

Citizen Summit Report

City of Bloomington

January 25, 2011

Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts



Acknowledgements

The following people were in attendance at the Citizen Summit:

Lyle Sumek (Lyle Sumek Associates) – Event Facilitator

Stephen Stockton – Mayor
Bernie Anderson – Alderman Ward 1
Dave Sage – Alderman Ward 2
Judy Stearns – Alderman Ward 4
Jennifer McDade – Alderman Ward 5
Karen Schmidt – Alderman Ward 6
Steven Purcell – Alderman Ward 7
John Hanson – Alderman Ward 8
Jim Fruin – Alderman Ward 9

David A. Hales – City Manager
Barbara Adkins – Deputy City Manager
Tracey Covert – City Clerk
Todd Greenburg – Corporate Counsel
Tim Ervin – Finance Director
Mike Kimmerling – Fire Chief
Emily Bell – Human Resources Director
Scott Sprouls – Information Services Director
Georgia Bouda – Library Director
John Kennedy – Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts Director
Mark Huber – Planning and Code Enforcement Director
Randy McKinley – Police Chief
Jim Karch – Public Works Director
Craig Cummings – Water Director

Katie Buydos – Executive Assistant

This Citizen Summit Report was compiled by Katie Buydos.



*Office of the Mayor
Stephen F. Stockton
Mayor*

March 2, 2011

Dear Resident,

The City of Bloomington held its second Citizen Summit on January 25, 2011 at the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts. Through the hours of coordination by many City Staff and the attendance of many Bloomington residents, this year's summit was a success.

If you attended the summit, I hope you enjoyed the opportunity to speak one-on-one with myself, City Council, City Staff, and fellow residents on many issues facing our city today. Thank you for taking the time out of your day to attend our summit. Your thoughts and concerns are of the utmost importance to me every day. Through this summit I hope you learned something new about running the City of Bloomington that you did not already know.

The following report has been compiled from residents' notes that evening. A copy can be found on our website at www.cityblm.org. I assure you, this information will be taken into account for future planning and budgeting. If you have further comments or questions I welcome you to contact my office, your Alderman, or the City Manager anytime.

Again, thank you for your participation in our Citizen Summit.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen F. Stockton".

Stephen F. Stockton
Mayor

2011 Citizen Summit Participants

Team 1

Doug Grovesteen
Art Eiff
Richard Sleevar
Dawn Peters
Krista McAlerney
Dennis Marquardt

Team 2

Ryan Whitehouse
J. Balmer
Paul Baker
Dan Stoyak
Ryan Lambert

Team 3

Charlie Moore
Todd Hilten
Clarence Falls
Sara Cushing
Kristal Thomas
Jack Bataoel

Team 4

Aaron Quick
John Burns
Vikki Falls
Bill Dodson
Pamala Eaton
Ann Sullivan

Team 5

Stan Cain
Aaron Halliday
Floyd Byers
Colleen Crews
Noelle Burns

Team 6

Wes Sheppard
Rex Diamond
Toni Bilyeu
John Binning
Scott Genung

Team 7

Pat Johnson
Dorothy Kennett
Hans Peterson
Janet Harman
Judy Glenn

Team 8

Joe Bansh
Rita Buczyna
Penny Feehan
Ron Schultz
Julie Steinkoenig
Rick Percy

Team 9

Mike Kiley
Frank Calaway
Erin Edwards
Greg Todd
Matt Spears
David Starkey

Team 10

Ron Kwasny
Marty Thornton
Donald Herrin
Marcia Todd
BJ Wilken
Roger Callendar

Team 11

Gwen Donnelly
Paul Essington
Beverly Essington
Ryan Smith
Karen Green
Treyce Gaston-Spears

Team 12

Marie Streenz
Andy Streenz
Mike Wohholz
Gary Stevens
Mike Kerber
Cindy Kerber

Citizen Summit – January 25, 2011

City of Bloomington

Potential Agenda

1. Citizen Summit: Purposes and Processes

2. Strategic Planning Process for City of Bloomington

3. Round One: Bloomington Today

Question 1: What successes or achievements do you see for the City of Bloomington during the past year?

Performance Report 2010: Report to the Citizens

Question 2: From your perspective, what are the major challenges, issues, or problems facing the City of Bloomington?

4. Round Two: City Services and Finance

City as a Service Business (brief presentation of a framework)

Question 3: After reviewing the list of general service businesses, identify:

- a. The “5” most important for the city
- b. The “5” least important for the city

Question 4: What city services

- a. Should be considered to be increased (“I am willing to pay for”)
- b. Should be evaluated for reduction or elimination

Question 5: What should the city do to support

- a. City festival and events
- b. Community and neighborhood associations
- c. Schools and their activities

5. Round Three: Strategic Issues

Question 6: What methods should the City use to communicate with you?

Question 7: What actions does the city need to consider to enhance neighborhoods and quality of life?

Question 8: What should the City’s role be in economic development and what actions would you suggest for the City?

Question 9: What does success mean for Downtown in 5 years (2016); and what actions should the city consider taking?

6. Round Four: Action Ideas for 2011

Goals and Action Ideas for 2011: Review

Question 10: From your table's perspective, what are the top "5" things that the City either needs to address or needs to address during the next year?

Memo to Mayor and Council...

[Note: The questions can be modified to meet your needs. These are examples based upon the Mayor-Council Workshop]

Question 1: What successes or achievements do you see for the City of Bloomington during the past year?

Team 1

- Paving streets and alleys
- Water service/repair
- Sewer repair
- Budget correction
- Bulk waste charges
- Improved communication from city
- Turning US Cellular Coll.
- Improved police service

Team 2

- Financial recovery
- City manager
- New Schools
- New sewers
- Coliseum
- Economic Development – Rail yard
- Dialog – City Council, Staff and population

Team 3

- New parks – McGraw
- Coliseum making money
- City Budget in black
- Positive perception of coliseum
- Developing a sewer plan
- Require developers to pay their own way
- BCPA good (events/acts)
- Coliseum – good/great shows
- Bus system running longer
- Beautification of Downtown – façade grants, flower pots

Team 4

- Financial improvements
- Road repairs
- Air transportation
- Kept Farmers Mkt (Downtown)
- Improved marketing/booking for Coliseum
- Incentives for downtown businesses
- Beautification
- Less complaints about the Coliseum

Team 5

- Budget Stability
- Road Repairs
- Arena in the black
- Performing Arts Ctr.
- BPD Communication

