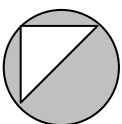


CITIZEN SUMMIT

November 30, 2009



Bloomington Illinois
November 2009



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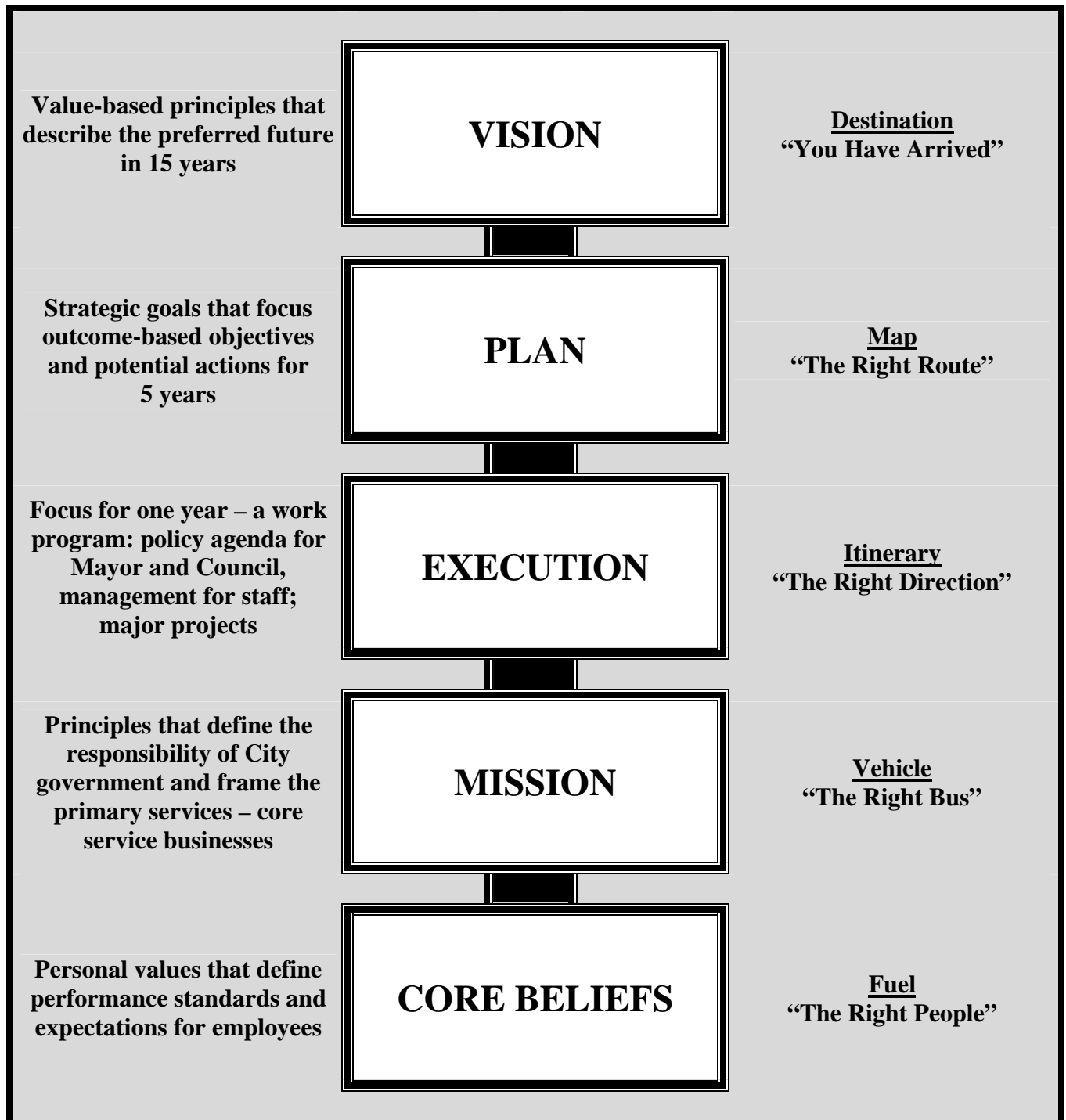
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SECTION I

STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

STRATEGIC PLANNING MODEL



SECTION II

ROUND 1: BLOOMINGTON TODAY



Question 1: City Successes for Bloomington

Question 1: City Successes for Bloomington

► Team 1

1. Stayed within budget
2. New City Manager from “outside” (experienced)
3. Road work kept up in times of difficulty
4. New youth activities
5. Changed spending
6. Worked on efficiency
7. Moved away from Self Insurance
8. Early retirement
9. Outside audit (new firm)

► Team 2

1. Balancing the budget
2. Pothole repair
3. No visible erosion of service
4. Lincoln St. open
5. Storm water mgmt.
6. Park signage improvements
7. New City Manager
8. Minimum staff layoffs
9. Veterans’ stoplights sequenced
10. Miller Park looks good
11. December 2008 ice storm cleanup/roads excellent

► **Team 3**

1. Reduction in gang activity
2. Management style of our current Police Chief
3. Positive changes in City Manager & Council (new)
4. Westside redevelopment project
5. Commitment to living wage vote
6. Newly implemented community police & strategic plan
7. New brick street
8. Support of IHSA State activities
9. Bigger city with “small town friendly” feel flair
10. BHS/etc. schools – strong, doing good job

► **Team 4**

1. Westside redevelopment improvement
2. Handle on finances
Hiring David Hales
3. Changing of insurance program (self ins.)
4. Street & sewer improvement
5. Effort by City/Council to assist US Cellular Coliseum
6. City’s attention to needs of Miller Park Zoo
7. Open lines of communication to City/Council (email)

► **Team 5**

1. Musical concert at Coliseum
2. Downtown betterment (TIF)
3. Resurfacing of streets
4. Sports Facilities – Softball/Soccer Rec
5. Constitution Trail
6. New City Manager
7. City strategic planning
8. Spray grounds at parks
9. Leaf pick-up (brush also)
10. Nuisance Abatement Ordinance

► **Team 6**

1. Successful venues at Coliseum
2. Improved park beautification signs, landscaping
3. BHS academic honors
4. Extension of Constitutional Trail
5. Lincoln St extension
6. Bulk waste pick-up – unlimited
7. Curbside recycling
8. Safe community

► **Team 7**

1. We are still solvent
2. Crime rate is lower
3. No reduction in city services
4. New City Manager
5. No corruption by city officials
6. No layoffs of Public Safety employees
7. Public audit presentation
8. Update to some City parks
9. Cooperative government between Police & Fire

► **Team 8**

1. Maintaining Downtown's history
2. Downtown Farmers' Market
3. Cultural District & Galleries
4. Maintaining new construction & growth
5. Police & Community connection
6. Expansion of parks, etc. & trail
7. Churches staying downtown & community outreach
8. Public transit improved, more routes & hours

► **Team 9**

1. Changing Of City Leadership
 - City Manager
 - Department Heads
2. City Council more engaged in a broad spectrum of issues (finance)
3. City changing their budgets/spending to reflect the reduction in revenue trying to maintain fiscal responsibility
4. Finding \$'s in City
5. Continued revitalization of Downtown
6. More public engagement
7. Easier to express ideas up the chain of command
8. Leadership is accessible
9. Safer community

► **Team 10**

1. Street improvements
 - especially Empire & Main & Center
2. New awareness of City's accounts
 - transparency in city finances
3. Improved acts at Coliseum
4. Finding of TIF money
5. Focus on Franklin Park & other neighborhoods (Police)
6. Randy McKinley as Police Chief
7. Performances at Bloomington Center for Performing Arts (BCPA)
8. Eastside commercial development
 - S. Veterans Pkwy
9. Downtown Progress
10. City Manager
11. Lower impact from econ. downturn
 - job loss etc...
12. Festival Park (BCPA)

► **Team 11**

1. Tonight's event
2. Bloomington Center for Performing Arts
 - Tipton & McGraw Parks
 - Library expansion
 - Main Street corridor/discussion of confronting the budget
3. TIF money
4. RIMCO elimination
5. Miller Park continues to improve
6. The zoo is great/pavilion
7. More transparency with administration
8. The Westside Redevelopment Plan
9. Development of new bus barn (transit system)
10. Downtown looks better
11. New police chief who goes out & listens

► **Team 12**

1. New City Manager
2. Completion of McGraw Park
Good overall parks
3. Citizen involvement
4. Pepsi Ice Center
5. Improved financial oversight
6. Improved emphasis on Arts
7. Street resurfacing – good start
8. Morris Ave wood to Butchers Lane

► **Team 13**

1. Parks & Rec. Constitution Trail expansion over Oakland – Croxton
2. New Police Chief crime initiative 800 Wash.
3. New City Manager David Hales: a breath of Fresh air.
4. Catching up on City Council proceeding
5. Audit was done and answers received

► **Team 14**

1. New City Manager
2. Better relationships with Latino community and Police (MAPP)
3. Open dialogue concerning City budget/revenue
4. Infrastructure maintained on a shoestring budget
5. Improved leadership – fire, finance, police
6. Police more gang awareness/crime
7. In the black
8. Unemployment Rate
9. Jazz Festival/Entertainment ☺
- 10.

