

Mid-State Technical College Forum

Background

The City Planner hosted a forum at Mid-State Technical College (2600 W 5th St) where students could share their hopes and concerns about the direction Marshfield is growing. This event took place on Monday, November 21, 2016, from 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm. Six people attended the event, which included MSTC staff.

Discussion

Attendees were asked a series of questions to help articulate the vision and key issues/challenges they saw for the future of the City of Marshfield. Each individual was given a handout with the questions and were asked to write their responses down. Each question was given a few minutes for the group to answer and then we went around the room asking if anyone wanted to share their answers. Below is a summary of the written responses as well as notes from some of the comments made during the discussion.

Question 1. What do you like about Marshfield?

Response
Jobs and job variety
Health care
Wildwood Park – events at the park
Friendly
Updates to the downtown – good walking, shopping, visually aesthetic
Community involvement – family oriented stuff
New library is beautiful - events
Having fitness centers

Question 2. What do you dislike about Marshfield?

Response
Not enough stuff to do in your 20's and 30's
Need more activities for younger kids
Need more affordable housing - rent
Train and at grade crossings
Would like a children's museum
Need a youth gathering place that's not a bar scene
One-way streets
Dangerous snow piles – visibility
Mall intersection should still have traffic lights

Question 3. Where do you see Marshfield growing?

Response
Downtown – New businesses, more modern, great shopping experience
Don't see a lot of growth or new businesses
Existing businesses don't want competition
Current environment doesn't support growth
Need living wage jobs and more jobs
Need more programs in schools

Question 4. What type of uses and activities would make Marshfield a better place to live, work, and play?

Response
AODA is missing – affordable drug treatment facility
Aquatic Center – splash pad
Multi-purpose facility sports complex
Vox Concert Center is a great addition
More updated low income housing options
Kohl's was a great addition
"Jump On It" like what used to be in the Wausau Mall
More family friendly businesses
New restaurants – more variety
Add to the mall – maybe an activity center (inflatable bounce house) for kids
Blu Play Café in Wisconsin Rapids - a café where kids can play

Question 5. What is your primary reason(s) for living in Marshfield? If it's for school, what made you choose Marshfield?

Response
Don't live in Marshfield, but go to school here and really enjoy it at MSTC
Better opportunity for my career and children's schooling
The public schools offer more sports than the smaller communities
Employment
Low crime rate
Things to do – good restaurants – good size
School

Question 6. Are there specific areas of Marshfield could be improved? Where?

Response
Area by Pick n' Save - housing
Central Avenue from Burger King to St. Vinny's – road condition
Fill downtown more
Need property maintenance standards
Better job of plowing the streets – waiting for two inches and it gets icy

Question 7. What is Marshfield missing that a community of its size should have?

Response
Splash pad
Better variety of shopping and restaurants
Utilize local builders for projects – buy local
Consider changing question to “When you leave Marshfield, where do you go and why?”
Brew pubs/breweries or winery – specialty stores
Need more workers
Farm to table
Digital billboards to promote local businesses and activities
Public Busing service
Uber
Need more daycare centers

Question 8. Do you have an interest in staying in Marshfield after you complete your education? Why/why not?

Response
Yes, if I find a job
Yes, family is nearby
Don't live now as it's cheaper to commute than to live in Marshfield

Question 9. What is the best way for the City to engage students on local issues?

Response
Facebook page with surveys
“Top Things to Do” in the paper is a great source for activities
Bulletin boards in businesses
Social media

Question 10. What is your primary source(s) for finding out information about your community (circle all that apply)?

Facebook	1	
Online Newspaper	1	1
Other:	1	Word of mouth