

Fairfield Community Review

June 24-25, 2015



Fairfield Community Review Report

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The Idaho Community Review Program is a collaboration of federal, state, tribal, and local governments along with the private sector.

It is coordinated by the Idaho Rural Partnership.



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Other Participating Organizations

Idaho Department of Labor Idaho Commission on the Arts Southern Idaho Rural Development Idaho Walk Bike Alliance Horrocks Engineers

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The success of the Fairfield Community Review is due to the many individuals who generously shared their time, opinions, and knowledge by serving on the home team, completing a survey, or participating in a listening session or other conversation with the visiting team.

The visiting team extends special thanks to Home Team Coordinator Megan Stelma with the City of Fairfield. We also appreciate the time and efforts of home team focus area leaders Scott Marolf (Economic Development), J.L. Staley (Roads and Infrastructure), and Dwight Butlin (Arts, Historic, and Recreation Resources) and Sara Donkersloot (Listening Session Coordination).

Finally, the visiting team thanks the organizations, businesses, and individuals below for their contributions of support, time, and information to this project.

Camas County Board of County Commissioners Soldier Mountain Ski Area Camas County Public Library Camas County Senior and Community Center Camas County School District #121 Senator Michelle Stennett Representative Steven Miller Representative Donna Pence Soldier Creek Brewing Company J & J Café Jim Dandy's Pizza Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Mickey Dalin Kathy Mennanga Linda Thomas Hugh and Afton Koonce Weekly Beaver Camas Courier

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PART I EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Idaho Rural Partnership received a community review application from the City of Fairfield in February 2014. This application is found in Appendix A. Planning for the community review formally began in May 2015 and the review itself was conducted June 24-25, 2015.

The Fairfield Community Review concentrated on the three focus areas selected by the community: (1) Economic Development, (2) Roads and Infrastructure, and (3) Arts, Historic, and Recreation Resources. As described in this report, the community requested that specific topics be included within each focus area. In addition to a series of meetings and site visits related to these focus areas, the community review also included a survey mailed to all Camas County households and a series of community listening sessions with selected stakeholder groups. Summaries of the community listening sessions and the opportunities for each focus area identified by the visiting team are found below.

Summary of Community Comments and Concerns

The following comments and concerns were raised frequently by residents and leaders of Fairfield and Camas County in various meetings and conversations that took place before and during the community review.

- Most residents do not want Fairfield to become a bedroom community, where a large
 percentage of the workforce commutes to jobs in Blaine County. There is a sense that
 residents who work outside of Camas County are less likely to be involved in the
 community as volunteers, role models, and leaders.
- Likewise, residents are concerned that businesses, services, and talented people could be lost if the community's population declines.
- Community leaders want to see available vacant commercial and industrial buildings and unbuilt commercial and light industrial properties re-used and developed. This desire includes, for example, the downtown area, agricultural facilities, and the industrial park.
- Interest in attracting visitors as a way to support and increase businesses is strong.
 There is a frequently state perception in the community than many people traveling in the area pass by Fairfield, not realizing there's an actual community with appealing amenities to explore.
- People in Fairfield and Camas County express a lot of pride in the area's agricultural heritage and related economic opportunities and values.
- Fairfield residents spoke frequently about a desire to see the downtown and residential properties maintained in good condition. Clearly, people want a welcoming, well-kept community they can be proud of.
- A large number of residents and community leaders express interest in and support for improvements that make biking and walking safer and more enjoyable. Similarly, many people would like to see more of the local streets paved to reduce mud in the spring and fall and dust in the summer months.

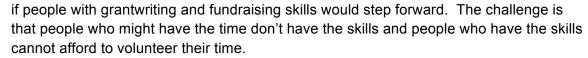
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- Community members told the visiting team that Fairfield was a great place to live. The
 area around Fairfield had amazing natural assets and the people were kind and friendly
 and always willing to help those in need. Residents want to enhance this sense of
 community in Fairfield. Residents expressed interest in having more spaces and more
 community organized events to build an even stronger sense of community.
- The visiting team frequently heard that housing is a significant concern. In the contrast to the recession that began in 2008, very few homes were available for rent or purchase at the time of the community review. When housing does become available, they are often smaller, older homes that need a lot of work.
- Whether it's hunting, fishing, four-wheeling, snowmobiling, golfing, camping, birding, or
 other activity, Fairfield residents enjoy recreation opportunities provided by nearby
 natural areas. There is also broad recognition that people from the Magic Valley,
 Treasure Valley, and Blaine County come to the Fairfield area to enjoy these same
- Artist and arts supporters we talked with during the community review are looking to incorporate the arts and arts education into community events, public properties, and school activities in ways that can be sustained.

opportunities.