► **Team 15**

1. Citizen's Summit
2. Performing Arts Center
3. Increased Police force
4. Strong school district
5. Maintaining city services
6. Repaving Main St.
7. Arena/Coliseum
8. McGraw Park
9. Recycling
10. Parks & Rec. Programs
11. Skateboarding Park
12. New City Manager/Staff
13. Low city sales tax

► **Team 16**

1. New Leadership/Change in
 - New City Manager hired/New Department Heads
2. Improvement in Parks Expansion of Trail
3. Confronting budget
 - Dealt with deficit No finger pointing/forward thinking
4. Services continue to run smoothly
5. Recognized as most technological community
6. Public Transportation expansion
7. This meeting/open process
8. Improvement of schools

► **Team 17**

1. New City Manager
2. More activities for young folks
3. Resurfacing of streets
4. Renewed attention to Downtown
5. Minimal affect to local econ.
6. Increased attention to Lincoln (Pres)
7. Found “extra” money

► **Team 20**

1. Budget instead of – 4, now 2 M – Discovery of \$ + Process & Online
2. Reorg Of Staff –
 - Streets rated & brick GIS
 - Storm & sewer mapped
3. Local food movement Farmers Market
4. Org. Westside
5. New City Manager
6. More stuff for youth to do
7. Westside Redevelopment Garden Organize
8. Transit Center broke ground Be intentional

B

Question 2: Major Challenges Facing the City of Bloomington

Question 2: Major Challenges Facing the City of Bloomington

► Team 1

1. Hunker Down – Live within means
2. “Westside” Dev.
3. Control (Manage) Developer Influence & Subdivision Variance
4. Accountability City Department Head
5. Maintaining budget
6. Build reserves
7. Pay down debt
8. Direction Downtown Development
9. Diversity in educational activity

► Team 2

1. Balancing the budget
2. City water – can we evolve from ground water to aquifer?
3. Maintaining city services
 - a. roads
 - b. Fire/Police depts.
 - c. general infrastructure
4. Citizen engagement/inclusion
 - a. employment
 - b. housing
 - c. cultural events
5. Coliseum finances
6. Dist. 87 issues
 - a. landlocked
 - b. stagnant/eroding tax base
 - c. aging facilities

► **Team 3**

1. Budget – accurate #'s
2. Long-term water supply
3. Older neighborhood infrastructure currently no plan – sewer water mains (over 100 years old)
4. Lack of attention to detail by Mayor & City Council (reactive vs. proactive)
5. Solvency of BPCA & Coliseum
6. Council needs to trust Department Heads
7. Council needs courage in decision-making
8. Economic development for high-paying jobs
9. Failure to use Illinois State University(ISU)/Illinois Wesleyan University(IWU) assets
10. Redundancy of city governments (“merger” of twin cities)
11. Westside dev. & gang activity
12. Focus on positives of community
13. Maintain integrity of trad. older N-hoods
14. Access to reasonable, small loans alternatives to pay day lending
15. Make sure qualified people are in positions in finance
16. “Transparency” to citizens
17. Investigative reporting – news

► **Team 4**

1. Decay of Old City
2. Job creation
3. Community Policing/Gant Intervention
4. Support Art/Zoo – Parks Dept.
5. High School dropout rate
6. Getting pledged funding from State
7. Financing schools through other means rather than taxes
8. Rejuvenating Downtown
 - Address vacant buildings
9. “Slum Lords”
10. Improve all gateways to the City
11. Westside Improvement – Parks/Rec Centers
12. Collaboration with Universities – Community Support/Interns – Volunteers – Job Share, Community Support
 - Boost Bloomington, Promote “Your” City – Boost Your City
13. Urban sprawl

► **Team 5**

1. Continued street repairs/resurfacing with prioritized street selection
2. Next year's budget, dealing with lower revenues
3. Sustain our economic prosperity (job growth, new business)
4. RIMCO, how to reconcile/explain
5. What to do in Station #5 (Six Points Rd)
6. More emphasis on Infill Development
7. Implementing Main St. Corridor Plan
8. Better water quality
9. Water supply, availability
10. Teen challenges (drop-out, pregnancies, jobs, education)

► **Team 6**

1. Condition of the streets
2. Revitalization of older neighborhoods
extend and fill in Westside development
3. Limited bilingual education
4. High school dropout rate
5. Lack of profitability of Coliseum
6. Vacant retail space
7. Gang activity
8. Poor support for fine arts
9. Budget
10. More varied employer base

► **Team 7**

1. Consider the type/amount of services the City provides
2. Funding (3) the Municipal Pension Fund
3. Deterioration of infrastructure in City Center (older areas)
4. Need for more efficiency of government
5. Decrease of revenue sources
6. Attract quality businesses to generate revenue
7. Source of water – quantity & quality
8. Coliseum is not self sufficient
(2) – Marketing
9. Retention/attraction of multi-generations
Retention/attraction of multi-Cultural
(2) families

► **Team 8**

1. Maintenance of infrastructure (sewer, water, streets)
2. Social, poverty, reduction in services
3. Tourist based events/activities
4. Create Westside pride
5. Code enforcement
6. Commercial property vacancies on Veteran's Pky

► **Team 9**

1. Maintaining basic economic base
Maintaining civil institutions
Schools, Etc.
2. Maintaining strong City "Core"
Aging infrastructure
Westside Revitalization
3. Coliseum
4. Youth crime
5. Continued revitalization of Downtown
6. Urban sprawl
7. Reliable public transportation
8. Unfunded mandates
9. Viability of Illinois (Bloomington) in competing with other Cities/States

► **Team 10**

1. Weeding/maintaining of medians & other landscaping
2. Making Downtown a destination
3. Financing/Budget
4. Creation of higher paying jobs
5. Incorporation ISU, IWU & other students into city community
6. Finding & spending money on Downtown improvements
7. City of Bloomington & Town of Normal working together better & more effectively
8. Higher functioning City Council
 - Stranger better coordinated leadership
9. Downtown Parking
10. Focus on crime – more patrolling
 - influx of people from urban areas
11. Residential code enforcement
 - lawns, shrubs, etc...

► **Team 11**

1. Balance the budget
2. Safety – gangs, graffiti, shootings
3. Make the City of Bloomington more of a draw (Downtown)
too many bars Downtown
4. Alternative to Coliseum use & management
5. Reach out to the colleges
 - internships could be used more
6. More voter participation
7. Not enough police for the amount of people in our community
8. Street maintenance
9. Infrastructure
10. Sidewalks
11. Too many liquor license holders
12. Awareness of gangs, weekend night problems at bars
13. Have better control over who sells liquor

► **Team 12**

1. Financial accountability
2. Unfunded mandates
Infrastructure (roads, sewers, etc.)
Fire Station #5
3. Water supply
4. Coliseum
5. Control increase in taxes
6. Continued department consolidation/elimination
7. Sprawl
8. Limit Constitution Trail growth
9. Common-sense building code
10. Efficient code enforcement
11. Reimbursement from RIMCO

► **Team 13**

1. Fiscal budget
2. Arena – turn a profit, pay off debt.
3. Infrastructure – water/sewer
4. Creating jobs = incentives for business to locate to Bloomington
5. Streets = Potholes
6. Growth = subdivision vs. old town
7. Dist 87 = Prop. taxes vs. Unit 5
8. Snow removal
9. RIMCO = Where is the Money \$
10. PACE = Rental Inspection – Pay for itself. Tenants are not sub citizens.

► **Team 14**

1. Balancing budget
2. Real Estate Taxes climbing
3. Property assessments up, home value down
4. Attracting quality new business growth
 - Welcoming migrant population
5. Coliseum
6. Determining what citizens want
7. Foreclosure
8. Determine best value for our city dollar in terms of services
9. Intergovernmental cost-sharing
10. Set boundaries on expenses
11. Health Care for the elderly
12. Communicating regarding City's power/limitations

► **Team 15**

1. Future water resources
2. Preserving downtown & near Westside
3. Debt structure – how to provide services & pay back debt
4. Coliseum (pay debt & make use of facility)
5. Keeping up urban sprawl
6. Maintain/increase Fire & Police protection
7. Downtown area/near Westside
8. Water system infrastructure
9. Better public image
10. School district not balanced
11. Water/sewer/streets
12. Gangs/Crime
13. Lack of economic opportunity/employment
14. Cuts in staff & ability to offer same level of service
15. Vacuum of leadership/experience
16. Lack of diversity in Police force
17. Getting Community engagement

► **Team 16**

1. Planned growth
2. Budget
3. Economic development need for more incentives for manufacturing & Downtown businesses/Westside
4. Intergovernmental cooperation
2 cities/community
5. Preservation of historical value (Downtown)
6. Continued improvement of the Westside of Bloomington
7. Funding of schools