Team 6

- Recycling – single stream
- Police dept. – crime rate down, gangs under control
- Bike path to Shirley
- Gravel pit win
- Financial gains – surviving recession
- Keeping Farmers' Market downtown
- Maintain First Friday in DT Bloomington
- Bookings at USCC – all genres
- Vet Pkwy signal timing

Team 7

- Fiscal responsibility
- Public trans.
- Parks (D.D. Mansion)
- Inspection of rental properties
- Downtown Revitalization

Team 8

- Improved financial situation
- Continued expansion and maintenance of C. Trail and parks
- Coliseum
- Good police and fire chief
- Good finance chief
- Improved bond rating
- Water quality
- New bus facility

Team 9

- Opening up Lincoln Ave. – having it paved.
- Improved budget
- U.S. Cellular in the black
- City officials answering concerns
- Snow removal very good
- City manager leadership very good
- Police more active on the West side – better response
- Growth

Question 1: What successes or achievements do you see for the City of Bloomington during the past year?

Team 10

- Increased surplus (reserve fund)
- Insurance Change (RIMCO)
- Street resurfacing
- Crime Control
- Seeking public input
- More connected (police efforts)
- ERP
- RAIDS online
- Held the line on taxes

Team 11

- Coliseum – black
- Golf Courses – black
- Mitsubishi – staying open
- Infrastructure progress – as much as they could
- City Manager
- Good police presence – Police Chief started new positive program
- Jobs – higher amount
- Low crime rate
- More forms of entertainment – BCPA/Castle
- Good response time fixing roads
- Good response time EMS
- Relationship between Council/Staff used to be friction

Team 12

- Live within means
- Downtown Street lights (streetscape)
- Downtown Farmer's Market
- Expansion Constitution Trail
- No H1-N1/Immunization clinics
- Library resource
- US Cellular Coliseum (in black)

Question 2: From your perspective, what are the major challenges, issues, or problems facing the City of Bloomington?

Team 1

- Reign in urban blight/manage growth
- Sewer collapse/maint./treatment
- Continued budget correction
- Long term water supply
- Financial stability downtown/policing
- Capital improvement funding
- Competitive compensation for city service employees
- Privatization of services?
- Unfunded mandates – legislation interface
- Improve communication from city – how to communication w/ the city
- Continued success of coliseum
- Pension funding
- Enforce existing ordinances

Team 2

- Infrastructure
- Overburdened staff
- Pension payments
- Redevelopment of West side
- Integration of West side
- DBA
- Attracting businesses and jobs

Team 3

- School system – district boundary separation
- Police communication
- Budget – staying in the black
- Help small businesses
- Repairing streets
- Helping people w/ transitional housing
- DBA budget concerns
- Helping homeless
- Distressed homes/owners
- Balancing core service needs with other needs
- Transit (Public)

Team 4

- Too many bars (downtown)
- Loss of retail tax (internet shopping)
- How do we get more non-bar business?
- Maintaining infrastructure
- Keeping fees & taxes low
- Neighborhood safety
- Graduation percentages
- Control housing sprawl
- Jobs

Team 5

- State Farm tax restructure
- State of Ill. Not business friendly
- Attracting new businesses
- Property tax appeal
- Downtown

Team 6

- Increase on State tax
- Street repairs budget – why the steep increase – no preventative maintenance = need adequate street maintenance
- BCPA and USCC – running them successfully (\$)
- Recruiting new businesses – retain ones that are here
- Fire station empty
- Howard Johnson hotel – need business plan
- East side Highway
- Clean, plentiful water
- Ped. access at Fox Creek Rd over RR tracks – Biech Rd.
- Mitsubishi – Fox creek connector

Team 7

- Fiscal resp.
- Attracting new bus.
- Sewers, roads: gen. infrast.
- Business growth and sustenance
- East-side corridor
- Continued/Future revitalization – funding
- Pension funding
- Gang control

Team 8

- Road conditions on West side
- Crime/gangs
- Deteriorating city equipment
- Staffing
- Coliseum
- Traffic control (speeding, noise, etc.) – due to reduced police staffing
- Aging infrastructure – sewers, water mains

Question 2: From your perspective, what are the major challenges, issues, or problems facing the City of Bloomington?

Team 9

- Older infrastructure
- Continue traffic flow growth
- Creating positive business growth
- Taxes friendly
- Redeveloping downtown
- Attracting large and small business
- Revenue based on state
- Subdivision growth on west side
- Transportation
- Education

Team 12

- Excessive number of Downtown bars
- Downtown Plan
- Understaffed Police Dept.
- Vacant/Foreclosed properties
- Relocation to Normal
- Cost of employee pensions
- Sidewalks

Team 10

- Revitalize Downtown
- Police staffing
- Road repairs
- Sewer system upgrades
- Long term water supply
- Under funded pensions
- Abandoned homes (foreclosures)
- Developer funding of growth
- Long term growth
- Upgraded infrastructure
- Better negotiations with unions
- Prioritizing projects

Team 11

- Maintain City services with lower revenues
- State Income tax hike – people/businesses
- Education cost
- Funding/Revenues – where's the money coming from
- Structural debt
- Jobs for people – young people
- Maintain quality of life
- Increase in crime – getting worse, is it going to get worse with downturn in economy?
- Rebuilding Downtown Bloomington
- Give downtown Bloomington a name
- Affordable housing
- Harder to retire
- Tax relief – Property tax – high
- Rebuild what's around downtown
- Downtown has to become business friendly
- Full size buses in downtown
- Property deterioration – falling apart – west side
- Rental ordinance violations

Question 3: After reviewing the list of general service businesses, identify:

a. The “5” most important for the city

b. The “5” least important for the city

Team 1

A

- Police
- Fire
- Water
- Solid Waste collection
- Sewer

B

- USCC Ownership
- Mowing
- Golf Course ownership
- Adult rec. activities

Team 2

A

- Fire Protection*
- Safety – Police*
- Sewer – Water*
- Garbage*
- Recycling
- Streets – snow removal*
- Code Enforcement
- Planning
- Parks
- Recreation
- IT
- Library
- Public Information
- Bulk Waste

B

- Bulk Waste
- Recycling

Team 3

A

- Police and fire protection
- Garbage and Snow and back to basics
- Water and Sewer
- Quality of Life
- Public Transportation

B

- Continue outsource of connections
- Limit outside consulting
- Parking (outsource)
- Park Maintenance (outsource)

Team 4

A

- Recycling-curbide
- Police Protection and code enforcement
- Fire protection
- Rescue/ambulance
- Trash pickup
- Street maintenance
- Water Supply/treatment

B

- Parks
- Cultural Facilities/events (BCPA, USCC)
- Library Services and resources
- Business expansion/attraction
- Community events (July 4th at parks, parades, etc.)