 Community leaders expressed concern that Fairfield's smaller size means that, relatively to a larger city, there are a fewer number of people who regularly volunteer and serve as leaders. For example, various community

development projects could move forward





Community listening sessions were held with the home team and six other stakeholder groups. These focus group-like sessions are described in detail beginning on page XXX. In summary, many residents of Fairfield told us they do NOT want a future that includes (in no particular order):

- Blight and neglected properties
- Sidewalks and streets in poor condition
- Empty buildings
- Business closures
- Stagnant or declining population
- · Crime and substance abuse
- National chain stores

In contrast, when asked what they do want to see in the future, listening session participants gave us these responses most often (in no particular order):

- · Growth that respects and compliments the small town character of Fairfield
- Better roads and walking/biking paths
- Improved internet/broadband service
- Sustainable influx of people who want to pitch in and help improve Fairfield
- Increased enrollment at the school
- Retain existing business and recruit new ones to the community
- · More jobs
- Attractive, maintained properties (through, for example, code enforcement)

Summary of Opportunity Areas Identified by the Visiting Team

The visiting team identified the following opportunity areas within each of the three selected focus areas. Specific recommendations under each opportunity area are found in Part IV of this report.

Economic Development

Opportunity Area 1: Develop today's workforce and support tomorrow's entreprenuers.

Opportunity Area 2: Retain and expand your existing businesses – focusing on your most significant engines: agriculture and manufacturing

Opportunity Area 3: Increase the number of visitors to Fairfield and the Camas Prairie.

Opportunity Area 4: Community revitalization and image.

Roads and Infrastructure

Opportunity Area 1: Prioritize improvements on Soldier Road and around downtown Fairfield.

Opportunity Area 2: Making connections

Opportunity Area 3: Improve other types of community infrastructure, including housing, electrical service capacity, broadband, and Internet service.

Opportunity Area 4: Plans and ordinances.

Arts, Historic, and Recreation Resources

Opportunity Area 1: Continue to improve existing recreational facilities in and adjacent to town that are important venues for community events.

Opportunity Area 2: Develop key recreational assets in outlying areas.

Opportunity Area 3: Develop the Camas Prairie Heritage project as a way to focus historic preservation, community revitalization, and tourism marketing efforts.

PART II BACKGROUND & OVERVIEW

Description of the Idaho Community Review Program

The Idaho Community Review Program provides observations, recommendations, and available resources to Idaho communities with populations less than 10,000. Idaho communities participate in the program to understand how they might better approach long-standing and emerging issues and opportunities related to community and economic development.

For information about the Idaho Rural Partnership and Idaho Community Review program, go to http://www.irp.idaho.gov/. We also encourage community leaders and residents to "Like" us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/IdahoCommunityReview.

Community leaders initiate a review by assembling a "Home Team" and selecting three subject areas they would like to be the focus of the review. These "focus areas" become the basis for the creation of the "Visiting Team", a group of 10-18 community and economic development professionals employed by public agencies, nonprofit organizations, and private businesses



across Idaho. Appendix B contains biographies and contact information for the Fairfield Community Review Visiting Team. The process also includes community listening sessions, which are open-ended, focus group-like discussions with key stakeholder groups.

The Visiting Team spent three days in Fairfield to learn about issues and opportunities through tours, meetings, listening sessions, and interviews. Participation was not limited to City of Fairfield residents. Leaders, residents, and business owners from across Camas

County had significant interaction with the Visiting Team in recognition that the "community" extends far beyond the Fairfield city limits. The Fairfield Community Review concluded on the evening of the second day with a public presentation of preliminary opportunities, recommendations, and resources identified by the Visiting Team.

The program cannot instantly resolve all issues, but the 35 communities that have benefited in the program since 2000 have evaluated it as an invigorating, validating, and unifying experience. Many communities have used community review recommendations to help obtain funding for infrastructure, downtown revitalization, and other projects. Community Reviews also provide invaluable networking opportunities, setting the stage for future resource referrals and follow-up prioritizing and project development.

Coordinated by the Idaho Rural Partnership, the Fairfield Community Review was a collaborative project of IRP member organizations and agencies, the City of Fairfield, Camas County, Region IV Development Association, Inc., and USDA–Rural Development. Additional local funding partners and other supporting agencies and organizations are identified in the front of this report.

Purpose, Use, and Format of this Report

This report is presented to the residents and leaders of Fairfield and Camas County. The Visiting Team hopes it will initiate and focus community dialogue, follow-up action planning, and project development. We will also consider this report successful if it results in increased citizen participation and more effective coordination and collaboration within and between government entities and private sector stakeholders.