► **Team 17**

1. Making arena financially viable
2. Financial clarity for City & area (Who's paying or using)
3. Citizen opportunities for input (Town Halls)
4. Predatory pay day lenders
5. Revitalizing Downtown
6. Parking Downtown
7. East/West Disparity Infrastructure/Services
8. High school drop out rates
9. Clear Long Term Plan
10. Ineffectiveness of Alternative Schools

► **Team 20**

1. Do 5th – Revitalize Downtown
2. Westside perception – Not friendly perception
Comfort
3. No/low revenues
4. Plan Downtown & surrounding corridor
Main Street
5. Urban
6. Dependence on Sales Tax 7 ¼
7. Pensions – funding
8. Unfunded Mandates IMRF
9. Distrib retail space/housing – need plan
Empty Spaces
Codes
10. Sprawl

SECTION III

ROUND 2: LOOKING TO BLOOMINGTON'S FUTURE



Question 3: Key Reasons for Making the Choice to Live in Bloomington

Question 3: Key Reasons for Making the Choice to Live in Bloomington

► Team 1

1. Opportunity for prosperity
2. Great place to raise a family
3. Low crime rate
4. Attempts to recognize diversity in community
5. Housing assistance offered/good social services
6. Great place for size of community
7. Friendly & caring community
8. Trees, brick streets, 200 & other amenities
9. Centrally located to major urban Areas
10. Great schools
11. Church/Religious Community
12. Friendly Public Safety employees
13. Good Transportation options
14. Minor league baseball
15. Minor league sports teams
16. Recognition/preservation of older/historic structures

► Team 2

1. Stable economy
2. Family oriented/education/“safe”
3. City services
4. Thriving community
5. “Love the airport” – transportation needs are met
6. Modestly urban/cultural opportunities
7. Constitution Trail
8. Park system/recreation
9. Coliseum
10. Convenience/“travel times”

► **Team 3**

1. Solid economic climate/resilient
2. Education – schools/universities HCC/ISU/IWU
3. Family here
4. Friendships/colleagues
5. Rec programs – Zoo
6. Destination for outlying communities (restaurants, shopping, entertainment)
7. Sports – Hockey, arena football, tennis courts
HS – Pony – PCSL – Softball – golf
included in Parks – attend & participate
8. Central location – transportation – interstate, rail, air
9. Change of season
10. “Comfortable” – successful business/clients
11. Scale – easy access – navigate
12. Professional environment
13. Big city – with small town feel
14. Air quality
15. Parks – green space & sports
16. Civic challenges – make a difference

► **Team 4**

1. Job – proximity to, quality of, opportunity for success, financial base
2. College town is a good mix, schools/ parks, proximity/quality
3. Good transportation – rail/air/In St, central location, between 4 Metro Areas
4. Good medical (hospitals, docs, specialists), good people agri-cultrual basis
5. Good shopping/good service, restaurants
6. Growing Fine Arts scene
7. Grandkids/Families
8. Good judicial system/ county government

► **Team 5**

1. Airport
2. Major employers/employment ops.
3. Park system
4. Waiting for retirement
5. Facilities/Events
6. School system – both 87 & 5
7. ISU, HCC (Heartland), IWU, Lincoln College
8. Strong housing market
9. Not a lot of criminal activity compared to other communities
10. Location –Close to Chicago, St. Louis
11. Good transit system (BNPTS)
12. Overall quality of life
13. Great places to eat

► **Team 6**

1. Employment
2. Access to higher ed.
3. Small commute time
4. Med. population with bigger city perks
5. Family is here
6. Raise children
7. Low cost of living
8. Great schools (public & private)
9. Parks

► **Team 7**

1. Stable Community
2. Cost of living is desirable (3) (except cost of dry cleaning)
3. Opportunities for Community involvement (3)
4. Availability of good paying (2) jobs
5. “One thing led to another”
6. Number of Cultural & Entertainment activities
7. Quality of education (2)
8. Small size is comfortable
9. Affordable housing
10. Space between communities, businesses, people
11. Sense of Community and (1) networking – connectivity

► **Team 8**

1. Stable economy & opportunities.
2. Community value on education.
3. Core traditional values/raise family
4. Availability of the arts & enrichments. Quality of life.
5. Friendly community.
6. Location, location, location (access to Chicago, St. Louis...)
7. Public safety.

► **Team 9**

1. Employment stability
2. Community is “just the right size”
3. Strong social & community metrics
 - low crime
 - affordable housing
 - low unemployment
 - high level of education
4. Available shopping (retail) & restaurants
5. Quality of life
6. Broad cultural & educational opportunities
7. Transportation hub

► **Team 10**

1. Convenient location
2. Variety of cultures & cultural activities
3. Great place to raise a family
4. Attractive older homes
5. Strong local economy
6. Constitution Trail (green space)
7. Quality & work ethic of residents
8. Wholesomeness Ex. No Abortion Clinic
9. Being part of the growth of the City
10. Small town feeling
11. Being able to ride a bike to work
12. Great neighbors

► **Team 11**

1. Stable economy
2. Constitution Trail
3. Education – good schools, 2 universities
4. Great community
5. Older neighborhoods
6. Two good hospitals
7. The arts – would love more
8. Sports
9. White collar community
10. Safe for family
11. Neat neighborhoods
12. Parks

► **Team 12**

1. Born & raised here
2. Raise children (good place)
3. People
4. Stable economy
5. Came for college & stayed
6. State Farm/Country
7. Trees
8. School Systems/Public & Private
9. Travel time
10. Relaxed pace of life
11. Parks & Rec
12. Recreational Sports (Youth Leagues)
13. Volunteerism/Spirit of Giving
14. Restaurants

► **Team 13**

1. Good Stable economy
2. Great Parks & Rec. pools, trail, etc zoo
3. Cost of living is reasonable.
4. Curbside recycle program
5. Trash removal – public service
6. Good reliable Police and Fire Service
7. Until Recently = good city governance
8. Great Central Illinois location – Chicago, St Louis
9. Great schools
10. Good people, churches

► **Team 14**

1. Job
2. Low Crime Rate
3. Good place to raise kids
4. Edu. system
5. Reasonable rent
6. Employ. Op's
7. Transportation cross roads
8. Positive race relations/diversity
9. Good Radius to things i.e. job, etc
10. Amenities

► **Team 15**

1. Family-centered
2. Low unemployment
3. Strong schools
4. Arts & entertainment/cultural
5. Diversity
6. Marriage
7. Good Community
8. Low crime rate
9. Activities/parks & rec/festivals/events
10. Small town values in big city
11. Big city amenities in small town
12. Interstate/airport/Amtrak
13. Lowest community

► **Team 16**

1. Good School Districts - & College Choices
2. Safe/secure community
3. Cultural opportunities (Coliseum, BPCA, ice rink)
4. Economic stability
5. It's where my job is
6. Family focus (Parks)
7. Geographic Location – closer to urban centers
8. Transportation Center

► **Team 17**

1. Educational opportunities
2. Job opportunities
3. Long time relationships
4. Small town community
5. Central state location between 3 big cities
6. Great Airport
7. Rail
8. Family

► **Team 20**

1. Grow Up
2. Colleges/ good schools all levels – ISU IWV HearLand Cinat
3. St Farm
4. NPR
5. Trees & Parks
6. Older Neighborhoods
7. Jobs Blm = Econ Engine
8. Diverse econ base – diversity of people, historic preserve
diversity of houses neighborhoods
9. Community – actively involved social alth I can live here
10. I can have an impact
11. People Love To Live Here
12. Safety
13. Social Services Closehut

B

Question 4: Success in 2025 Means...

Question 4: Success in 2025 Means...

► Team 1

1. Maintaining Good Community/Culture/Atmosphere into future
2. Preserving all items in Q3
3. Long term water supply
4. Redevelopment of Westside by business partnerships & grants (no tax increase)
5. Economic development/new business attraction
6. Fiscally sound city (debt down, reserves up) without higher taxes
7. Modernize/update Police force
8. City Government reduction in energy costs
9. Improved traffic flow across community (citywide connecting streets)
10. Attractive & viable Downtown
11. Diversity in businesses
12. Renovation of existing parks
13. Tapping into grant opportunities for community
14. Balance across city (no east vs.west)
15. Redevelopment of Rail yard property
16. Balance between all age population (no domination of areas by college students)
17. Explanation of green energy industry in both use & job market expanded
18. Venues & usage of Coliseum & Performing Arts Center
19. Providing of parking for city venues
20. More community involvement in city government
21. Low or no cost organized programs (athletic & social) for children in all areas

► Team 2

1. Reliable, clean water source – aquifer based vs. groundwater/surface water
2. ONE SCHOOL DISTRICT
3. If Bloomington gets #1, add heavy to light industry to its business portfolio
4. Ethic composition of the aldermanic system reflects the population

► **Team 3**

1. Strong neighborhoods – buildings & “community” streetscape, some restoration/some new, low crime
2. Water supply – secured
3. More & diverse employment opportunities with good wages – thereby reducing poverty level
12% currently living in poverty
viable small businesses
4. Ward 7 – railroad yards
5. Prosperous diverse community – thru econ dev., education
6. High speed rail
7. Lower tax rate
8. Strong relationship with unions
two way street
9. Infrastructure in older neighborhoods been dealt with
10. ONE SCHOOL DISTRICT (& city government)

