



Appendix

Summary of All Small Group Receptions

Revisit Newton: Creating a Visitor-Friendly Community

Issues/Ideas/Needs

1. Wayfinding signage to downtown and highways.
2. Trolley from the new convention center to downtown.
3. Improve convenience of walking from Bethel College to downtown.
4. Need a concert hall/performing arts center.
5. Need to fill vacant building in downtown — stimulate businesses to locate downtown.
6. Need to increase commercial traffic/new jobs to bring more people to the community.
7. Support the Fox Theater redevelopment.
8. Northern Flyer Alliance (Amtrak) — half-day layover in Newton for people to shop and visit.

Rediscover Newton's Many Cultures: Embracing Our Community's Diverse Heritage

Issues/Ideas/Needs

1. No low-cost opportunities for low-income children (ages 7-15) to participate in recreation programs, sports, music, etc.
2. Our children need a safe place to hang out.
3. Need to rehab an older retail space within easy walking distance for kids and offer a multicultural center — a place to learn, play, etc.
4. Prejudice, unfair treatment, and mistrust still exist in the community.
5. Communication among all cultures, races, and ethnic groups — and City Hall — needs to be improved.

Reconsider Physical and Mental Challenges: Anticipating Needs and Exploring Quality of Life Issues

Issues/Ideas/Needs

1. Transportation within the city and county is a huge challenge.
2. Need to develop an "Interurban Rail Service" connecting Newton and Wichita.
3. People need access to groceries/food in older neighborhoods.
4. Need to educate people on nutrition, home-cooking, and gardening.
5. Need a place for people in transition from homelessness to the work force.
6. People need access to computers — it was mentioned the public library can help in this.
7. Need a one-stop center for people to access multiple services.
8. City needs to address motorized-wheelchairs on streets, access, etc.
9. Need disabled recreation activities in parks for children — it was mentioned the city offers this.
10. Need family restrooms in public spaces.
11. City needs to enforce ADA requirements for wheelchair accessibility.
12. Need to offer financial grants to comply with ADA requirements.
13. Need more recreational programs geared to people with disabilities — Hutchinson is a good model.
14. Need to allow families with disabled children to post neighborhood signage informing the public.

Redefine Aging: Preparing for the Baby Boomers

Issues/Ideas/Needs

1. City needs to improve pedestrian safety — fast cars, turning right-on-red, need for sidewalks, street lights.
2. Need a public space in the parks for the elderly.
3. Need to promote multi-generational neighborhoods.
4. Need a fixed-route public transportation system.
5. City needs to fund the senior center.
6. Need to improve outreach/communication with senior citizens living in their homes and not in a nonprofit housing complex.
7. Need to address how the community will deal with the increased level of poverty in the community.
8. Need to meet the needs of higher-income people so they will find the community an attractive place to live or relocate.

Redefine Community: Engaging young professionals and families

Issues/Ideas/Needs

1. Finding owner-occupied housing is not an issue, but quality rental housing is a need.
2. Hard to find a quality older home in older neighborhood.
3. Need apartments/lofts in downtown.
4. Need jobs that offer opportunities for advancement.
5. No job openings across the board in the community.
6. Over-qualified people are forced to take what becomes available.
7. Young professionals are forced to Wichita for jobs at Boeing, etc.
8. Need to educate young people (18-20) on the value of entrepreneurship.
9. Need to emphasize community well-being/health.
10. Need a recreation center.
11. Need to ensure people shop locally.
12. Young professionals/business owners need a way to share information and resources (social networking).
13. Need mentoring of young professionals — keep regular work hours/value family time.
14. Need third spaces for young professionals/young adults.
15. Infant care is a critical need.
16. Need a dog park.
17. Need to offer youth recreation programs for working moms not limited to daytime hours.
18. Need to incorporate diversity in youth recreation programs to include everyone.
19. Need evening hours for shopping — working parents.
20. Need a teen facility for school children — safe place.