Team 5

A

- Fire*
- Police*
- Water*
- Refuse*
- Public Works*
- Library
- Parks & Rec
- Building Insp.
- Administration

B

- Historical
- Golf Courses
- In-house Engineering

Team 6

A

- Police/Fire*
- Bulk
- Water/Water treatment*
- Road Maintenance*
- Street Lights
- Sewer*
- Parks – Miller/Tipton
- Constitution Trail
- Downtown Aesthetic improvements
- Seniors program
- Building inspection services
- Zoning

B

- Downtown Aesthetics
- Building Inspection
- Parades
- Plowing Constitution Trail

Question 3: After reviewing the list of general service businesses, identify:

a. The “5” most important for the city

b. The “5” least important for the city

Team 7

A

- Police
- Fire
- Garbage
- Water/sewer
- Roads
- Library
- Parks
- Code Enforcement
- City Clerk
- Pub. Trans.

B

- Recycling
- Bulk trash pickup

Team 8

A

- Police/Fire*
- Transportation*
- Public works – water, sewer, garbage collection*
- Library*
- Parks
- Street/infrastructure maintenance*

B

- Rental inspection program
- Code enforcement – in its present ineffective form
- City – run ambulance service (too expensive for city budget)

Team 9

A

- Trash removal and recycling
- Fire
- Police
- Water and sewage
- Snow removal (road maintenance)
- Buses (public)
- Parks & Rec.
- Library
- Schools

B

- Golf Courses
- U.S. Cellular
- Library
- BCA Building
- Zoo
- Tree Program

Team 10

A

- Police*
- Fire*
- Water source*
- Garbage
- Road Maint/Safety
- Snow Removal
- Street Mowing
- Parks & Rec
- Code Enforcement*
- Basic Infrastructure*

B

- EDC
- Parks & Rec
- Recycle
- Performing Arts
- Community Service Support

Team 11

A

- Fire/EMT
- Police
- Water
- Infrastructure
- Refuse Collection/Recycle

B

- Entertainment (US Cellular Coliseum)
- Golf
- Provide utilities undeveloped land

Team 12

A

- Police
- Fire
- Streets
- Water
- Sewer
- Garbage/recycling

B

- Parks/rec
- Library
- Pools
- Golf Courses

Question 4: What city services:

a. Should be considered to be increased (“I am willing to pay for”)

b. Should be evaluated for reduction or elimination

Team 1

A

- Police presence/staffing – present where needed
- Camera surveillance
- Water supply/treatment
- Sewer supply
- Street maintenance

B

- Park expansion and updates
- Limit expansion of cultural facilities
- Funding DBA, ED, CVB, etc. (business expansion efforts)
- Limit library expansion
- Limit of support for comm. events to current level

Team 2

A

- Community Police Presence
- Street Resurfacing
- Sustainability
- Parks
- Golf Courses
- After School Programs
- Public Transportation
- Code Enforcement

B

- Garbage – pay more for service
- Bulk Waste

Team 3

A

- Police & Fire protection
- Garbage – 100% subsidy level
- Water & Sewer
- Downtown
- Police Protection – after hour

B

Team 4

A

- Street construction standards and maintenance
- Additional Police staff
- Additional Fire staff

B

- Waste collection privatization
- Recycling services
- Number of street lights
- Reduce traffic signals through use of passive methods

Team 5

A

- Police on street
- Public works
- Code & Ordinance enforcement accountability

B

- Bulk waste
- Review hours worked
- Brush pickup review (weekly/monthly)

Team 6

A

- Street preventative maintenance
- Pedestrian access – sidewalks
- Traffic flow engineering
- Water treatment – those days the water smells
- Police protection – more police patrols
- Better fire protection – fill the fire station
- Bulk/Landscape back to level it was
- Tree replacement
- Things for kids to do

B

- Services that go into hockey
- Decorations
- Decrease softball expenditures

Team 7

A

- Wireless Svc.
- No Increases for 2011 Budget
- Expand Library to East & West sides

B

- Privatizing Bulk Trash pickup
- Minimize union involvement
- Shift event costs to the organization (schools, crowd control, crossing guards, block parties)

Team 8

A

- Animal Control
- Police – traffic control
- Road Maintenance

B

- Code enforcement
- Rules and regs for bulk waste pickup (re-eval: i.e. what will/won't be taken)
- Re-eval: recycle (plastic bags)

Question 4: What city services:

a. Should be considered to be increased (“I am willing to pay for”)

b. Should be evaluated for reduction or elimination

Team 9

A

- Parks & Rec
- Road Maintenance (snow, potholes)
- Public Transportation
- Crime Prevention
- After School activities
- Education

B

- Waste money
- IT services CMS, website money spent

Team 10

A

- Enforce codes on books
- Streets/Sidewalks
- Parks/Rec.
- Increase infrastructure maintenance
- Don't want decreases in services
- Water source

B

- Recycling
- BNPTS

Team 11

A

- Police
- Fire/EMT

B

- Consultant studies
- Evaluate City service fees (water, sewer)
- Bird control
- Human relations Commission
- Downtown details

Team 12

A

- Police – presence in neighborhoods
- Snow removal – side streets
- Street repairs – curb & gutter
- Historical Preservation (Lincoln, Homes, Neighborhoods, Rt. 66)
- Tourism – bringing more people here

B

- BNPTS – evaluate or decrease
- Programs (ex. Seniors special use) – Evaluate or decrease (summer, kids, swimming)
- Look for overlaps across the board

Question 5: What should the city do to support:

a. City festival and events

b. Community and neighborhood associations

c. Schools and their activities

Team 1

- A**
- City provide Police & Staff for parades
- B**
- Events privately funded
 - City support for neighborhood watch
- C**
- No crossing guards paid by city

Team 2

- A**
- DBA
 - Farmer's Market
 - Festivals
- B**
- C**
- Schools should pay for Police support

Team 3

- A**
- Maintain or decrease level events
- B**
- C**
- Maintain or decrease level with schools

Team 4

- A**
- Partner with org.
- B**
- No change
- C**
- Explore cost sharing

Team 5

- A**
- Fourth of July
 - Labor Day Parade
 - Memorial Day Parade
 - Farmer's Market
- B**
- Parks – neighborhood
 - Police Liaison – neighborhood
 - Continue Police Presence in City Housing
- C**
- Police Resource Officers
 - Traffic Control

Team 6

- A**
- Individual block parties – they should pay full price
 - Citywide City Council approved event City should support
 - City needs to have better marketing for events
 - Any non-sponsored events should pay full price
- B**
- Same applies
- C**
- Need to have police protection at events
 - Traffic control at events

Team 7

- A**
- Farmer's Market
 - Parades
- B**
- C**

Team 8

- A**
- Events and festivals police
- B**
- Community/neighborhood assns.
 - Quit knocking down mailboxes! (snow plows)
 - Cont! police chief's meetings
- C**
- Schools and their activities
 - Police and ambulance – could be funded by PTO's, etc. – outside sources?