► **Team 4**

1. US Cellular Coliseum will be in the black
2. Historic North Main is a pedestrian mall & entertainment dist., Bloomington will be a travel destination for the Arts
 - Arts Dist.
3. Volunteerism at food pantries & for under privileged increases by 50%
4. Independent Senior Housing Development will increase by 500 households
5. Westside of Main to tracks is ½ built with new construction
6. Completed Constitution Trail
7. Bloomington has lowest dropout rate & the most progressive plan for H.S. students
8. Bloomington will promote more small businesses
9. New YMCA at corner of Market & Center (+) 2 Recreation Centers on the Westside
10. Bloomington is recognized as the most improved City in USA. – in last 15 years
11. Jim Karch will have discovered a street pothole patch that will work
12. More people using Public Transportation
13. Completion of “Main St. Corridor” Project
14. Miller Park Zoo is nationally recognized for its endangered species conservation efforts
15. Full-time, paid Mayor

► **Team 5**

1. We are an inclusive community:
less distinction bet. E & W
friendly to Hispanics
2. Vibrant Downtown
3. More things for youth to do – more than basketball
WACC, etc. – e.g. youth development, character development classes, youth
programs
4. Sonic & White Castle
5. More computing & IT development teaching; computer tech., new industry ops.
6. Gun range on edge of town, skeet, trap, etc.
7. Additional major employers
8. Keep agricultural heritage & foundation around Bloomington
9. More shopping malls
10. Renewed older areas of town
11. Stable/robust city budgets; manage finances well (in <15 yrs.)

► **Team 6**

1. Parity between East & West sides of City
2. Lowered High School drop-out rate
3. Bilingual education program (holistic, multi-cultural)
4. Other Fortune 500 Employers (besides State Farm, Country Financial)
5. Improved street conditions
6. Greater number and different activities at Coliseum

► **Team 7**

1. Less government (programs, services)
return to core services!
2. More cooperation between Bloomington/Normal
i.e. library, waste, parks & rec., support of Coliseum
3. Better bus system (improvement in public transportation)
4. Improved relationship between Police and Community
5. No potholes!
6. School districts should be merged
7. More cultural diversity on governing boards
8. Completion of the downtown facelift
9. Increase in quality retail business (unique businesses in Downtown, reduction of bars)
10. Natural resources are considered in government decisions i.e. alternative energy
11. Bike lanes/trails – significant source of transportation
12. Coliseum should be Paid for or self-sufficient
14. More unified partnership between Bloomington/Normal Police/Fire
15. Raider will return
16. Stronger Neighborhood & Community involvement and ownership
17. No salt on the roads

► **Team 8**

1. Residential/Commercial comprehensive infrastructure plan
2. Fewer Downtown bars
More family friendly restaurants, etc. Downtown
3. Environment that attracts a diverse economic base
4. Westside/Downtown sports, parks, culture redevelopment
5. Talked about destination. Signature events & pride.
6. Maintain & education on history.
7. Expand parks & green space & rail.
8. Living wage.

► **Team 9**

1. High speed rail access
2. Strong community metrics
level & quality of educ.
Low unemployment
3. Strategic planning for growth
truth in development
4. Fiscal responsibility
Continued economic development & favorable business climate
5. More bike paths
6. Well-maintained transportation
infrastructure
7. Vibrant central city
8. Revitalized westside
9. Maintaining parks & paths
10. Create more green space

► **Team 10**

1. Unified School District
2. Vibrant Downtown 200-500 people walking around Downtown at all hours
3. Water problem solved
4. Reducing crime
5. Police/Fire at full strength
6. Strong/Vibrant Airport with free parking
7. Neighborhood Schools
8. More diverse economy (manufacturing)
9. Community served by High Speed Rail
10. More diverse community
11. Integrated Emergency Response Communication System (StarCom??)
12. Dispatch centers work together
13. One Dispatch Center
14. Downtown continues to grow
15. Bloomington/Normal is one City
16. Annual Oktoberfest in Der Franklin Park (Ethnic Celebrations)
17. Improved Downtown building facades
18. Tougher ordinances for noise/public drinking/nuisance
19. Limit strip malls/fill existing retail space

► **Team 11**

1. Revitalized downtown
2. Expanded Constitution Trail to every part of town
3. Stop the sprawl, redevelop older areas & don't let Bloomington annex land
4. Look at the whole & not just one side of our town
5. Comprehensive plan for our resources
6. More community events/festivals
ex. music, art, craft, farmers market, bicycle races
7. Rehab what's here
8. Charleston, IL
Normal, IL
Hutchinson, KS Examples
Paducah, KY
Bloomington, Indiana
9. Law & Justice Center will have to be bigger
10. Better partnership between the city & private enterprises
11. Well-maintained infrastructure
12. Most positive activities for the youth – especially on westside
13. Events like this (citizen summit) held more frequency
14. Have bike racks

► **Team 12**

1. Growth in jobs/economy
2. Containment of taxes across all taxing entities
3. Less concrete/more nature (Beautification/improved city entrances)
4. Financial accountability
5. City core redevelopment
6. Retail development on South, West, Southwest
7. Completion of Morris, Veterans, Six Points intersection
8. Draw in bigger business
9. More major attractions
10. Paid off/thriving Coliseum
11. Honesty in Government
12. Discernment in consulting fees

► **Team 13**

1. Fully funded city Reserve fund and a balanced budget with Fully funded pensions
2. More transparency in government, televised City Council Meetings with up to date minutes.
3. A new reliable water source/supply.
4. The Arena paying a dividend on our investment. PROFIT.
5. Downtown neighborhoods thrive, older areas are not blighted – ghetto.
6. Dist 87 schools are still functioning well with support of a strong tax base.
7. RIMCO mystery resolved

► **Team 14**

1. Lower Real Estate Taxes
2. Balanced/lower debt (budget) City
3. More diverse Coliseum
4. Boys & Girls Clubs
Use for old RR Site
5. Revitalization of older Neighborhoods
6. Efficient Government
7. Involved Community
8. More diversity in Leadership positions
9. More businesses
10. Better Neighborhoods
11. More transparency televised council meetings
12. More Eco-friendly buildings

► **Team 15**

1. Solved water resource problem
2. Financial stability/balance budget with strong reserve
3. Revitalized Downtown/West Bloomington/urban neighborhoods
4. Maintenance of transportation
 - airport
 - roads
 - Amtrak
 - pedestrian/bikes
5. School districts
6. Influential leaders in state/fed government
7. Solid infrastructure/sewer/streets
8. Strong leadership at city level
9. Programs in economic development
10. Conventions \$ tourism
11. Still has small town values
12. Strong creative class
13. Sustainable
14. Leader in technology

► **Team 16**

1. Still Economically stable – Businesses in the Black
2. Sustainable Community – Recycling – Public Transportation
3. A developed “City Center” Hub or Focus of the City – Core – Destination – Identity
Commercial transportation Hub in the Region
(High Speed rail station – Airport)
4. Culturally diverse Community, inclusiveness & sense of belonging
5. Developed Community
6. New Industry/Business in place
7. Educational opportunities

► **Team 17**

1. Greater citizen involvement
Regular, diverse Community Forums
2. Partnerships to accomplish goals (Friends of the Trail Master gardeners)
3. Vibrant Downtown
 - Arts
 - Limit # Of Bars
 - Other Evening Draws
4. More Community Festivals
5. Expanded Constitution Trail
6. Orientation Program for New City Residents
7. Micro Credit for Small Buss.
8. Small Buss. Incubator
9. Expanded Bus Routes
10. High Speed Rail to Chicago/St Louis

► **Team 20**

1. Westside Integrate
2. Less of Donut – More Center Attract
3. Less dependence on auto public transit
4. Schools merged – Units & Dist 87
5. Revitalized Downtown
 - Buy Food – Grocery
 - People – Come Together
6. ISU & IWU strong
7. State Farm strong
8. Job Creation
9. Stimulus \$
10. Mitsubishi creating jobs
11. Green Leader – Leeds Jobs Technology
12. Local Farm Move Mt Center
13. Sewer Strategic Plans
14. Sidewalk
15. Trees mapped in GIS
16. Financial Surplus
17. Financial Clarity & Transparency
18. Expand Bloomington – Like Aurora/Naperville
19. Make Downtown retail space attractive
20. Redevelop Protect Downtown
21. Healthcare for ALL
CF \$100 M + Activist
22. Great Schools
Drop graduation rates of 90+%
23. Higher Ed available for All Scholarships IWV ISU HC
Technical
Libraries
24. Community Foundation
25. Water sources clean & protected
Buffer
More water

