY S (Old HWY 110, to the wilderness trail in Winneconne. Cities/rural areas should be encouraged to promote biking and walking trails.

Tourism: could encourage students to read/contribute to magazines like Fox Cities magazines. Could make historical sites sound more intriguing.

Education: no vouchers, takes from public schools and private schools fail. No Child Left Behind policy is bad for students and teachers (good teachers get poor ratings for poor student testing performances).

Employment and Economy: raise the minimum wage to help improve peoples' lives and facilitate those people giving back to the community, encourage "Ma and Pa stores, place restrictions on stores such as Walmart.

Housing: refurbish run-down-areas, such as "Dog Town" a poor quality housing area at the western end of Doty Island in the Cities of Neenah and Menasha. There are many new apartment complexes / villages. New homes in the country are bad.

Health Care: a large number of people, including children, do not have access to health care. (Elect Dean!)

Daycare: many daycares, businesses have own daycare.

Utilities: require stores to carry Energy Star products, and start to dispose of high energy use products