Team 9

- A**
- B**
- Minimum support for block party
 - Charge for cleanup at events
- C**
- Any means necessary
 - Provide gov't officials to visit school to educate about getting involved

Question 5: What should the city do to support:

a. City festival and events

b. Community and neighborhood associations

c. Schools and their activities

Team 10

A

- Keep at current level = no increase
- Evaluate events for commun. - draw and cost
- Try for donations/volunteers

B

- Continue BPD focus mtgs.
- Provide mtg places – expand
- IT server space for neighborhood websites

C

- Cost sharing between Dist 87 and city for SROs
- Same for school crossing guards
- Consider using commun. Volunteers for crossing's
- Use neighborhood and watch people to help

Team 11

A

- Use of police hire backs for profit events

B

C

- School Resource Officers

Team 12

A

- Create Lincoln event/celebration
- Reduced fees for non-profits
- Look for ways (paid parking) to raise money for Downtown events

B

- Continue parades
- Enforce on street/off street parking
- Better staff liaisons for neighborhood organizations
- Increased police patrol

C

- City should not pay for crossing guards – use volunteers instead

Question 6: What methods should the City use to communicate with you?

Team 1

- Up-to-date website
- Billboards
- Newspaper
- Radio
- TV
- newsletter
- Facebook page/Twitter
- Mail with water bill
- Liaison with neighborhood associations

Team 2

- Work on WTVP on broadcasting meetings
- Bulk email
- Monthly inclusion in newspapers
- Update website
- Twitter for events
- Radio
- Better phone support
- Inbound texting

Team 3

- Newspaper
- TV
- Radio
- Church bulletins
- Water bill
- Pay attention to generational marketing
- Events website – separate URL that gathers everything City manages
- Need to decide what needs to be communicated
- Make it available a number of ways
- Citizens need to be responsible
- Neighborhood associations newsletters

Team 4

- Insert in water bill
- Mail newsletters
- Televised city council meetings
- Radio
- Social media (email, facebook, twitter) – educate community that they can contact city council via email
- Neighborhood association meetings
- Outbound dialer
- City website – manage to make user friendly
- Mailers thru schools
- Pantagraph

Team 5

- Radio
- Telephone – robo-call
- Mass email/text
- Website – weekly update council minutes
- Television – PSA's
- Ward "Townhall" meeting – quarterly?

Team 6

- Clearing house website – calendar of events, announcements, points of contact
- Snail mail
- Email
- Speakers at neighborhood meetings
- Pantagraph/news media
- Televised/webcast council meetings, etc.
- Facebook/Twitter

Team 7

- Postcard/mail
- Smart phone app
- Newspaper (paper and online)
- Website – user friendly improvements, sign-up for email option
- TV/Radio spots
- Inserts in water bill – short

Team 8

- Thru alderman at neighborhood meetings
- City website – home or library (option to subscribe to email)
- Pantagraph
- Radio/TV
- Newsletter in bills, but are are going to e-billing
- Citizen's Voice meetings
- Social media? – alderman/officials having facebook page

Team 9

- Email – city council must respond
- Radio
- Redo website
- Include mailers and flyers with water bill
- City get out and most people attend events
- Be responsive to citizen concerns – Bunn & Lincoln 4-way stop

Question 6: What methods should the City use to communicate with you?

Team 10

- Focus area police meeting
- Mail (not water bill)
- Expand comm. use
- More on website
- Use email links for brochures and updates
- Through schools
- Through newspaper/radio
- Not enough feedback

Team 11

- Use media more often
- Blogs
- Communication/PR person – HIRE
- Polls on home page on website – advertise weekly, ask strategic questions
- Email/updates and poll reminders – email signup
- Submit questions on web
- Televisе/webcast council meeting
- Webcast information updates
- Make website more citizen friendly – sometimes too much digging for info

Team 12

- Inserts in water bill
- Individual alderman contact i.e. email
- Radio communication
- More open sessions for public input
- Website improvement
- Community bulletin boards

Question 7: What actions does the city need to consider to enhance neighborhoods and quality of life?

Team 1

- Street/sidewalk repair
- Street sweeper follow garbage trucks
- Repair of parkway elements damaged by City – including carriage walkways
- Ordinance enforcement – including sidewalk shoveling
- Safety lighting
- Stop signs straight

Team 2

- Street lights
- Street resurfacing
- Storm sewers
- Green space
- Renegotiation PUDs

Team 3

- Water pressure
- Constitution Trail expansion
- Use neighborhood assoc – watch, beautification
- Beautification contests
- Beautification Day
- Neighborhood partnership with city for neighborhood landscaping
- More green space
- Vacant homes – help
- Tear down uninhabitable property

Team 4

- Fix sidewalks!
- Maintain neighborhood parks (incl. updating)
- Maintain street lighting/more aggressive actions from city to utilities
- Continual financial support for: zoos, constitution trail, parks, cultural center, coliseum, library
- Have a presence at neighborhood events
- Continue partnership with schools and parks

Team 5

- Neighborhood park
- Add urban amenities to rural roads
- Upgrade storm drainage
- 50/50 sidewalk replacement
- Larger street signs
- Maintain street lights
- Increase neighborhood police patrols
- Additional library access

Team 6

- Trees
- Sidewalks
- Roads improvements/maintenance
- Constitution trail
- Help with lakes and ponds
- Mosquito abatement
- Park in Fox Creek
- Downtown music/cultural events

Team 7

- Street lights
- Sidewalk repair
- Rental inspections
- Addressing vacant homes
- More green space
- Parks
- Benches at bus stops
- Burry utilities
- More trees
- Limit tree damage
- Keep brick streets
- Dog park
- Bike/run trail

Team 8

- Treat Westside equal to east – re: road repairs
- Increase traffic control for speeding and noise
- Enforce existing codes quickly – re: property maintenance
- Crime control – advocate and educate about neighborhood watch set-ups
- Keep up maintenance of parks and trails

Team 9

- Extend Constitution Trail
- Mandate upkeep of property
- Do something about boarded up houses
- Adding green spaces
- Increasing parks and rec
- Increasing entertainment opportunities
- Revitalize Downtown

Team 10

- Up police presence
- Fix roads/infrastructure
- Code enforcement

Question 7: What actions does the city need to consider to enhance neighborhoods and quality of life?

