

1. What kind of community do you want?
  - Jobs and opportunities
  - People with money
  - Solve problems
  - Promote incentives to get people downtown
  - Promotion of the downtown
  - Promote a safe community
  - Jobs where people can grow and feel successful
  - Misconception that BC City (downtown) is full of crime
  - An attractive river – like the “river walk”, safety is a part of it and comes with this
  - Preserving our historic buildings
  - We have a beautiful skyline downtown
  - We have a well maintain, gorgeous Federal Center
  - Places to have a good meal
  - A walkable community
  
2. Given what we just said, what are the 2-3 most important issues or concerns when it comes to the community?
  - Promotion of the downtown
  - Positive perception of Battle Creek
  
3. What concerns do you have about this issue? Why?
  - Promotion of the downtown
    - Make downtown buildings not so expensive
    - We allow people to influence one impression of downtown
    - People could live downtown
    - More restaurants needed – why do we go to Kalamazoo?
    - Plenty of police protection downtown – not shared
    - Family oriented community – need more for singles
    - Live among people we know
    - Have simple places to live downtown – not all lofts
    - Historic commission doesn't have any power
    - Walkable community
    - We need to preserve our historical buildings
    - Limited downtown opportunities
    - People don't see what the downtown is now

- Promotion of Battle Creek as a livable community
  - Community is the city you live in. Your neighborhood is not your community
  - More awareness of activities and events – if people would read, they would learn. Need better marketing of ourselves
  - The videos are good but can't override perception. Newspaper played up downtown as bad. 5 years of negativity. Takes a lot of marketing to change perception.
  - Perception that Battle Creek is a dangerous city
  - Battle Creek needs a marketing plan
  - We need to show some community pride
  - Shopper gives free information about our community – could be better organized. Not have to go through whole paper
  - Promote a common method for getting information out – Facebook is not the total answer, where do we go to find out what is going on quickly?
  - Need sources of news and information that is local news and not a lot of AP news
  
- 4. How do the issues we're talking about affect you personally?
  - Want to have things to do, want to find things here
  - People want others to know we have things to do
  - Frustration – want to be loyal to BC but lack of restaurants on all sides of BC, not open enough hours, lack better restaurants, I can bring friends and family to a nice place but what about on Sunday? We have to support them.
  - Need help for businesses
  - City is difficult to start businesses – city rules and restrictions, need variances to encourage businesses, too many obstacles with code department, discourages people from investing and remodeling
  - Limited sense of community = a privileged sense of apathy (I can choose to see what's happening in the larger community because that's not my community)
  - Question is...how can we keep people here?
  
- 5. When you think about these things, how do you feel about what's going on?
  - General feeling of pride but we need a river walk and restaurants
  - Raft race – what happened? Duct tape contest
  - Movie downtown – turn off water
  - Many people live here because of jobs. Concern is to get new people to want to be here
  - Downtown corridor – Lakeview is downtown, Capital Ave. doesn't look like it is a "pride" street

6. What do you think is keeping us from making the progress we want?
  - No answer to the question of how do we keep people here in the community
  - Pride in community
  - Giving opportunities to promote future for kids
  - Determination of sections of downtown area with no money or energy being committed to making changes in those areas – “it looks like a war zone down there”
  - The downtown area is not a place that welcomes visitors to the community – the impression of outsiders does not help the image of the community
  - People follow Capital from highway
  - People go to two downtown hotels not knowing what they are like
  - Nothing exists to draw people to want to be or stay downtown
  - Noticing foreclosed houses, empty buildings, poorly kept businesses
  - Take down some of the buildings
  - Kids need to feel good about where they are and what they are doing
  - Young professionals need places to go – especially restaurants
  - Where is my right to have a clean neighborhood?
  - No sustainability when it comes to projects
  
7. When you think about what we’ve talked about, what are the kinds of things that could be done that would make a difference?
  - Marketing
  - Sustainability – city doesn’t have funds to keep projects going
  - Positive words aren’t being shared
  - Activities that vary
  - Creating awareness to answer the question “do people notice infrastructure? Cleanliness? Or not see blight?”
  - Kids need chances to get ahead to learn job skills – need to get hired
  - For sale signs are on nice houses – they can afford to move, need to fight to fix neighborhoods, not just leave
  - If we don’t stop bleeding good residences, we are going to lose the quality, loyal residents who are tired of fighting with city for neighborhoods (trash, paint off, etc.
  - Right to have a decent neighborhood – one maintains, others don’t
  - Conversations with the City on keeping up the infrastructure – city’s infrastructure is poor (telephone poles)
  - Variety of options for people to go from one place to another
  - A willingness for someone to try something different (ex. On Deck and Malia’s)
  - Hitting home with kids the idea of community pride

- Need to stop turning a “blind eye” to things... address issues when they are small so they don’t get out of hand
  - Mixture of code compliance and reasonableness when it comes to buildings, properties, etc.
  - Need partnerships with people who want to make change - pull 250-300 people together to work together
  - City looks at people who continue to call as complainers
8. Thinking back over the conversation what groups or individuals would you trust to take action on these things?
- N/A
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 tonight were starting to happen?
- N/A
10. Now that we’ve talked about this issue a bit, what questions do you have about it?
- N/A