

## **SUMNER UNIVERSITY 2009**

### **"WHAT MAKES SUMNER A GREAT PLACE"**

#### **Group #1 – John Galle, Facilitator**

##### **What does the community do well?**

1. Sumner University
2. Keeping us informed (newsletter)
3. Concerts in the park
4. Quiet streets to walk on
5. Commissions: Arts, Forestry, Planning, Design ... citizen involvement
6. Parades, community events, bridge lighting
7. Strong feeling of community
8. Courteous drivers
9. Ease of getting around
10. Slow pace
11. City planning
12. Response POLICE DEPT!!
13. Downtown shopping events
14. Sounder!!
15. Government officials approachable
16. Alleys and front porches – similar to Creekside Development

##### **What could we do better? (In order of ranking)**

1. Increased parking near Sounder
  - a. Parking garage
2. Better retail mix in downtown
3. Need another grocery store in downtown – within walking distance
4. Visibility at Thompson/Alder
5. Traffic light at Parker/Main
6. Garbage on east side of Fred Meyers
7. Left turn needed at Main/166<sup>th</sup>
8. No SK8 boarding signs downtown
9. Improve sidewalks – repair/new
10. Stop cutting down old trees
11. Planter island at 160<sup>th</sup> and 64<sup>th</sup> is empty

##### **What are the solutions?**

1. Better retail mix/downtown grocery store
  - a. Encourage citizens to shop downtown
  - b. Attract knitting, yarn store – variety stores
  - c. Not national chains
  - d. Increase parking
  - e. Get Trader Joe's type store
  - f. Movie theater (closest is in Bonney Lake)
2. Thompson/Alder Streets Visibility
  - a. Cut tree down
  - b. Increase parking for Sounder – get cars off street

## **Group #2 – Ryan Windish, Facilitator**

### **What does the community do well?**

1. Communicates well
  - a. Newsletter – website – mailed notices
2. Design elements of new development
3. Parades
4. Events – music
5. PAC – plays at High School
  - a. Manestage Theater
6. Banners over street – good advance notice
7. Flower baskets
8. Food bank and senior support
9. Senior Center
10. Community Gardens
11. Flag displays in downtown
  - a. Need to do this again
12. Police and fire are great and supportive
13. Schools are good
14. Walkable/safe
15. Small town friendly
16. Parks

### **What could we do better? (In order of ranking)**

1. QFC – what can we do?
2. Need light at Parker and Main
3. Need 24/hr restaurant
4. Light at Fryar and Main
5. Increase parking at train station
6. Homeless shelter
7. Consider raising property taxes

### **What are potential solutions?**

1. QFC
  - a. City marketing
  - b. YMCA
2. Light at Parker and Main
  - a. Contact Council
  - b. Contact Staff
  - c. Crosswalk lights would be great – how much?
3. 24 hr restaurant
  - a. 24<sup>th</sup> Street/SR167?
  - b. Contact hotel developer

## **Group #3 – Eric Mendenhall**

### **What does the community do well?**

1. Music in the park
2. Policing
3. Walkability
4. Events (parades, festivals, etc.)
5. Skate park (safe environment)
6. Planning

7. Neighborhood preservation
8. Responsiveness from city staff and officials
9. Real downtown
10. Good jobs and housing balance
11. Attention to new development design
12. Good Council
13. Friendly
14. History
15. Murals and artwork

**What could we do better? (in order or ranking)**

1. More recreational facilities (YMCA/Community Center)
2. Resolve parking garage vs. no parking garage
3. More sources of revenue
4. More flexibility for more density in certain areas of town
5. Find user for old QFC
6. More progressive downtown - no more banks
7. Allow truck stops/staging

**What are potential solutions?**

1. More recreational facilities (YMCA/Community Center)
  - a. Initiate talks with YMCA, Boys & Girls Club
  - b. City build a community center (C.C.)
  - c. Private entity builds a C.C.
  - d. Invoice public
  - e. Take C.C. levy to voters
  - f. Have an outdoor dance as part of C.C. and possible fund raiser
  - g. Obama bucks?
2. Resolve parking garage vs. no parking garage
  - a. Stop talking, just do it
  - b. Pursue progressive design
  - c. Paid parking to help costs

**Group #5 - Carmen Palmer**

**What does the community do well?**

1. Active downtown community
2. Kept small town traditions
3. Accessible local government
4. Wonderful parks
5. Strong arts – concerts in the park
6. Special nights in town – i.e. wine walks
7. City supports school district – work together
8. City staff involved in community – share resources
9. City communications – newsletter
10. Everyone takes pride in community
11. Bridge lighting and fireworks
12. Programs of Summer Downtown Assoc.
13. Parades – especially Homecoming Parade
14. Great police force
15. Known for trees – Tree City
16. Sidewalks – walking around town
17. Friendly and courteous

## 18. Community Garden

### **What could we do better? (In order of ranking)**

1. Unified paths and trails
2. Transit-related parking
3. Support farmers better
4. Light at Parker and Main
5. Fix pot-holes especially Elm, 162<sup>nd</sup> East., East Valley
6. Need more restaurants open in evenings
7. No more apartment buildings
8. Wider variety of light commercial
9. Another grocery store
10. More activities for kids

### **What are potential solutions?**

1. Trails
  - a. .\$\$
2. Transit Parking
  - a. North end stop?
  - b. Shaw Road?
  - c. Wonderful asset – how to deal with parking
  - d. More services right next to transit