SECTION IV

ROUND 3: ACTION AND BUDGET IDEAS FOR 2010



Question 5: Action Ideas for Mayor – City Council for 2010

Question 5: Action Ideas for Mayor – City Council for 2010

► Team 1

1. Live within budget without raising taxes
2. Focus on Basic Infrastructure
3. Partner with local business to support functions
4. Review wage/benefit pkg.
5. Increase # of youth activity center
6. Truck traffic on Bunn St. US Using Rt. 51
7. Cut non-essential services
8. Avoid more debt
9. Have council bring own food on retreat
10. Decrease # of college bars DT
11. Better utilization of Coliseum & Bloomington Center for Performing Arts (BCPA)
12. Look at privatizing services

► Team 2

1. Water/pursue clean, safe supply
2. More city truck traffic off Bunn St to Main St./Resurface Bunn St.
3. Contract out for provided services (garbage, bulk waste, parks maintenance, street repairs)
4. Review City Practices/Procedures before implementing services with long term cost ramifications
5. No Gateway/attractive entrance into Community
6. Resurface Lincoln between Bunn & Main
7. Consider increases in taxes on fixed income, unemployed & those with limited incomes

► Team 3

1. Look at budget before vote or tax levy & make cuts
2. Focus more on some positives
less bickering among council – team approach
3. Reward for coming in under budget
4. Hire municipal efficiency expert
5. Vacant house ordinance
define exterior & interior minimal standards
weeds, grass
6. Privatize BPCA & Coliseum
7. City retirement (IMRF, Police/Fire, etc)
Re-examine contribution emp/city balance
8. Study of OT procedures
9. Want the council to levy enough “courage”
10. Implement living wage referendum
11. Alternatives to payday lending
Humar Relations Comm.
12. Washington St. Bayberry – Evergreen patched
13. Look at impact fees
14. Meet w/ “players” on Railroad yards
15. Look for revenue (other than city funded) ex. – Zoo – grant-writing – raising
fees/membership
16. TIF district older neighborhood “near east side”

► Team 4

1. Use public school facilities as recreation centers staffed & managed by City –
Specifically on Westside
2. Continue Community policing with designated parameters & focus
3. Collaborate with local non-profit organizations to define needs of Community
4. Seek more citizen involvement in governing at each stage
 - Invite 5-10 guest from each Ward
 - Be proactive in engaging Community Members
5. Definition of what Cultural Arts District Is & what the plan for it Is & written history
6. Street repairs on Western between W/Wash. & Olive St.
7. “Sunset” any emergency taxes
8. Cross-promote City venues BCPA/200/USCC/Downtown
9. Sell City Arena (US Cellular Coliseum)
10. Evaluate ice/snow salt/sand mix – less salt more sand
11. Have a written history of Miller Park Zoo

► **Team 5**

1. Improving West Market St Gateways
2. Adopt the Downtown Plan
3. Miller Park Band Shell
4. Obtain a ED (Economic Development) Director for CDB
5. White Castle & Sonic – New ED Development
6. Drop golfing fee in the winter to 1 dollar & give golfer opportunity to donate to a social project
7. Westside Gun Range
8. Send City Council to Dubuque IA & look at their IBM “Smart City”
9. Look at current programs – enhance if needed or get rid of instead of starting new ones
10. Sell Coliseum to someone who can make it successful
11. Westside Rail yards (Possible Gun Range) – whatever gives city the most revenue
12. Balance the budget
13. Additional street improvements
14. Better Parks theater opportunities

► **Team 6**

1. Improve street conditions
2. Westside long-term planning
3. Enhanced bilingual school programs
4. Balance budget
5. Better usage of Coliseum
6. “TIF” renewal
7. Lower crime rate
8. Enforce building codes (vacant prop.)

► **Team 7**

1. Improve the street conditions. Maintenance needs to be significant, continuous, and A Priority
2. If Services are streamlined or reduced – Taxes should be reduced or shifted, this should be observable
Where is the line of sight
Taxes should be comparable to services
3. Improvement in public transit – i.e. bus lines – faster routes – express route or express times
4. Continued maintenance on the parks
5. Aesthetics of the Westside – Close to Morris Avenue – should be improved
6. Plan to revitalize the commercial area along Empire between Towanda & Vets (K's Merchandise)

► **Team 8**

1. City, church, community group partnerships in community activities, etc.
2. Comprehensive list of community events distributed through all media outlets.
3. More Community outreach, signage, etc.
4. Event signature event, yearly.
5. Regular Citizen's Summit.
6. Create schedule for leaf pick up, grass & yard waste, etc.
7. Reduce park mowing to reduce cost.
8. All streets, sewers, etc. regular maintenance.
9. ¼ ¼ financial reports to citizenry.
10. City Council minutes released in timely manner.
11. Follow through on road improvement plans.
stop over promising projects.
12. Initiate signature event, yearly.

► **Team 9**

1. Establish an accurate financial baseline for city finances
2. Maximize value for expenditures
3. Continued support of “back to basics” program
4. Reconfigure pension system to “defined benefits”
5. Co-operation regionally for maintaining technological infrastructure (U of I research Lab)

► **Team 10**

1. Take action on plans
 - Follow up on this summit
 - Be accountable
2. Encourage citizens to recycle more
 - make it easier?
 - Pay as you throw programs
3. Clear financial plan for Downtown
 - budgeting money
4. Hold Landlords accountable
5. Plant 1000 trees on easements
6. Put Farmers Market around square
 - Don't separate by street walking accessible
7. Patrol parks at night regularly/continue Neighborhood focus
8. Repeat Summit every few years
9. Develop clear action plan & schedule events/programs for G.E. Park (if we buy 2)
10. Get police/fire to full strength
11. Year-Round Farmers Market

► **Team 11**

1. Constitution Trail expanse
 - Go from Lincoln to Hamilton
2. Account for bulk waste over a year's time at an address
3. Department heads more accountable for their budgets/overtime
 - How are they improving their departments?
4. More tree planting – programs
Ash trees
5. Re-evaluate city vehicles going home
6. More streetlights on NW side of town
7. Defeat the video poker machine
8. Keep parks up – no deterioration
9. Fix the sidewalks – along Franklin Park
10. City council sit down with employees & ask how they can make their jobs more efficient
11. See a city blog
12. Update the website

► **Team 12**

1. Lincoln St. – Main to Bunn
2. Morris – Fox Hill to Six Points
3. Sidewalk Improvement
4. Sidewalks where none now – identify prioritize
5. Balance budget
6. 1, 5, 10 – Yr. Plan
7. Plans for projects ready
8. Improve fire hydrant replacement ground impact
9. Street gutter clearing – drains – plan – need system
10. Longer bulk waste hours for workers
11. Get reimbursement from RIMCO
12. Consolidate/eliminate more City jobs/offices
13. Rental property inspections
14. Beautification of Entryways
15. Code enforcement

► **Team 13**

1. Cost effective city government, eliminating duplication of service. PACE vs Community Development. Complaint orientated enforcement
2. Managing the growth of new subdivisions, determine return on investment – annexations – impact Fees
3. Eliminate bulk waste removal – get a dumpster program must pay for itself
4. Outsource trash collection to private company
5. Cleaning up blighted properties working with tenants & landlords to solve problems
6. Snow plows – getting the job done - promptly

► **Team 14**

1. Collect past due fines
2. Eliminate bulk waste fee
3. Street scaping Downtown
4. Evening outdoor events Downtown
5. Fill all potholes
6. Go to more electronic water meter reading
7. Increase diversity in staffing
8. Bloomington Marathon
9. Evaluate all Departments to see if they are doing what the people want
10. Coordinate facilities with County & Town
11. Emphasis on Ecology
12. Improve City website
13. Increase funding to Public Agencies

► **Team 15**

1. Improving City “Official Website”
2. Council working more closely with staff
3. Leveraging local talent as a resource to lower City expenses
4. Increase tourism through website
5. Corporate sponsorship to aid rebuilding infrastructure/other ideas to raise revenue
6. Aggressive moves to bring in new businesses
7. Budget cuts while keeping Long Term Vision
8. Enhance “Gateways” to the City i.e. Market St to Arena
9. Not let Downtown & Westside fall behind in funding

► **Team 16**

1. Promotion & existing Parks & activities signage – advertize – Miller Park – etc
2. Balanced budget with minimal cuts
3. Development (Impact) Fee to go to school districts instead of raising my taxes, again
Fee to developers of new construction
4. Implementation of the Bloomington Parks Plan
5. Keep O’Neil Pool open/develop water park feature here
6. Open Miller Park Beach – revamp Lake!
7. Fix sidewalks downtown
8. Remove speed humps & circles – They don’t slow traffic down
9. Downtown Arts Festival – more promotion of the events. Bring the community
Downtown
10. Dog Park in Bloomington (or two!)
11. Address pension issues – state mandated excessive pension in relation to “real world”
(401K vs. mandated)
12. Public Transportation Plan

► **Team 17**

1. Finances in order
Examples – pay full price for garbage P.U.
employee benefits should be reduced
2. Decide once & for all the future of Arena
3. Roller Skating Rink (Plan)
4. Citizen follow-up to tonight
5. Have regular ward meetings
6. Pass Living Wage
7. Invite citizens to Council Meetings & get feedback from them
8. Improve quality of newspaper
9. Improve promotion of Zoo
10. More visibility of Council Members
11. Help minorities get jobs with City
12. Have Pantagraph highlight var. City Employees