Team 11

- More home repairs and rehab
- Maintain streets, curbs, sidewalks
- Better street lighting
- More green space/landscaping
- Maintain landscaping
- Enforce codes – pets, yards
- Give away “pooper scoopers”

Team 12

- Noise – vehicles
- Neighborhood policing
- More trees and green space
- Improvement of infrastructure (i.e. curb, and sidewalks)

Question 8: What should the City's role be in economic development and what actions would you suggest for the City?

Team 1

- Good incentives for business growth – financially sound, job creation
- Reuse of existing spaces/structures with incentives

Team 2

- Westside railyard
- Share in cost of DBA
- Technology incubator
- Management hold at Coliseum
- More diverse events at coliseum
- Attract more conventions
- Interact with other communities to attract business and tech development

Team 3

- Help DBA to support small business in Downtown Blm
- Cut the red tape for business start-up
- Education programs for our own backyard
- Hire econ. Dev. Officer for Blm
- List of businesses via licensing for small fee

Team 4

- Funding downtown assoc.
- Have a “special services” or “tourism” position in the city govt. (paid city staff)
- Good land use planning (long term)
- Available capacity for infrastructure
- Use local consultants
- Paid city employee to manage downtown development, tourism, and activities
- Partner with downtown businesses

Team 5

- Incentives toward downtown
- Incentives toward retail development
- Incentives toward in existing buildings

Team 6

- Maintain data for pub. Consumption
- Enterprise zones for business
- Incentives for business
- Lower property taxes
- Study other “successful” cities – model
- Planned growth – existing v. virgin land
- Gentrification

Team 7

- Balancing cost of providing utilities to tax revenues
- Incentives for – jobs, business develop. over subdivisions
- Economic impact – return on investment
- Unique services new to the city
- Environ. Impact
- Competitive leverage for new business over other cities

Team 8

- More variety of things to do – particularly for single adults or people w/o children
- Find ways to utilize downtown and empty buildings, not promote more urban sprawl

Team 9

- Lower taxes to businesses
- Better advocate the youth towards manage finances

Table 10

- Limit number of bars – too many vans/busses
- Up variety of businesses
- Improve lighting
- Eliminate DBA
- Not necessary due to private sector
- Use TIF's judiciously

Team 11

- Support incentives for new business (tax decrease, TIFS(limited))
- No impact fees for commercial business
- Downtown – specific incentives
- Better partnerships with State of IL

Team 12

- ED driven by reduction in taxes
- Using and building on existing attractions for tourism (i.e. Route 66, Lincoln History, Railroad History, Corvette Show)
- Work towards 100% coverage of services by fees
- More business friendly environment for business start up

Question 9: What does success mean for Downtown in 5 years (2016); and what actions should the city consider taking?

Team 1

- BCPA & USCC profitable
- Keep ST downtown
- Keep County Government
- Keep good businesses
- Promote downtown outside of downtown

Team 2

- Support local business
- Downtown as entertainment district rather than just bars, including shopping

Team 3

- Lots of people
- Variety of businesses
- Fill up all empty lofts (i.e. Ensenberger's)
- "User friendly" streets

Team 4

- People on the streets 24/7
- Safe area/ clean area
- Mixed use (retail, culture, residential, etc.)

Team 5

- Business and residents to co-exist
- Farmers market
- More off-street parking
- Bourbon Street atmosphere
- Family Oriented
- Security at night

Team 6

- Plentiful retail with parking
- Cultural events with variety
- Safety
- Ordinance enforcement
- Financial health
- DT – specific public transportation (trolley, shuttle) – (connect to Normal)

Team 7

- Clean
- Quality Night Life
- Vibrant retail
- Loft living
- Improved parking
- Preserve old buildings
- Downtown hotel
- Safety
- Fewer one-way streets – side streets, keep business 51 one-way

Team 8

- No empty buildings, but not with more bars
- More retail – specialty shops
- Reasonable rent/business expenses to draw more tenants
- Variety of activities
- Improved way of getting around (i.e. trolley for fun)

Team 9

- Corning, NY
- The same
- More cultural activities
- Enforce upkeep on buildings
- Finance low-interest loans with timeline for improvement

Team 10

- Eliminate DBA
- Preserve Historic areas
- Law and financial business
- No form based code
- Review codes

Team 11

- Name Downtown – new "personality"
- Build on Rt 66 connection
- Build on Lincoln connection
- Make room for something new (may not save every old building)
- Maintain more upscale business image (smoke shops)

Team 12

- Better level of association involvement – recruitment of business (i.e. Galena, IL)
- Signature Event
- Paid parking evaluation
- Parking plan

Question 10: From your table's perspective, what are the top "5" things that the City either needs to address or needs to address during the next year?

