

SENIOR CENTER COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

ASPIRATIONS

- Shopping choices – “big box
- More restaurants – not fast food
- Easy to navigate shopping – friendly personnel
- Thinking – more open to global ideas
- More businesses senior oriented
- Reasonable housing/business costs
- Spend money locally
- More employment opportunities with a living wage – not minimum
- Affordable housing for people with disabilities
- Mental health resource awareness
- More respect for healthcare workers and emergency personnel
- Take care of our own
- As much attention to seniors as youth (funding, etc)
- Fewer isolated people
- Supported teacher/education system
- A community fully aware of resources – pooled resource clearinghouse

CHALLENGES

- Main Street reasonable rents /costs
- Affordable childcare
- Generational differences about work
- Overworked healthcare, emergency personnel
- Too many hoops to jump through to get help, start a business, etc
- Transportation to essential services
- (Shopping) that is affordable
- Education/teachers underfunded
- Don't use volunteers efficiently

NEED TO CHANGE

- Increase wages
- Willingness to volunteer
- Attitudes toward the common good
- Property valuations more fair
- Younger folks on governmental boards (combination of younger and older)

I WISH THE LIBRARY...

- “Drew in kids who need it”
- American flag where it can be seen – the flag is not visible currently
- Be the clearing house for opportunity
 - Volunteer opportunities
 - Programs
 - Government meetings
 - Art groups
- Would clean up cluttered entrance (only one voice on this one)
- COFFEE
- Collaborate with the dementia to be become a dementia friendly community

THE LIBRARY CAN NEVER GET RID OF

- Books
- DVDs
- Programs for children and teens
- Exhibit room
- Lunch & Learn
- Computers
- Downtown location
- OWLS – collaboration and sharing with other libraries
- Wi-Fi



We met with members of the Waupaca Senior Center in their Craft Room. A dozen attendees were eager to share their ideas with the planning team. The participants wanted to know how and with whom their feedback would be shared. They expressed concern that the community had a pool of volunteers who are not being used efficiently. They wanted more shopping options including a “big box” store and more sit down restaurants. The seniors wanted people to spend their money locally and to treat law enforcement officers and health care professionals with respect. They were concerned for their own demographic as well as working people trying to make ends meet. Their needs included transportation to essential services, affordable housing .