► **Team 20**

1. Build YMCA Westside of Downtown
2. Water Plan (Watershed, etc.)
3. Revitalize Culture Fest, more inclusive, more to do
4. Map the trees, have a replacement plan
5. Sewer plan – replacement
6. Get rid of one golf courses – think of more productive rec use
7. Beautify Constitution Trail (art work on pavement, trail) mural?
8. Fill potholes to last longer (pavement pothole fix)
Mechanism for community to help fund pothole fixes (etc.)
9. Redevelop McLean/Washington/Front/Gridley
10. Coachman Hotel site - use
11. High School Graduation 100%
12. City understand local CF
13. Meet your neighbor day
14. Expand Constitution Trail
15. Do part of R. 66
16. Fix sidewalks

B

**Question 6: Actions to Enhance
Quality of Life**

Question 6: Actions to Enhance Quality of Life

► Team 1

1. Preventative maintenance of streets
2. Focus on infrastructure/Back to Basics
3. Maintain “Hunker Down” mentality during good times
4. Ambient traffic control
5. Become more pedestrian friendly (crossing streets) (enforcement)
6. Continued extension of Constitution Trail without compromising budget
7. Code enforcement on vacant houses

► Team 2

1. Maintain Community Safety
2. Continue road improvements/maintenance
3. Keeping curbside recycling program
4. Stopping racial profiling in Community
5. Fair & equitable Criminal Justice System for everyone
6. Widen Trail
7. Keep up with tree replacement
8. Enhance greenway on Veteran’s Pkwy
9. Address Old Eureka building on Morrisey
10. Finish out new subdivisions
11. Streamline building variance process & enforce rules equally

► **Team 3**

1. Working on street quality (potholes)
2. Keep working for low crime
 - community effort – education, police, courts, etc.
3. More disabled access
4. Legal staff & “all” work to keep people in their homes. (anti-foreclosure)
5. Adopt vacant house ordinance
6. Retail choices (more) keep tax dollars – in town

► **Team 4**

1. More Community Boosters – Must Be Passionate
2. Create a City Volunteer Executive
3. Look large corporations
 - Communicate with
 - Continue to collaborate with
 - Bloomington boost
4. Westside Development & Improvement
5. Know your local businesses & support them
6. State Farm Museum & GJ Mecherle (encourage private development)

► **Team 5**

1. Keep criminal activity low
2. More Police Officers to focus on criminal activity on the Westside – Officers to Use Zero Tolerance by using community Policing Plan by including churches/business/S. Service Agency
3. More Awareness to Neighborhoods that Sex Offenders move in – Laser Access to Citizen’s
4. Evaluate pros/cons of Wards – No Wards – OR a mixture of both
5. Loud music – boom-boom – loud profanity & racial words
6. Capitalize on the Westside Redevelopment Plan to other areas of the City
7. Street Roadway Improvements – Ireland ie. Grove Road, W Taylor, Lincoln East of Veterans
8. Alley potholes (between 800 blk E. Jefferson/ E. Washington 800 blk)
9. Signage “Way Finding” – lack of for visitor to attractions
10. Develop a bikeway plan for Bloomington

► **Team 6**

1. Stable water supply
2. Constitution Trail expansion
3. Better retail shopping choices
4. Dance studio
5. Affordable/good quality rental housing

► **Team 7**

1. Bus routes should be faster and efficient
2. No consistency in numbering of addresses – location and lighting
3. Pedestrian overpass over Vets (Oakland, Lincoln, Washington) - SAFETY
4. Continued support of Resource Officers in the Public Schools
5. Bike/lane aside from Constitution Trail on streets
6. Central complex for outdoor activities (softball fields, soccer, basketball)
7. Enforcement of Leash Law
8. Plow – residential streets faster. Iowa, Monroe etc...
9. Improved intersections at empire and Fairway. Six Points and Vets & Springfield, Morris, Morris & Greenwood
10. Improvement to sidewalks and curbs to increase safety and aesthetics 1000 & 1100 blocks to Roosevelt Street.
11. Improved traffic control on Broadmoor Street

► **Team 8**

1. Educational enrichment opportunities for seasoned citizens.
 - Morning with Professor
 - Senior Prof.
 - Elder Hostel
2. Hands on museum for the teen-ager & adult.
3. Central location for on-line gaming, video, team army, paintball...

► **Team 9**

1. More bike & walking paths
2. Avoid or minimize tax increases
3. Reducing governments' "foot prints" by outsourcing services appropriately
4. Continued replacement of sidewalks
5. Continued focus on city's center & the Westside

► **Team 10**

1. 25 mph on residential streets
2. Pedestrian/biking paths
 - bike lanes
3. Extend Constitution Trail North of Market St.
4. Pass Living Wage
5. Create park on Constitution Trail by Walnut & Clinton area
6. Create/Maintain green space
7. Animal Control/Removal improvement
8. Varied Late night activities
9. Downtown Beautification
10. Partnership with creative enterprises
11. Create a drawn in Downtown, find someone to invest in downtown

► **Team 11**

1. Make the city more pedestrian & bicycle friendly
2. Continue going out into neighborhoods to help with safety – foster neighborhood associations
3. See a serious plan for growth
4. Encourage more unique restaurants & not just chains
5. Raise taxes – investigate other forms of revenue
 - sales tax
6. Show us how it will directly benefit us
7. Work on the roads – research recycle material

► **Team 12**

1. Internships for High School for future leaders of City
2. Police/Fire/Safety Improvements
3. Council Meeting minutes up to date online. Planning Comm. & ZBA Also
4. Lower ticket prices for BCPA & Coliseum
5. Retail in South, West, Southwest
6. Financial Accountability
7. Balance Budget
8. Don't Raise Taxes
9. Lower School Taxes
10. Retirement Lifestyle for 5 – Up Activities

► **Team 13**

1. Find reliable water source for future growth
2. Budget for water/sewer maintenance & upgrades
3. Set a timeline for a reserve fund
4. Equitable building code enforcement
5. Services should pay for themselves – water – bill, etc.
6. Find the RIMCO money

► **Team 14**

1. Lower Real Estate Taxes
2. Increase funding to social service agencies
3. Increase Public Safety
4. Make better contracts (RIMCO)
5. Better use of CDBG funds to revitalize older neighborhoods
6. Evaluate all services to find what citizens want
7. Increase bus hours
8. Become a leading community

► **Team 15**

1. Partner up with other regional communities
2. Continue to grow our unique qualities
3. Maintain our cultural investments
4. Expand development of entertainment for varieties of age group – not just family orientated
5. Define Downtown – What do we want it to be – “Image”
6. “Planned” Development
7. Maintain Basic Services

► **Team 16**

1. Implementation of Park Plan – adopt plan
2. More activities for Seniors & Young Adults & Teenagers
3. Multiplex Activity Center/Development for existing Downtown – use BCPA as example
4. Enhance Art galleries – presence – Expand opportunities for new artists, more development of an “Arts” culture
5. Free Wi-Fi Downtown
6. Development of a grocery store on the West/South Westside
7. Develop old Howard Johnson’s Site

► **Team 17**

1. Parked cars off of the streets
2. Crack down on illegal driving
3. Legislation on distracted driving (local ord)
4. Review intersection of Mercer & Wash & Mercer Oakland Lights rather than stop signs
5. Continue planning for expansion of Constitution Trail
6. Better parking at Irving Center
7. Buy Verizon Parking Lots Downtown
8. More hanging pots Downtown
9. Get rid of speed humps on Eddy Rd

► **Team 20**

1. Buy a milling machine/pothole grinder
2. Sidewalk plan
3. Develop Festival Park
4. Make Downtown more walk-able
5. Free Wi-Fi
6. More residential Downtown
7. Downtown destination restaurants
8. Multi-generational activity center

SECTION V

MESSAGE TO MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

Message to Mayor and Aldermen

To Mayor:

- Quality of life on the west side of BLM seems to be decreasing as far as housing and discipline of the police department towards some issues that go on in some of the houses/neighborhoods on the west side.
- I feel that the city needs more youth outreach especially towards the importance of abstinence and to maybe create programs that show how hard teen parenting can be.

To Mayor & Council

- * Keep in Mind Agriculture when new development including East side corridor
- * Redevelop inter city areas instead of developing out in agricultural areas (City Development Director)
- * Review the current programs & remove what doesn't work & enhance current programs instead of new programs

Dear Mayor and Council...

Thank you for this opportunity. Please use this information. So many of the groups had similar views of the good things about our city, the challenges and the outlook for our future. We are a growing and changing community, but it seems we are mostly on the same page. Continue to move us in the right direction. Thank you for your dedication to our city.

