

# Senior Center Forum

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## Background

The City Planner hosted a forum at the Senior Center (503 E Ives St) where area seniors could share their hopes and concerns about the direction Marshfield is growing. This event took place on Monday, August 29, 2016, from 10:30 am – 12:00 pm.

About 20 people attended the event, as well as Alderperson Mike Feirer; Bill Penker, Plan Commission Member; Bob Haight, Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Member; Sam Schroeder, Zoning Administrator; Kris Leonhardt, Hub City Times; Jean Doty, Senior Center; and, Josh Miller, City Planner

## 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	No. of Responses	Response	No. of Responses
Medical Care Availability	9	Fresh Air	2
Size	6	Clean	1
Friendly	5	Affordable	1
Schools	4	Chestnut Center	1
Safe	4	Goodwill & St Vinny's	1
Church	4	Things to do	1
Central Location	3	Restaurants	1
Cultural & Arts Fairs	3	Quality of Life	1
Wildwood Park & Zoo	3	Slow Pace, Elderly	1
Shopping	3	Good Place for Family	1
People	3	Good Mayor	1
Low Traffic	2	Moral	1
UW & Tech School	2	Quiet	1
Senior Center	2	Grocery Stores	1
Clean	2	Variety of Activities	1

## Question 2. What do you dislike about Marshfield?

Response	No. of Responses	Response	No. of Responses
Use of Funds (Parks, One Way Roads, Repeated Jobs, instead of Maintenance, Roads, or Sidewalks)	5	Lack of Biking Trails	1
Poor Roads	4	Lack of Diversity	1
Drug Problem	3	Unprogressive Minded People	1
Lack of Respect for Seniors	2	Lack of Nice Restaurants	1
Bullying	2	Complainers	1
School Board Cover Ups	2	City gets its Priorities Mixed Up at Times	1
High Taxes	1	City Run by Young Adults with Big Ideas Financed by Older Adults Winding Down Trying to Enjoy Life	1
Prices for Healthcare	1	Clinic - Hospital Fight	1
Meetings are not Known	1	Poor Decision on Strip Joint	1
New Business Jobs	1	Leaders Never Saw an Expenditure They Didn't Like	1
Everything is New - Buildings Torn Down are still Functional	1	City Trying to Take Care of Everybody's Life to the Detriment of Their Personal Responsibilities	1
Poor Representation (City Hall)	1	Promised Things and	1
Transportation Options are Limited	1	The Downtown is Dying, the Town Will	1
Miss the Geography of Other Places like La Crosse/Madison	1	Lack of Opportunities to Volunteer	1

### Question 3. Where do you see Marshfield growing?

<b>Response</b>	<b>No. of Responses</b>
Highway 10 area	6
Downtown	5
Not Growing	2
Housing in All Areas as Land Becomes Available	1
South Central	1
Clinic-Hospital Area	1
Downtown Dying	1
Wood County	1
Hwy 97 towards Wausau	1

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

<b>Response</b>	<b>No. of Responses</b>
Better Swimming Area with Roof or Amusement Park	5
Activities to Keep Children (Teens) Busy, Boys and Girls Club	3
Separate Senior Center	2
Respect for Seniors	2
Nice Community Center that includes lots of Activities for Seniors	2
Community Center to Include All Ages	2
Basketball Courts	1
Concerts (more at Columbia Park)	1
New Mayor	1
Buffet	1
Taxi Service	1
Apartment Buildings	1
Affordable Transportation for All	1
Dementia Friendly Community	1
More Job Opportunities	1
More Parking at the Library	1

**Question 5. What was your primary reason for initially moving to Marshfield?**

<b>Response</b>	<b>No. of Responses</b>
Proximity to Medical Care	4
Grew Up Here	3
Job	3
Farming	2
Size of the Community	2
Love	1
Sold House in the Country	1
Moral Community	1
Downsizing	1
Safe Place	1

**Question 6. Are there areas of Marshfield you avoid and if so, why?**

<b>Response</b>	<b>No. of Responses</b>
Main Street (Parking, Shopping, Rough Spots)	2
Hwy 10 Club - Not for Family or the Young	2
Peach Ave (Traffic During School)	2
None - Feel Safe Any Place	2
Expensive Businesses and Events (Prices)	1
Arnold St (Loose Dogs and Drugs)	1
Upham St (Potholes)	1
Central Ave (Trains)	1
Where the Druggies Are	1

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

<b>Response</b>	<b>No. of Responses</b>
Teen Club	4
More Jobs	2
Good Newspaper	2
Entertainment Options for Common People	1
Utilizing the Downtown	1
City Buses	1
Need More Housing Options (Affordable	1
More Biking/Walking Trails/Lanes	1
Good Resale Shops	1
Non Smoking Apartment Buildings	1
Water/River	1
Good Senior Center like Rapids/Stevens Point	1
Community TV on Antenna Service	1

**Question 8. What is your primary source(s) for finding out information about your community (circle all that apply)?**

Facebook	3	
Twitter	0	
City Website	2	
Main Street	1	
MACCI	4	
CVB	4	
Newspaper	11	Hub City Times
Online Newspaper	4	Hub City Times
Government TV	3	
Direct Emails	3	
Other:	11	Other:
		McDonald's (3), Mueller Book(3), Mail, Friends (2), 211 Phone, Coffee Shops, Serving on Committee and Boards, Volunteering

**Other Comments**

All seniors need is rooms for cards, pool
Seniors need to have things to look forward to, be it daily, weekly, etc.
Why can't seniors be honored in their own area?
Can we do anything to improve possibilities for larger companies to move in?
Possibly see rents less expensive at the Mall
Nice to have Kohl's and Joann's coming
Sad to see medical care moving out of Marshfield
Need more senior living options that are affordable
Growth will be slow w/o large businesses
Medical services may cause expansion or shrinkage
Growth increases all undesirable side effects
Look at Eau Claire's Senior Citizen's Programs
Citizen's sociability, imagination & creativity requires only space to perform multiple activities
Association is the real goal
The senior center can be a place that people say: I'm old and on the way out... so entertain me, fill my hours, and hopefully there will be a non-critical friendly face that I might talk to. Help me use up my time, I'm bored - or it can become a place for new adventures.
Yes we are tired and have slowed down, and we can't move as fast as we used to, but many have gained wisdom and knowledge that can and should be shared
We need a more dynamic, encouraging life style, though at a slower pace, that much can be gleaned from. We live longer these days. Why waste our talents.
Let's awaken the sleeping giant of talents in our senior citizens. They are an untapped resource.

Maybe we can live longer not because of medicine but in spite of the world saying you are on your way out. Because of awakening the knowledge of what seniors have learned and have to offer to those who have ears to hear, we may increase the length of lives because of their feeling a sense of worth and value

Some people are stuck, this could be a place to help them get unstuck and productive.

We might have seminars, where a number of people - talk about what people can be involved in and how to use their talents.

Initially a few might come, but let's get the information out in the news so more people can hear and read and have the caskets of their minds and hearts opened.