

**Question 1: What kind of a community do you want?**

- Welcoming
- Attractive to the eye
- Safe and inclusive – that welcomes and celebrates diversity
- Active
- Strong family/home life
- Culture of friendliness
- Culture of personal action and volunteerism
- Safe neighborhoods
- Very supportive of local businesses – to grow the community and help kids get a good start
- Businesses help guide and teach children productivity
- Preventing teen pregnancy, or preventing the second baby
- Unity (of school districts, of neighborhoods) into a cohesive whole
- A thriving community that involves and supports children, with neighborhoods attractive to the eye that involve and support children
- A community that models good listening
- Sustainability – If we promise something, we keep our promises, rather than run a program for 3 years, giving people hope, and then have the program go away, i.e. programs that don't end when the grant money runs out
- Employment opportunities
- Mentorship, for children, and for the 20 – 40-yr-olds
- Access and collaboration – fair and equitable access
- Increased involvement by the faith community, not currently good at collaboration: needs to “act on what you believe in”
- Involved faith community
- A successful community starts at home
- Schools as a priority
  - Parent involvement
  - Community/business involvement – “give kids something to look forward to”
  - Celebrate school/student success
  - Hold educators accountable
- More acknowledging of positive actions within community
- Community perceptions:

- BC getting better; example of community gardens – more hands-on, encourages volunteering, especially with kids
- BC getting worse over the last 20 or so years – everyone has “wants” – if not met at home they will get it done in other ways

**Question 2: Given what we just said, what are the 2-3 most important issues or concerns when it comes to the community?**

- Action
- Access – for everyone
- Accountability (to the community) – making it happen – personal accountability and being personable – technology (smart phones) gets in the way of personal contact/relationships
- Safe neighborhoods – resident engagement
- Successful kids – thriving children
- Adult responsibility – relationship building, mentorship – children look to adults for nurturing
- Taking Action
- Leadership
- Unity
- Access

Consensus on issues:

- A community where residents AND leaders take action, show leadership and show accountability for results
- A community where children are safe, educated, and motivated
- A community that is unified rather than competitive internally, providing its residents with access to resources and opportunities
- A community that focuses on correct perceptions, and encouragement rather than negativity

**Question 3: What concerns do you have about these issues?**

- Lack of mentorship in our community
- Pre-conceived notions about organizations and services
- Incorrect perceptions about the community and focus on the negatives
- Competition instead of collaboration among organizations which is standing in the way of real change
- Decrease in volunteerism, personal responsibility for change
- Lack of action, leadership, and accountability
- Children being failed by their homes and the schools
- There is a disconnect between organizations, and we are not sharing the wealth of information available
- Many must work a job and raise a family, leaving little time for the volunteerism necessary to impact important community issues. Employers need to support employee volunteerism

- We need more and quicker response to community needs

**Question 4 and 5 combined: How do these issues we're talking about affect you personally? How do you feel about what's going on?**

- How we receive and use information – instant access – need to open our minds to other views – how we learn about what's going on
- CACC as an example of a different learning environment that meets student needs – a more hands-on approach
- Need for rewards for positive actions and successes – helps build character
- We want more for our community
- Leadership needs to encourage residents – it has to start with leadership
- “Establishment” often the barrier – the people make the push for change, then need to be accountable and make sure leaders are accountable as well
- Positivity will create desired outcomes
- Entrenched leadership is the main obstacle

**Question 6 and 7 combined: What do you think is keeping us from making the progress we want? What are the kinds of things that could be done that could make a difference?**

- Disparity regarding resources
- “It's who you know” – accessing the wealth of information
- Disconnects among organizations - creating a true network among the organizations doing the work so people can easily access information and resources – more unity among efforts.
- People working together, rather than in many “little broken groups,” would increase efficiency and effectiveness
- Hang in there – the economy is improving and a lot of good work that started before things got so bad will re-emerge and become successful
- People want to see action – small steps accomplished
- REAL conversation between community members and service providers
- Leadership changes often create communication breakdowns and organizational confusion
- Being boxed in – personal/family needs vs. community involvement – want to but can't find the time. What should my role be?
- Changing role of employer – creating partnerships for employees to access opportunities for volunteering and community activity
- Employers traditionally look inward, focus is only on the employee as related to the job

**Question 8: What groups or individuals would you trust to take action?**

- City commission (?) (some laughter from the group)
- Jesus - prayer needed
- Women's Co-op – a reach into the community
- A.J. Jones

- Bob Randall – retiring from his position
- Irv Brinker
- Goodwill
- Hands On BC
- Need a strong coalition of C3's, Public, and Private Sectors
- BC Community Foundation – as a fiscal agent
- Educational system (“wouldn’t trust the schools”)
- WKKF – allocates funds, not in operating programs
- Reggie LaGrand – as facilitator, acts on behalf of WKKF system
- Creating Change (?) – neighborhood based
- United Way – as funder, promotes change
- Neighborhood Planning Council leaders
- Reggie LaGrand and Megan Russell have too many restraints from layers of bureaucracy who don’t know the real challenges
- The superintendents talk a big program, but aren’t getting results

**Question 9: If we came back together in 6 months or a year, what might you see which would tell you that the things we talked about today were starting to happen?**

- More unified – organizations meeting and working together
- Everyone at the same table – working together instead of many groups doing the same things on their own
- Groups working more efficiently – collaboration
- People coming together
- Partnerships - working together
- Funders working together – beginning to happen, the right people are coming together (“the economic downturn stifled the process”)
- Action – small incremental steps to show progress

**Question 10: Now that we’ve talked about this issue a bit, what questions do you have about it?**

- Does our community need stronger leadership at the top, stronger grassroots leadership, or both?
- How do we create networks of resources and access to those resources?
- How do we get the word out on the many positive things that are happening?
- How do we know where to access information and resources?