1. Cut Costs Combine Depts
2. More Focus on Assisting with Rehab – Re Vitalization of older homes/neighborhoods.
3. Kudos on New Chief of Police
4. Stop the Council overlording and have better – gentler cooperative spirit!
5. No New taxes higher fees Bulk Waste Sales taxes etc

To the City Council –

Please be more cordial to each other & try and work as a team. I understand everyone is “working” for different areas within the city but determining a strategic plan & following that – keeping the best interest of the city & families in mind is a great start.

Positive message to press even though dealing with difficult circumstances.

Dear Mayor and Council, myself being a younger person I think more things need to be done to grab the attention of my generation. Also, the streets in Bloomington are disgustingly raggedy. The Westside of our town needs to be cleaned and presentable just the like the eastside. I would love to see these things happen because I plan to live here for years to come.

THANKS

Bloomington is a great place to live. We need to protect & preserve our strengths while working on areas of concern. Thanks for the opportunity. Please give our thoughts careful consideration.

To the Mayor –

Quality of life is very important to the growth & success of the city of Bloomington.

Try to get a positive message out about our community & work together.

Reward coming in under budget – don't penalize by giving dept. less.

Thanks for inviting me to Strategic plan. ☺

To Mayor & Council

You are doing a good job but there is more work to be done. I think if we could tow those vehicles with loud – Boom Boom – sound systems and do what Decatur is doing we could decrease this problem, make money for our city and find illegal drugs, guns and stolen property in many of these vehicles. Decatur is having success – Call As Chief Chervucco in Decatur.

Charles Nicholson

- Don't forget about students
- Keep Bloomington from sprawling out of control
- Use our resources effectively
- Open up and make a transparent gov't
- Use technology to make gov't more effective

Please do not let this be an empty exercise! You will notice similarities across all the groups. There are many good things about this community but we must strive to include all groups in our community. Thanks for the opportunity!

Dear Mayor & Council

Please think Creatively and don't be afraid to take risks even in our tight budgetary times. I want you to listen, not react to The issues facing Bloomington. Help us to grow & be a better Bloomington.

To Mayor & Alderman: Fitz2143@yahoo.com

I want you to hold each department's feet to the fire; make them accountable to you on a monthly basis.

I want you to privatize the coliseum and BCPA. Stop depending on the tax payers to bail the city out.

I would like you to evaluate all over – time departments/staff use on a monthly – quarterly – semi-annual – annual basis. Their planned OT vs actual OT.

Mike Fitzgerald

Ward 8

Thanks for this meeting!

To the Mayor & City Council

- Thanks for the Opportunity to input & Keep doing it.
- Take these items to heart & move forward no matter how painful it is.
- City aging infrastructure needs to be addressed in the Center & west side of town. Utilities & old combo sewers
- Send me a copy summary report to steve.ambrose.a7nb@statefarm.com
- Keep fixing Morris Avenue North of Miller Park to Veterans Parkway
- Buss Route down Six Points Rd & back up Morris Ave.

Steve Ambrose 10 Autumn Ct 61701

Please provide a copy of the summary report to: pamelakdso@aol.com

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this Citizens' Summit. Bloomington is a great to live - I've been a resident for 38 years. We do face some Challenges, but I believe we have a talented council & staff in place to move us forward. Will look forward to seeing how this process progresses!
Pamela K. Dick

Don't be afraid to raise sales taxes to fund things that will improve our quality of life.

A good city is judged by how it treats pedestrians and cyclists. (People don't have to drive everywhere with interacting with other people

Mike Keiber

Continuation Of Public Input Would Be Beneficial For The City and The Citizens. Thank You For Doing It Tonight.

To Mayor & Alderman!

- This night was a good idea but could have been condensed in a shorter time period! Almost 4 hours is too long of a time commitment.
- I'll be anxious to see if any positive direction comes from this

Our city needs to have less free parking & more paid parking, that would lower costs of what businesses need to charge for goods & more people would benefit.

We need a light rail system, especially between the busiest areas of the 2 cities, that would reduce congestion on the roads & save money on repairs & new construction of roads, & be more efficient, & reduce accidents.

Dear Mayor/Aldermen,

Our garbage service is great but the yard/bulk waste disposal could happen every other week to save money. Also, why are there 2 trucks picking up bulk waste, one following the other? I see it all over town.

- Connie Unruh

Please concentrate your efforts on infrastructure and necessities this year - WAIT on the extras and non-essentials until the city is in better shape financially. Like private citizens, you MUST live within your means until fiscal situation improves.

Sherry Galbreath

Please.....

- Balance the Budget
- Make Coliseum more affordable for young families
- Improve Streets/Fix Potholes
- Collect all fines/hold all accountable
- Continue soliciting input
- Form 1-year, 5-year, 10-year plans

Dear Mayor...

I love our community & I hope it will continue to stay that way. We have many positive things happening and I hope that by looking at the future we continue to look for quality in our city.

Establish A Group To Assure 100% Graduation Rates

Look At Funding Scholarships At Heartland – Free Tuition Is Really Cheap To Do For All Kids
Graduating Bloomington Area Schools

To Mayor & Alderman –

1. Work together on common goal.
Obtain goal from summit worksheets.
 2. Work together to make plans to succeed at goals
Obtain plans from Summit worksheets
- Ask your community for volunteers! (for work on specific goals)

To Mayor & Council:

- Nice move hiring David Hales
- Nancy Mulcruley has been Awesome!
- Bring back community policing
 - have police on foot in Downtown
- plant 1000 trees each year
- Don't Give up on The older city cove!!

To Mayor and Aldermen,

- This was a great event and all I can hope is that here is a good, effective follow-through.
- On another note I hope the city does not continue to make cuts to emergency services. Nothing is possible without an effective police force. There is no reason that Siron should not be able to stay Assistant Chief. He is experienced, qualified and undervalued.
- Thanks for doing this event, I look forward to see how it turns out.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Two questions I need to revisit

#2 – I see so many youth in the Community that recently graduated from High School w/o jobs or things to do to keep them busy & help them become self-sufficient. Anything that you can do to help turn this problem around would be appreciated.

#4 – Success also includes a more inclusive Climate, one that grows Culturally & where the Arts are expanded To allow more exposure to various cultures.

Please Do Not Forget: YOU WORK FOR THE PEOPLE!!
The Council Has To Work Together Not For Each Ward Alone Keep Channels Open To The Public
Reaction And Comments!!

To Mayor & Council

Please be aware that the Hispanic community is growing in this town. I would like to see more information geared towards them – make them feel more welcomed into the community – They feel discriminated most of the time. Police officers not telling them why they're being arrested I guess more information in Spanish that will help them understand their rights – maybe more translators available to them.

Thank you for considering.

ari468@aol.com

To Mayor/Aldermen

Email: jmgill@mindspring.com

Good Exercise – !!

Plan on turning B/N into a " smart city " as Dubuque, Iowa did

Using the sizeable resource base that we have in our educational institutions.....

We have huge sellout crowds at the Coliseum for Music Events.....

We should be able to turn the community into the " Music Center " of Central Illinois.....we have built the facilities (except the bandshell).....why not package and promote all we have and build on it.....remember the Heyworth

rock festival years ago.....thousands came.....maybe we can turn Miller Park into a "

Tanglewood " summer

family picnic / music facility.....Organization and .Promotion, Promotion.....!!!!.

Again thanks for the opportunity to participate.

Dear Mayor & Council –

Make Bloomington a more vibrant place that all ages can enjoy

Mayor & Alderman

You ALL are doing a great job & We Appreciate your time & effort

To Mayor & Alderman:

My main concern to enhance the quality of life here in Bloomington would be to have stricter policies on landlords, because not everybody are homeowners, more police patrolling powers & a better nightlife for everybody of all ages! Better quality of rentals for median income households

It was a great Summit!

Mayor & City Council

Please Adopt A Vacant House Ordinance. Try To Also Make It Attractive For People To Move To Older Neighborhoods

Dear Mayor & Council,

Please make some first steps this year on making the block around the old Town Hall somewhere one might want to go, other than for lunch.

Without changing the view of the block at a place for lunch only, there is no hope of giving Bloomington a center

Dear Mayor and Council:

Think more about collaborating with local Community Foundation for needs of the city.

We have too many city golf courses! Close some of these to put the land to better recreational use

Think more about city planning that makes for compact development instead of sprawl. (zoning?)

Bl. is overbuilt in retail space (strip malls)! Think about how to do this better, like encouraging people friendly business in downtown (destination restaurants, grocery store, and entertainment other than bars! Please, no more bars!!)