Team 1

- Street repairs
- Increase in public safety
- Sewer improvements
- Pension reform
- Financial stability
- Eliminate redundancies
- Encourage philanthropy

Team 2

- Infrastructure – streets, sewers, broadband
- Regional Economic Development – electric transportation, solar
- Downtown Redevelopment
- West side development
- Green space

Team 3

- Maintain balance budget
- Use of public Transportation – time of run pickup, start & stop needs to go longer, update routes-more options
- Identify services for cost analysis – private sector use and department reduction/elimination
- Infrastructure plan – project 10 and financing (water, sewer, roads)
- Communication to citizens about quality of life, events, operations, and how to be a more engaged or aware citizen

Team 4

- Road maint!
- Infrastructure
- Water/sewer
- Where is our water supply???
- Intergovt. Cooperation
- Consolidate some govt entities
- Financial stability
- Accountability for city council members and city staff, dept.
- Combine school districts
- Downtown balace: missed use, retail, residential, communication, partnering

Team 5

- Upgrade storm drainage
- Flooding concerns
- No parking Downtown – limited
- Street resurfacing
- Hire more police
- Enforce existing ordinances
- Collecting outstanding fines
- Deal with vacant and foreclosures
- Don't mow parks when not needed
- Leash and dog poo enforcement
- Empty trash at parks
- Complete park projects
- Developer impact fees resolution

Team 6

- Street maintenance – more
- Widen bottleneck on Fox Creek – Biech
- Time lights on Main Street
- USCC finances
- Mitsubishi Parkway extended – South
- Lower property taxes
- Landfill feasibility study
- Drinking water quality "study"
- Expand neighborhood patrols for traffic and crime
- "Texas Roadhouse" – (Toni's idea)

Team 7

- Infrastructure (sewer/water, roads/curbs)
- Beautification of city entrances
- Battling gang activity
- Balance budget (no new taxes, use what you already have)
- Keep taxes low on businesses
- Expand Constitution Trail

Team 8

- City staff morale/job expectations
- Enforcement of existing codes
- Downtown Blm. Improved
- Attract more non-bar business
- Repair decaying infrastructure
- Maintain what we have (parks, water quality, etc.) and strive to continue to improve
- Build rapport/public interaction with police, fire

Question 10: From your table's perspective, what are the top "5" things that the City either needs to address or needs to address during the next year?

Team 9

- Revitalization of properties (derelict)
- Reduce taxes
- Reduce waste of money
- Make U.S. Cellular profitable
- Green space, improve parks and rec.
- Main street redevelopment reflecting Bloomington culture
- Infrastructive upgrade
- Investigate partnering with Normal

Team 10

- Developers pay for residential subdivisions – costs for all infrastructure
- Control sprawl with more effective planning for new projects
- Street repair
- Water main maintenance/updating
- Sewer repair and maintenance
- Better contract negotiations with unions (wages, workers comp. benefits, pensions)
- Pension reform – put more pressure on State/mandates
- Automate meter reading – water
- Share services with utilities, other governments – cost sharing arrangements
- More interdepartmental cooperation/flexibility – change union contracts to allow for this

Team 11

- Balance budget (watch spending)
- Control fee increase
- Increase comm./awareness with public
- Aging infrastructure – strategic plan
- Consider accepting 10ml to upgrade sewer system
- Prepare for economic recovery
- Evaluate what type of business the city wants to attract

Team 12

- Brick street preservation policy
- Paid parking program
- Tree, streetscape
- West Market St., Morris – Hinshaw
- One-way streets eliminated in Downtown
- Evaluate off street parking requirements

Memos to Mayor & Council

To Mayor/Council

Thank you for the opportunity to participate and for considering the public input. Look forward to future and further progress.

W.D. Herrin

Mayor and City Council:

I would really like to see more funding and increased emphasis placed on increasing the staffing and presence of our Police department.

Thank you

Roger Callender

To: Mayor & Council

I've been here all my 46 years. The city has grown bigger, but not better. Crime has increased. Downtown is not being taken care of. There are things to do but in my mind nothing of substance. Too many outsiders seem to be brought in from larger cities. I know there are those who want the big city life but not me.

Memo to: Mayor & Council

Improve downtown to encourage retail development and access. East-west access is limited and requires improvement. Road-Street infrastructure is a priority for new and old.

Keep a balanced budget.

Thanks

To: Mayor and Council

It is my belief that a fiscally sound and business friendly community will do more to attract new economic activity than anything else. Beyond this safety would be the main concern of said businesses. Specifically fire and police.

Infrastructure is also an area of concern that should be addressed. Maintain what you can, rebuild when necessary.

To Mayor and City Council Members:

Thank you so much for your willingness to serve our community. Please continue to be open to progressive ideas that would enhance the quality of life we enjoy here. Consider such things as "branch libraries" on the east and west sides and consider sharing sponsorships with individuals and business entities. Add summer camps and other youth and senior citizen activities.

Dorothy Kennett

To Mayor and Council,

Keep up the great work! We are blessed to have a great city with its numerous amenities. Thanks for your service!

Dear Mayor & Council:

Please keep the Board of Realtors informed, preferably involved in (getting our opinions or input) in things that will effect our community pertaining to zoning codes, building codes, rental inspections, abandoned building enforcement, etc. Keep communication open with Mark Huber. Thank you for the opportunity to be involved tonight.

Memos to Mayor & Council

To: Mayor & Council

Keep smiling. I think you are doing a good job. Thanks for the opportunity to provide input.

Dick Sleevar 1/25/11

To: Mayor & Council

Thank you for overseeing a significant improvement in the city financial picture. As that improvement (hopefully) continues I look forward to enhancements in road and other infrastructure maintenance and repairs.

To: Mayor and Council

I would like to express my gratitude for inviting me to the Second Annual Citizens Summit. From the information I received from fellow citizens and council members, I can see that people truly care about and enjoy working for this city. As a citizen of Bloomington, I try to keep informed of the goings-on of the city. I feel that you all do a remarkable job for our city. Thank you!

To: Mayor and Council

You are doing a difficult job well. Improvements with the financial status of the city are impressive and must be continued and protected. I know it is difficult to do, but please encourage more citizens/city interaction, actively seek out philanthropy to the benefit of arts and other cultural activities, and continue your good efforts to eliminate redundancies and duplication. Finally, fairly and reasonably take care of your people who make the city what it is. Reward as appropriate, eliminate as warranted and listen to them and their concerns.

To Mayor and City Council

Please continue to make sound financial decisions to provide services that maximize the benefits to the community. Continue to support downtown businesses and encourage growth in established areas/structures. New isn't always better. Please focus efforts on services that the city can provide in a cost effective manner and pursue privatization of services that the city cannot manage effectively.

Thanks for your continued efforts.

To: Mayor and Council

Thank you for holding to the values that made our city the best in the Midwest.

Please continue to strive to "improve" and not "replace" the way of life we now enjoy.

Please continue to involve citizens, like this event, to make more decisions in the future.

To Mayor and City Council:

I would like to see the city do some recruiting of new business' to Bloomington. I don't think we should be so dependent on a few large, albeit stable, employers. I would also like to see an increased police presence to insure our great safe community. I think you are doing a good job at a tough time!

Memos to Mayor & Council

To Mayor and Council

Thank you for all you do – I love love love my city! I sell it every day to 100's of people a year and am very proud of Bloomington.

