



Appendix

Summary of Community Retreats

April 6, 2010 • Bethel College April 10, 2010 • Chisholm Trail Shopping Center

You've been given a grant to start a new business in Newton that would fill a void in the community. What kind of business would you start? (Blue team)

April 6	April 10
Upscale bar/wine bar Technology — green emphasis/communications security Men's clothing Furniture — imported Amish/Mennonite Lowes City power plant — green emphasis Recreation Center — YMCA or private Old fashioned soda and ice cream shop Bicycle taxi	New places to eat — upscale, more variety (e.g. Panera) Indoor soccer facility that can be used throughout the year with an indoor walking track Start a youth community center/business Sporting goods store — biking and athletic gear Men's clothing store Bakery Art cinema — independent films, multiple use Old house renovation company (update older homes to put back on the market) Childcare facility on par with the one in Hesston

If you could live anywhere in the world, where would you live and what characteristics does that place have that appeal to you? (Red team)

April 6	April 10
<u>Considerations</u> Housing — price considerations Education opportunities Schools/university Metro connections Medical care Connections Ease of mobility <u>Qualities</u> Weather (four seasons) Recreation Relaxation Medical specialties City buzz Connections Cultural — pro sports/festivals/restaurants/dept. stores Cities built around people and interactions University communities Diversity/vibrancy 24-hour access to amenities Labor supply/skilled labor	Colorado — mountains, seasons, outdoor activities Kansas — friendly atmosphere, trees, open spaces, four distinct seasons Kansas — Family here, good smells, open vistas, good for raising children, not too big, small town feel (relaxed) Kansas — ripe wheat in the summertime

If you had magic powers and could grant our community three wishes, what would they be? (Green team)

April 6	April 10
Pedestrian crossing/zebra stripes Bike lanes Sidewalks completed Bicycle and pedestrian coordinator at city hall Promote the college and fine arts that are available Tie all schools into college Improve railroad crossings — no sidewalks for pedestrians or bike crossings (overpass or underpass) More improvements including farmers market Gathering places in downtown Upgrade Newton Recreation Condos/lofts in downtown — upgrade 2 nd store for living space More family restaurants types Turn old “66” station into cave or pub School “policy” standards of excellence	High school parking fixed (safe and adequate) Robotics is understood/beneficial Train overpass Transportation to surrounding areas, less fossil fuel use Supportive culture of health and wellness Equal access/awareness of this process across socio/economic groups Recreational opportunities enhanced/accessible – Y or Rec Cleaner parks Revitalization of older homes Small town “feel” remains More opportunities for cross communication between groups More transportation options — buses

Why do you choose to live in Newton today? (Orange team)

April 6	April 10
Family Close to Bethel College Community respect Community culture Strong historical roots, family Opportunities to build community of friends and family Close community and compassion Close to Wichita — but not Wichita Close to great nursing homes Medical community Jobs Safety	No orange team 4/10

What’s your family’s favorite thing to do for fun in Newton? (Purple team)

April 6	April 10
Walk downtown Bike rides Playground equipment in the park Walk to Reba’s for dinner Participate in community-wide events — taste of Newton, chili cook-off Randomly drop in on friends while on bike rides Go to the library Singing in local choral groups Attend concerts and dramas	No orange team 4/10

<p>Have block parties Golf at Sand Creek (need business near Sand Creek for golfers to spend in town) Festivals Movie theaters</p>	
---	--

What quality-of-life amenities should the city focus on adding to the community over the next 20 years to make living here more enjoyable and attractive to residents?

April 6	April 10
<p>Recreation Bike-friendly (lock ups) New library People-friendly downtown Block 32 Local family-style restaurants Thriving and cultural center—lessons for kids Riverwalk festival, arts, etc Recognize and promote local artists</p>	<p>Bike path and or bike lanes New library New updated sports facility (team sports, indoor soccer, exercise pool, better parking) Means of traveling north to south without being stopped by train traffic Effective response to those on the edge of homelessness More water activity options on Sand Creek Splash park/more opportunities for water recreation Free Wi-Fi community-wide/better broadband access</p>

If you had an out-of-town guest to entertain for one day, and they wanted to do something that was completely authentic to Newton, where would you take them (no financial or seasonal limitations)?

April 6	April 10
<p>Carriage Factory Gallery Curtis C's and Chong's for hamburgers Druber's Bethel College campus/Sand Creek trail Fox Ridge Restaurant Taste of Newton Warkentin Mansion Breadbasket and Reba's for a meal Kauffman Museum Ride/walk the bike path Golf and Sand Creek Station Mexican food Mojo's for coffee Blue Sky Sculpture Harvey County Parks Horseback riding Church tour/community worship in park Chisholm Trail Festival Downtown shopping Athletic park Train/Train station downtown Harvey County Museum Fox Theater</p>	<p>Breakfast at the Breadbasket Going North on Main, go to train station, antiques, locally owned stores Proceed to North Newton and visit Bethel College, Kaufman Museum, Campus Woods, Kidron Bethel Return to Newton. Lunch at Rebas See Blue Sky Sculpture at Centennial Park Sand Creek Development Newton High School Athletic Park (walk) Ashbury Park's Green Houses Newton Medical Center Sand Creek Chisholm Trail Center Foxridge Restaurant for Supper Carriage Factory Mennonite Statue Sports Museum</p>

What should be our economic development focus in the next decade: Bringing in new employers to create new jobs, or helping local businesses grow so they can create new jobs? Why?