Dear Mayor and Alder (men and women)

Please maintain the Support of the Resource officers in the Schools. This Service is Vital to safe Schools and Reduces expenses

I want a copy of the summary report of tonight's meeting –
phylvs@hotmail.com

To Mayor & Aldermen:

1. Don't Wait Until The Next Drought Cycle To Start The Long Process Of Securing An Aquifer Source Water Supply
2. Consider Outsourcing Many Current City Services Also Consider Partnering With Twn Of Normal To Reduce The Amount Of Duplicate Services And Improve Efficiency
3. If Possible, Reduce This Overall Employees And Try To Build A Culture Of Efficiency And Fiscal Accountability In All Departments
4. Work Diligently To Mergit District 87 & Unit S

Jack Capodice 663-2526 CAPODICEDRJACK@AOL.COM

Karen Schnaidt

On Western Ave, going South from W. Washington to Olive St is in dire need of street repairs. Large potholes coming out of my alley, which is between Olive & Grove St. The bus route is on this street

Thanks

Deb Boston

1105 W Olive St

827-8638

dlboston1@MSN.com

To Mayor & Alderman & City Managers

Thank you for the Invitation & The Encouragement to be innovative in Boosting Bloomington

Vern Prenzler

I would like a summary report of table #4 & the total tables

712 E. Empire St.

e-mail prezler@prezlergroup.com

Use the Coliseum more

- it could be used when its empty
- more profit
- publicize what's going on more so more pple will show up

Build more on the West Side

- connect to subdivisions
- use “vacant” land

equalize east & west usage

Dear Mayor & Alderman:

In order for our children, the future, to be globally competitive I strongly believe we must initiate a bilingual school program beginning from kindergarten all throughout high school.

* We also need more “in-school” programs that are culturally sensitive in order to decrease the high school dropout Rate.

Dear Mayor and Aldermen

There is a great need for a Safe Path from the Neighborhoods East of Vets to the businesses West of Vets (Walkway or Over Path)

To Mayor & Aldermen:

– City department heads – specifically the public works/garbage dept and the code enforcement office should attend some form of customer service training. I had a situation where I was treated rudely, the employee & dept head did not identify himself to me – was very rude & treated me very unfairly. Customer Service training is a must!

Council

There is good potential for working with the Central Illinois Organizing Project on issues such as economic development of old railroad yards

examining short term lending practices – both payday loans & alternatives

anti-foreclosure initiative

Jack Porter

The City Council needs to reassure the public that it is knowledgeable, honest and open. I believe the books of the Coliseum must be opened. Right or Wrong, the public believes they are being misled.

Darcy Thiefel

I would like for the youth to have a voice because we're going to be the one who the future of the city

Back to basics is key!! Not just in “down times”, but in good times too...

I think we need to look at outsourcing some city services. The taxpayers don't seem to get a very good deal on garbage service or from the water dept. If the City gov't were a business – they wouldn't be able to operate profitably with these inefficiencies.

To Mayor & C

What are we doing w/ the downtown.

Do many bars

Not enough businesses w/ diverse types

Make it a show place

With the 2010 Census coming, the City will get more money From the state. Investments are improving, retirement funds for police/Fire Fighters will improve. Why must the City make up the Fund deficiency right away?

To Mayor and Council...

To Me, a critical issue is increasing transparency in government – Communicate clearly with citizens

Julie Sullivan

email: Julian_Lou@aol.com

More help and Money for West Side – Things for Youth

Mayor & Alderman

1. Get control of budget – No Excuse for “finding’ expenses or money in the middle of the year.
2. Start a group of signature events that make people want to come to Bloomington Normal
3. Create central repository for all organizations to list events – all events available with details in one place.

Mayor & Aldermen

- Go and support more down town events
- better signage of/for events for folks arriving in the community
- Central repository for events/activities occurring in the community

It was great to provide input. However, if this comes out looking like the FARR reports where the results are already determined and this is being used to justify, it won't look good.

Mayor/Counsel

Will We Ever Run Out Of Precious Farmland If we Still Keep Building Eastward Instead Of Rebuilding Old Neighborhoods?

Mayor & Council –

- Thank you For the opportunity to impact the direction of Bloomington
- The critical Focus For the near term is balance
- As the long-term plan is developed please continue the transparency of process and citizen input at each stage

Mayor and Aldermen

- Need specific ways to reduce costs on unnecessary work
- Too many workers on city work not doing much or nothing Too many leaning on shovel

It's a Start. Most of the people know little about city government. Some know a little. Some more. Government efficiency and the dislike for taxes seem to be paramount. Good things – new city manager, new finance Dir., new Police and Fire Chiefs. It was very difficult to discuss many specifics. Everyone agreed – “Read My Lips” No New Taxes!!
Don Schults

Thank You For The Opportunity
– Property assessment should match property value

Message To Mayor –
Mayor Stockton – In Working W/ You At State Farm, I Often Recalled Your Interest/Passion For Technology And Innovation. I Was Wondering (And Would Like To See) If You Would Consider Pushing That More Within Bloomington. With All Of The Brains We Have In Bloomington (ISU, State Farm, IL WESL, Other) There Are Many Opportunities To Partner For Technology Advancements. Examples: •Wi-Fi Through All Of Downtown • Science & Technology Center For Kids W/Gov Funds • Museum Of Science & Industry in Bloomington • Other

Property values have decreased, But City has raised property Assessments & taxes. You must get focused On what you are doing to homeowners. They Can not afford their homes

Question 6 Should be taken out and changed to...
What actions should Bloomington take to become a leading Community and an example to others.
Daniel Ramirez

How Can the city be more immigrant family friendly?
How can we better welcome and facilitate the assimilation process?
Daniel Ramirez

A More Diversity in the Police force more women in uniform on the street.
Lower the Real Estate taxes: Taxes Here Are just to high

I would like to receive a copy of the summary
Tammy Miller
e-mail: tammylynnmiller@verizon.net
Thanks Mayor for letting the Pastors come and hear your heartbeat for the city. Enjoyed the summit. Hope to be involved in the future ones. P.S. Thanks for the great meal!

I want a Report of Tonight.
Jan VioLano
1609 N Roosevelt Ave BLM 61701
J.JV.@AOL.COM

Kelly@mcfb.com Kelly Francis
901 W. Taylor St Kali Benton
jmgill@mindspring.com

Cathy gronemeier.com

Ron Kwasny
email address
ron.Kwasny@comcast.net

APPENDIX

Citizen Summit 2009: List of Participants

► Team 1

1. Stacy Cameron
2. Cathy Gronemeier
3. Ron Kwasny
4. Danny Leifel
5. Andy Scott
6. Julie Steinkoenig

► Team 2

1. Jack Capodice
2. Linda Foster
3. David Johnson
4. Angie Scott
5. Sue Sutton
6. John Wombacher

► Team 3

1. Mike Fitzgerald
2. Debbie Polzin
3. Jack Porter
4. Marci Rich
5. Laurel Straub
6. Brad Williams

► **Team 4**

1. Deb Boston
2. Roger Elm
3. Denny Marquardt
4. Marcos Mendez
5. Vern Prenzler
6. Jan Violano

► **Team 5**

1. Maribel Arias
2. Kali Bento
3. Stan Cain
4. Kelly Francis
5. Jim Gill
6. Chuck Nicholson

► **Team 6**

1. Alex Beck
2. Sean Boston
3. Sara Busing
4. Marivel Escatel
5. Dick Fasig
6. Julie Steinberg

► **Team 7**

1. Pamela Dick
2. Kathleen Nord
3. Erik Prenzler
4. Alex Rich
5. Millicent Roth
6. Brenda Stevens

► **Team 8**

1. Billy Adelman
2. Floyd Byers
3. Pamala Eaton
4. Sharon Heidloff
5. Stephen Perry
6. Julie Sullivan

► **Team 9**

1. Kevin Holmes
2. Charlie Jordan
3. Connie Margaritis
4. Tammy Miller
5. Richard Osterman
6. Phyllis VerSteegh

► **Team 10**

1. Jack Bataoel
2. Mary Griswold
3. Dan Moore
4. Jim Simeone
5. Robert A. Siron
6. Dale Stressheim
7. Whitney Thomas

► **Team 11**

1. Cheryl Adam
2. Scott Black
3. Jim Jordan
4. Mike Kerber
5. Jennifer Starkey
6. Robin Wilt

► **Team 12**

1. Treyce Gaston-Spears
2. Rob Jorgensen
3. Roger Lander
4. Susan Schafer
5. Dana Starkey
6. Peggy Whelan

► **Team 13**

1. Denise Eyre
2. Tyhad Harrison
3. Dan Metz
4. Dave Reeves
5. Connie Unruh

► **Team 14**

1. Deb Connor
2. Gwendolyn Donnelly
3. Lisa ParkerDaniel Ramierz
4. Wayne Pledger
5. Ron Schultz

► **Team 15**

1. Larry Carius
2. Julie Cunningham
3. Bill Dodson
4. Erika Kubsch
5. Rex Schaeffer
6. Chetna Shende
7. Bernie Uszcienski

► **Team 16**

1. Steve Ambrose
2. Judy Glenn
3. Barb Hartseil
4. Jennifer Lawrence
5. Angie McCombs
6. Tari Renner
7. Carl Teichman

► **Team 17**

1. Aaron Aary
2. Allante Bennatt
3. Rose Beverly
4. Steve Dobski
5. Sherry Galbreth
6. Charlyne Watts
7. Richard Watts

► **Team 20**

1. Bob Edwards
2. Aaron Gary
3. Julie Prandi
4. Jim Reid
5. Ryan Whitehouse
6. Prake Zimmerman