

Richfield 2020 Visioning Project Feedback Education and Life-Long Learning

FEEDBACK FROM FORUM ATTENDEES

Maximize contact/relations with Hennepin County Library - perhaps shuttle to apartments or elderly housing.

Home/housing maintenance classes at night for new residents. Might prevent work without permits.

Minimize - layer upon layer of extra grief. Counselors and ESL that will overburden taxpayers.

What exists now & natural program growth is top shelf.

Very much would like to add a city-wide book reading project -- e.g. the way the city of Chicago decided to read To Kill a Mockingbird to foster a city unity.

I like the ideas of studio spaces, active participation and adult activities like a city band.

The partnership possible with religious institutions is hardly noticeable. The churches can make an impact on the development of the educational level of youth. Tutoring of students - stimulating parents to read in their home - use words - take an interest in their children's education - set boundaries - support the teachers.

Stress the educational stimulus that that comes from a fine arts community emphasis.

The quality of K-12 education in Richfield will be the number one issue for keeping us here with our two pre-school aged kids.

Right now we are using Bernie's Montessori on 66th Street and love it!

We're trying community swim classes for the first time this winter.

Recently, we've enjoyed many of the early childhood & family development classes offered.

How does private and home schooling impact our public school financial picture?

I think we need to draw from our diverse cultures to strengthen and expand what we know. Schools are basic to living in a community. They are crucial to retaining property values. They attract people to communities and provide a portion of our fine arts.

Promoting K-12 education quality by insuring "the kind of housing available in Richfield will attract families" deserves consideration of the characteristics of such housing and

an accounting method to assure existing stock is not depleted.

Goal #1 strategy #1: This is ironic. The city has allowed the Best Buy project in the area of 3 schools. Who would believe that future city planning will be any different? They managed to rationalize away the traffic of 7,500 employees. I would suggest that any redevelopment that includes any educational facilities in the area be put to a vote. "Mitigation" is not satisfactory.

Goal #2: Okay

Goal #3: Okay – expand programs and hours, but not facilities.

Goal #4: Okay

TABLE FACILITATOR FEEDBACK

RECORDER/SPOKESPERSON FEEDBACK

- Educational Process - teachers are excessively challenged because fundamental communication isn't happening in the home. Need reference to families and faith organizations to be intricately involved in the communities.
 - E.g., tutoring
 - Churches have not been invited.
 - There is no overriding structure oriented to getting everyone involved in the process of education and learning.
 - However committee felt that the City can only facilitate a supportive environment - but responsibility lies with the school - divided out by legal structure - so this would have to come from school not the City.
 - We need to make room for those who want to give and help in educational areas.
 - Fine arts including music and art. Was addressed by recommending a fine arts council. E.g., Minnetonka Village has extensive offerings in musical areas. Note Richfield used to have a civic orchestra.
 - What do participants do to maintain education and challenge mind - multiple answers, most responded with reading, work-presented training and seminars.
-
- Discussed offerings by Community Ed and Community Center.
 - Would like short term classes
 - For working people could take classes if more were offered in the evening.
 - Fine Arts Commission would involve active participation, studio space could be

available, artist in residence - more participatory, adult band or orchestra.

- Libraries - internet, increased need for computers
- Community planning evaluate the effect of changes and now they affect K-12, schools and community have reciprocal effects in each other - discussed how Best Buy may help to attract new families by some contributions to funding.

- Why is this important: Planning is important.
- Process: "I am going to raise my children here." "I am going to spend the rest of my life here." This is something we did together." "The City is not the elected officials - it is the citizens."