I know the job is not easy and I am grateful for all you do!

xoxo Noelle Burns

Sorry – I have a “ps” – I have to explain to people all the time as to why our property taxes are so high – first I giggle then I explain all the wonderful things this city has to offer – clean street, garbage pickup, great police, I could go on and on – I didn't like being “limited to 5”

To: Mayor and Council-

1. This summit was an awesome experience and a great opportunity to see what city services are important to others versus you.
2. Stop Bloomington-Normal Shuttle from operating daily 24/7 as a taxi company with under or non-insured vehicles.
3. Thanks for the tour of the BCPA!

To: Mayor & Council

Thank you for another Citizen Summit. Both events provided an opportunity to collaborate and converse about the City's services and priorities. Keep providing additional opportunities, and invite more citizens to participate.

The council needs to keep working together with the City staff to improve and sustain our community.

Keep up the good work, and thank you again!

To Mayor & Council:

Thank you for your efforts focused on bettering our community. Most significantly thank you for restoring some financial sanity to the administration of the city. Please continue to reinforce a fiscally responsible city government culture, characterized by spending money responsibly, and only when necessary.

Thank you for the Citizen's Summit, and please maintain transparency in city government administration and decision making.

Very Sincerely,

John Binning

To Mayor & Council

With the new bike path from Biech Road to Shirley and the road work at Six Points and Veterans, Fox Creek Road will see an increase in traffic, bicycles, and pedestrians between Veterans and Oakland.

Between Biech Road and the railroad track bridge Fox Creek narrows from 4 lane to 2 lane. There is no sidewalk and people have to walk in the street. Somebody will get hurt.

We need a sidewalk and eventual widening of that stretch of road.

Memos to Mayor & Council

To: Mayor & Council

As a homemaker and board member for Heartland Hill Subdivision, I would like to see better road maintenance on 6pts Rd as well as a speed reduction to 45 in front of all entrances to our subdivision. We would like to see property taxes lowered or be more fairly appropriated as our subdivision is quite far out and has no direct access to any city parks, trails, etc. We also have no nearby firehouse as the one built on 6pts is sitting vacant collecting dust, and we can't even use it for our annual meetings or board meetings. Finally, we would like to see Mitsubishi Pkwy completed to 6pts to provide a quicker access to Rt 9 and retail, etc.

To Mayor and Council:

I want to express my appreciation to you for hosting this event. It demonstrates a genuine interest in the opinion of the citizenry and helps us all to better understand the challenges you face. I do believe that Bloomington is a great place to live, raise children and to work. It is largely due to your collective commitment to the success of this community that many of us here share that opinion.

Sincerely,

Scott Genung

To Mayor and Council

Thank you for the chance to meet and voice our thoughts. You need to carefully consider them and act on the ones that have the most support. Remember people here tonight care enough about the city to give 3 hours of their time.

To: Mayor & City Council

It is my hope that you will work hard to be good stewards of our tax dollars. It is good to have a new city manager with a financial background. We feel the change in police practices has been positive in our area. The aging streets, sewers will continue to be more of a problem as time goes on. I think a major effort should be made to work in the older neighborhoods. Slum lords needs to be cracked down on.

To Mayor and Council

Please keep staff salaries in check. Continue working with each other (Council, Mayor, City Staff-Dept. heads) in a non or less hostile or "power grabbing" more congenial manner befitting Public Officials and Professionals.

Be mindful of these citizens in need of housing rehab, asbestos removal, and infrastructure upgrades on homes and businesses.

Thank You

1/25/2011

To Mayor & Council

I would like to say thank you for your time service and I'm sure at times your sacrifices. I would encourage you to not take lightly the role in which you serve us.

My concerns are the road maintenance or the lack of maintenance on the Westside. Please make it a priority to resurface Wood Street west of Morris Street. Westside of Blm doesn't seem to get as much attention as Eastside!!

Thank you for this very enlightening experience. It has giving me a big picture for all the little details that must be addressed on a daily basis. Wow-it has been exhausting. Thanks for your dedication. Kudos to you.

Memos to Mayor & Council

To Mayor, Council

Dear Alderman Sage,

Please ask the council to evaluate parking regulations for multi-unit residences. Developers should be given leeway to make the decision on the appropriate parking amounts.

The city should encourage the cost of parking to be separated from the cost of housing. This would help reduce the overall cost of housing and help people realize how much parking costs.

Paid parking could help supply income to areas of the city that need improvements and should be used to reduce taxes. Anywhere the block or area gets full needs to have paid parking. The library, certain blocks and parking lots downtown, even the city's parking area near the police station.

Sincerely Yours

Gary Stevens

To: Mayor & Council

I would love to see a Bloomington in the future that has become a leader in technology and green enterprises. Please do not lose sight of future growth and development.

Ryan Lambert

To: Mayor:

I would like to see a bigger presence in the community.

To: Mayor & Council

Though most things I have little problems with but I have had issues with Alexander Road flooding and rebuilding. City engineers feel there is no flooding problem. I disagree. I also get different "excuses" depending who I talk to. Also, the rebuilding of the road keeps getting pushed back and pushed back. I have seen plans from 1975 for the street. Bridge was rebuilt in 1980 and nothing since. And multiple "reasons and excuses" on this issue also.

To: Mayor & Council

Thank you for asking for our input and listening. Especially appreciated and informative this year have been Chief McKinley's 1st Wed. meetings.

Karen Schmidt has been a terrific Alderman in terms of participation in Miller Park neighborhood events and information dissemination about city proceedings, events, etc.

Rita Buczyrna

To: Mayor and Council

It would be nice to have a better description of what you do and your level of responsibility.

I also feel that you should at minimum hold yourself to the same standard as you do staff.

Memos to Mayor & Council

To: Mayor & City Council

Thank you for the work you have done to date with regards to controlling the City's expenses and rebuilding the general fund reserves. The decisions were often painful, but you were successful.

You should look closely at the storm water fund and consider a fee increase.

You should not be alarmed by the balance in the (sanitary) sewer fund as the previously approved increase and retirement of the debt on the southwest pump station will eventually dig it out.

You do not need to give priority to street maintenance, increasing expenditure to 4 million a year.

You need to actively plan with IDOT to create an east-west arterial through town with a speed limit of 40mph or greater.

To Colon, Mayor and Council

I would like to make myself available for and Boards or Commissions that could utilize my various areas of expertise.

