

1. What kind of community do you want?
 - Family friendly
 - Progressive
 - Young family friendly
 - No negativity in community
 - People who think/speak positively about community
 - Productive in community
 - Intact community
 - Safe for kids and everyone
 - Crime fighting
 - Good health care
 - Things to do – more lively
 - Economic stability
 - Better mall
 - Skate park
 - Places for younger people to hang out
 - More children developing skills to make a difference in the community to live and stay in the community
 - Early education for kids
 - Culture of learning

2. Given what we just said, what are the 2-3 most important issues or concerns when it comes to the community?
 - People who work in the community should live here - do people work here and not live here because of lack of housing or do people live and not work here because of lack of jobs?
 - Need to think more positively and talk more positively about the community
 - Early childhood education – children not being welcomed, children babysat by media, not enough physical movement
 - Culture of learning
 - Too many electronics and not enough community
 - Family unit lacking
 - Lack of culture
 - Good schools

3. What concerns do you have about this issue? Why?
 - Crime rates
 - Lack of family units
 - Building stronger families

- Lack of money is a worry – lack of jobs, family fighting, people can't pay the rent and get food, daycare costs too much money (lack of quality daycare, end of day you break even so what's the point of getting a job?)
4. How do the issues we're talking about affect you personally?
- Depressing due to lack of high school grads
 - Lack of motivation by students
 - People blame economy – not the case
 - Since 10th grade has had a positive education but at a young age didn't have home education – thinks early education is important
 - The community needs more opportunities across the whole community
 - Family in trouble = community in trouble
 - Company in community brings in outside people and doesn't hire within community which doesn't help keep the community healthy
 - People need one good job and people should be treated equally
 - Lack of support for community – can't paddle your boat alone
 - Project 20/20 important due to the fact they are making connections
 - Hasn't had issues with access to healthcare or preschool but has been exposed to people who can't find those things
5. When you think about these things, how do you feel about what's going on?
- Depressed
 - Lack of motivation in the community
 - Positive because jobs are coming in
 - I feel like there isn't a thing to do for youth
 - Might move or stay after grad
 - Feel like corporations are doing negative things
6. What do you think is keeping us from making the progress we want?
- Economy – recession decrease in income
 - Increased unemployment
 - Middle class is missing in BC – class division is higher, parts of town are abandoned
 - Lack of good paying jobs through whole community – Kellogg and Post are lacking in providing good jobs
 - People who have the least, give the most
 - Manufacturing jobs are lacking
 - Lack of family unit
 - There are still jobs coming in but people still think negatively of BC
 - Long-term unemployment – 30 years ago Kellogg and Post went down so we are now dealing with generations of people on unemployment

- Crime rate
 - Low income
 - People use system to meet their needs
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?
- Connect people to resources we do have
 - Educate people about what community offers
 - Electing more Democrats (haha)
 - Speak more positively about what we have
 - Connect and inform community
 - More businesses bring in jobs – Kellogg, TRMI, Post
 - Need to support schools – teaching assistants, get family involved, provide text books
 - Need skilled workers – stronger secondary education, get people to pass drug tests (huge issue in Fort)
 - Media coverage is so negative especially TV – bad news and no positives being told, pay attention to what you hear and see, TV shows what public wants
 - Shopper is very positive
 - Alternatives of Battle Creek – focus on fathers of unplanned pregnancy, mother support, early childhood development, can't get info in shopper because of lack of money
 - Good leaders in community are needed
 - Important to be out and talking in community
 - Leaders need to go out and listen to the community
8. Thinking back over the conversation what groups or individuals would you trust to take action on these things?
- Early childhood connections
 - BCU
 - Little trust in any institution
 - Nonprofit community
 - Charitable Union
 - United Way
 - NPA
 - Gov't doesn't have what it takes to take the lead
 - City Commission
 - Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP)
 - Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition
 - JONAH
 - KCC – RMTC (for job training)
 - Myself

- Faith based (St. Thomas, St. Phil, Cross Point, Second Baptist, First United Methodist, Trinity, First Congregational, Macedonia)
 - Women's Co-op
 - Haven
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?
- If conversations continue we are moving, if there is not action it's pointless
 - See more growth in early childhood
 - Organization that helped community fix homes and yards (beautification projects)
 - We are a changing community with tons to be proud of – we need more positives about where we live
 - Continue positivity in in the community
 - Safety in downtown – it is safe and people need to know (Kellogg didn't help by having a cop car sit outside K2)
 - Downtown is safe and growing – looks great!
 - Have to get rid of perceptions of BC and downtown
 - We will know we have changed where they is an ice cream shop
 - When Math & Science Center opens things will change
10. Now that we've talked about this issue a bit, what questions do you have about it?
- Reason for cop car at K2
 - How do you get the positive info out to community? (answers – talk to each other in the community face to face)
 - Perception can't face talking – won't improve until reality does