April 6	April 10
<p><u>New businesses</u> Technology connections Millennial’s lifestyles and work ethic affects community Need planned, open growth Values of generations not the same</p> <p><u>Expand current</u> Build and grow what we have invested Tax abatements for new businesses Get serious about helping businesses grow (i.e., Reba’s) Celebrate our Hispanic and Latino community Solidify existing businesses...and new businesses will follow</p>	<p><u>Bring In</u> What kinds? Need to bring industry rather than just retail Need more tax base Light manufacturing opportunities High-tech industries — skilled, higher pay scale, they cluster together, they will keep people coming back after college We need jobs that bring back educated children after college. Bring back families, income and education. We also need blue collar to make sure some children that stay, will stay</p> <p><u>Nurture</u> Encourage local for part and full time jobs Retail will develop to support new family/workers Development of business incubation – easier local funding, educate new business owners Develop some ethnic retail (clothing) store opportunities. More emphasis on Hispanic/Latino heritage.</p>

You’ve been assigned to create a small brochure for Newton to help attract businesses and residents to our community. You are limited to one photo for the cover, and three similar photos inside. What would you show in the photographs and why?

April 6	April 10
<p>Railroad Train Station Sand Creek Station Old Mill Schools (colleges and K-12) Prairie Harvest/Pages/Cobalt/Kitchen Corner/Main Street/ et.al Centennial Park—soccer, kidsx100’s Blue Sky Churches NMC Bike Path—Cover Photo Fischer Field—people golfing, walking, shopping Recycling</p>	<p>View of Main Street with traffic, families, store fronts, sidewalk sales, Taste of Newton (Cover photo) Sand Creek Development Bike Trail with bikers and picnics at Athletic Park Campus Woods Housing Newton Medical Center</p>

Many communities build their identity around being a college town. Does your team feel that making Bethel College a bigger part of the community's identity would enhance the community's external image? Brainstorm a list of actions that could be taken within the community to make Bethel College a more prominent part of the community's identity.

April 6	April 10
<p>Track and athletic facilities — draws others</p> <p>Music department</p> <p>Summer camps</p> <p>Kauffman Museum summer camps</p> <p>Community gardens</p> <p>Collaborative research — business and college</p> <p>Internships</p> <p>Environmental science — sustainable agriculture</p> <p>Alternative energy — decentralization</p> <p>Facilitate other cultures' history and food into college</p> <p>Greater political involvement</p> <p>Improve physical connections between Newton and North Newton</p> <p>Volunteer work in the city — service day</p> <p>Knowledge about religious groups — get to know each other</p> <p>Reach out more to students — invite into community</p> <p>Mentoring sports/academics/teams supporting each other</p> <p>Foreign exchange relationships between High School and Bethel</p> <p>Excellent sports facilities — draw people to town/collaborate to host events</p>	<p>Appeal to students re: amenities.</p> <p>College town not “animal house”</p> <p>Opportunities of arts/entertainment</p> <p>Educational opportunities/importance (degree completion/HCC)</p> <p>Two-way street — bridges between NHS/Bethel/HCC, create internships with Bethel students, try to bridge denominational differences</p>

Brainstorm ways private citizens and businesses can enhance Newton's image, and how city government should encourage and motivate such changes to happen.

April 6	April 10
<p>Word of mouth marketing</p> <p>Develop a central community theme</p> <p>Develop or enhance activities to attract people to Newton — expand Taste of Newton</p> <p>Outside-the-box marketing — social networks, electronic</p> <p>Comprehensive business directory</p> <p>Comprehensive community calendar</p> <p>Organized tours of downtown/sports</p> <p>Focus on schools — best in the state</p> <p>Recreation center</p>	<p>No orange team at 4/10 meeting</p>

How environmentally conscious is Newton? Is it important to Newtonians to be green? Give examples of ways Newton is already green, and additional steps that could be taken to make it more so.

April 6	April 10
<p><u>Existing Practices</u> Enforced recycling — amazing! Large item pickup Pickup of tree limbs Installed bike racks Green City Hall at North Newton Community gardens — St. Matthews, Bethel, North Newton, BCMC</p> <p><u>Proposed Practices</u> Larger recycling bins Outlaw plastic bags or charge for Compost bins — city pick up compost (North Newton) Financial incentive — charge for bigger trash bins Bike lanes — improved access Green public buildings More community gardens City planning to reduce driving Better interface between Newton-North Newton Farm-to-school program Establish business/school recycling</p>	<p>No purple team at 4/10 meeting</p>