J. Balmer

To: Mayor & City Council

Congratulations on this exercise of polling citizens to really engage them on the planning of city services, direction, programs and creating a better understanding of what city leaders deal with every day.

While I applaud the effort, the continuation of this process will be difficult. Keep an open ear, publish the actions of this exercise and shout from every direction when you've accomplished something from this.

Staff is to be commended on their efforts to do what was necessary to balance the budget. Keep this as a priority going forward.

Good work!

To Mayor & Council:

I think the City of Bloomington has made tough decisions regarding the City budget. Even with the tough decisions, it is great that the budget is no longer in the red.

I think more emphasis needs to be given to police protection in all neighborhoods and events. I would like to see more of their presence in the City.

I would also like to see more support for social service agencies (ie. Boys & girls club, etc).

Thank you

To: Mayor/Councilmembers:

Please educate yourself on the subject at matter before opening your mouth.

Please be a person vs. politician.

Care for Downtown.

Care for small business.

Get a set of CORE values among yourself and work as a team.

To: Mayor & Council

Thank you for inviting me to participate in this meeting. I learned a lot and appreciate all of the opinions of those at my table (3). This is a great idea and needs to be done on a regular basis

Sara Cushing

P.S. I called last Spring and asked for the street sign to be replaced at Main and Woodrig. Not done yet.

Memos to Mayor & Council

To Mayor & Council-

Appreciated the opportunity to weigh in and participate in the process.

Key Points:

- Keep budget balanced
- Consider cost/benefit of outsourcing non-essential services
- Operate more like a business – public services should not be provided at a loss – but if they can be done on a more cost effective basis – consider it.

You have a difficult job and difficult decisions to make.

To Mayor & Council

Thank you for the opportunity to give input tonight. These kinds of meetings are crucial to making our city better.

I have to stress the importance of a few themes that came from our table tonight.

1. Tourism (i.e. use Lincoln ties, US66 ties, etc. to draw people in)
2. Downtown Preservation/revitalization
3. Neighborhood Appearances (i.e. trees, curbs, streets)

These things are all crucial to keeping residents here, drawing in tourism dollars and promoting business development Downtown and in the city.

We do not need to spend millions on another Downtown Plan. Just ask us, citizens who live and work here, because I can guarantee we know better answers than out-of-town consultants.

Thanks again for this opportunity

Marie Streenz

To: Mayor & Council

I want to stress to all members how impressed I am at the response I have gotten from members of the City Government to my issues and undertakings on the west-side.

My neighbors and I have benefited from involvement from Alderman Karen Schmidt as well as Alderman Bernie Anderson. Appearances by David Hales, Chief McKinley, and others have lent credibility to our efforts. Thanks so much for your help and I look forward to working with you in the future!

Matt Spears

Miller Park Neighbors

To: Mayor & Council

My main issues of interest this year are:

- Developing a firm brick street preservation policy
- Developing more historic neighborhood designations, especially on the west side
- Develop a “standout property” recognition for those who have improved their neighborhood through marked improvement of their private homes and businesses
- Continue to improve our neighborhood streets, curbs, and especially sidewalks!
- Please plow snow from Constitution Trail!
- Increase neighborhood police presence
- Please plow and salt Fell St. from Emerson to Division.

Thank you for allowing me to weigh in on City decisions. I feel like I can actually make a difference through events like this.

Andy Streenz

Memos to Mayor & Council

To: Mayor & Council,

As a resident of Bloomington for 34 years (my entire life) I am pleased and proud to be a member of this council and a citizen in this city.

Raising four children here, I hope that my children will also find a home and establish a life in Bloomington. However, while working at ISU and in the years since my graduation from college I am saddened to see many of my friends and peers move away. The most common reason for their resistance to reside here is the claim that “there is nothing to do.” This concerns me greatly for the future of Bloomington. I hope that retention of current citizens, as well as the promising future residents is a goal for city officials. New blood and youth are important for the continued growth of any city. Additionally, I am hopeful that changing population demographics will help drive future endeavors for economic development and city growth.

Thank you for all that you do!

Julie Steinkoenig

To: Mayor & City Council

I love this city! Please continue to balance our budget without raising our taxes. Try to minimize any unions that have an unhealthy strangle hold on progress. Lastly, always remember, a little common sense goes a long way.

Thank you for your time.

Very Sincerely,

Janet Harman

To: Mayor & Council

Having spent most of my life meaning absolutely nothing to anyone, ideas and creations from my brain have been laughed at and dismissed. It doesn't help that I am a woman and a blonde! So to have been an active part of building my community, then to be invited to such an event as this Summit and asked for my opinion – I do hope and pray that you as well will not simply dismiss what you hear from myself or anyone here tonight as ramblings of crabby people who don't know what we are talking about. I am grateful that you all have under David Hales & Mayor Stockton have become more interested in your community and the voice that they have. Please – all I ask is that you continue to listen with an earnest ear – not just playing fake and laughing behind closed doors. The voice you have given to your city has huge implications for the future in how we are seen and how we can all work to meet common goals and excel in our city's future. Please just continue to listen!

And Thank You for hearing us.

Krista McAlerney

To: Mayor & Council

You face a main challenge in the coming year and beyond: You have continual budget constraints and fewer staff to meet all the existing obligations and also meet expanded projects.

You must do more with less. This can only happen successfully if you can build multiple forms of community that brings government and citizens together.

Good luck in these challenging times.

Memos to Mayor & Council

Mayor and City Council:

Thanks for providing this opportunity for citizen input. Communications both ways have improved significantly the past two years. Keep it up!

Ron Kwasny

To Mayor & Council:

Appreciate the opportunity to be heard. I think this focus group setting is a good step in connecting with the people of the community.

I personally learned more about the city services and challenges facing the community. My primary concern going forward is that the city keeps focus on our spending and maintains a balanced budget. We need to focus on making Bloomington business friendly as well as a great place for raising families.

Council & Mayor

1. Attend your neighborhood meetings in your ward
2. Social media use to reach your ward residents.
3. Be accountable and responsible to the community and your ward.

To Mayor & Council,

I appreciate the opportunity to interact with the staff and other members of the community. Hopefully, this will generate useful information that can disseminate throughout the community.

Unfortunately, most participants know little about the reality of how “things work” in the City. They also don’t know how much they cost, etc. etc.

Many people expect a lot from the City – but, don’t necessarily want to pay for it.

Ron Schultz