Part III of this report contains a summary of the Community Listening Sessions. Part IV identifies the community comments and concerns, opportunity areas, recommendations, and resources for each of the three focus areas selected by the community, as described below.

Community Comments and Concerns

The Visiting Team uses this section to reflect what we heard from community residents and leaders in the context of each focus area. We often find people will express ideas and perceptions to us, as neutral outsiders, that they may be less inclined to share directly with local community leaders.

Opportunity Areas

Opportunity areas are the three or four areas identified for special attention by the Visiting Team. These opportunities are developed for each focus area using all community input gathered before and during the Review.

Recommendations

Each opportunity area includes multiple recommendations or strategies offered by the Visiting Team. Some recommendations involve supporting, improving, or redirecting existing efforts by the community. Other recommendations suggest completely new initiatives.

This report intentionally does not prioritize the Visiting Team's opportunity areas and recommendations. The Visiting Team strongly believes this is more appropriately done by the community as follow-up to the Review.

Resources

We list resources in hopes they will help the community pursue the recommendations. Resources include potential funding, sources of technical assistance, publications, and successful examples from other communities.

A Fourth Focus Area

In Part V, the Visiting Team offers additional opportunities, recommendations, and resources under a fourth focus area: Civic Life and Community Involvement.

Pre-Review Planning and Training

The City of Fairfield submitted a Community Review application to the Idaho Rural Partnership in the spring of 2014. This application is found in Appendix B. The IRP Community Review Adhoc Planning Committee and Fairfield Home Team leaders began weekly conference calls in April 2015 to prepare for the Community Review. Clarifying the Review's focus areas and developing a pre-review community survey of Fairfield and Camas County households were at the top of the group's list of priorities.

The Fairfield Community Review addressed three focus areas. As described under *Community Expectations and Identification of Focus Areas*, these focus areas included:

- Economic Development
- Roads and Infrastructure
- · Arts, Historic, and Recreation Resources

Visiting Team members also conducted a series of interviews with specific stakeholder groups. These "Community Listening Sessions" are described beginning on page XXX.

Home Team Training

On Monday, May 18, 2015, available Visiting and Home Team members met at the Camas County Senior Center for a two-hour training and orientation session. Earlier that day, Home Team representatives Erik Kingston and Jon Barrett conducted a Listening Session with a group of approximately 12 students at Camas County High School.

Approximately 15 people attended the training/orientation session. This meeting allowed participating Home Team members to become more familiar with the purpose of the Community Review, discuss the three focus areas, talk about the proposed schedule, and identify remaining tasks.

Monetary Value and Costs Paid by the City of Fairfield

The in-kind value of the Fairfield Community Review calculated by the Idaho Rural Partnership is \$43,168. Imagine the cost of hiring 13 professionals in land use planning, transportation, housing, civil engineering, economic development, tourism, cultural resources, arts, communication, grant funding, and other fields of expertise for two 14-hour workdays. Now add in the cost of preparation, travel, follow-up, and report production. These costs are generously covered through donations by participating agencies, organizations, and businesses and are supplemented with private sector donations. We encourage the community to take advantage

of opportunities to use the dollar value of the community review as in-kind match when submitting future funding requests.

Recent Community and Economic Development Efforts

Fairfield and Camas County community leaders and residents have many reasons to be proud of recent and ongoing community and economic development efforts. These efforts consist of capital improvement projects, organizational development efforts, and initiatives related to planning or policy. These accomplishments, in part, have helped facilitate the creation and/or expansion of several businesses in the recent past. These accomplishments are described in both community review applications and were discussed during the review itself. The following summary is not intended to be all-inclusive.

Recent and Ongoing Capital Projects

- New pathway and street trees along the <u>east</u> side of Soldier Road between Spruce Avenue and Garnet Avenue
- New pathway, street trees, streetlights, and berm along the <u>west</u> side of Soldier Road between Spruce Avenue and Garnet Avenue
- Several improvements at 4H Park, including:
 - · New bandshell/performing arts stage
 - Ice rink
 - · Annual water fun day event
 - · New playground equipment
 - · New sign and flagpole
 - · New trees
- Completion of phase 1, rodeo arena project
- New electronic reader board at Camas County School
- Update of water and sewer lines and extension of lines to the light industrial zone district in southwest Fairfield
- New water well and water tank

Planning, Policy, Design, and Organizational Development Initiatives

- Fairfield Transportation Plan (2011)
- Community Revitalization Plan (2013)
- Sidewalk and Lighting Implementation Plan (2014)
- Planning for new "Welcome to Fairfield" sign
- Formation of Soldier Mountain Recreation Association 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization to take ownership of and oversee operation of Soldier Mountain Ski Resort
- New City of Fairfield website
- Explored membership in Southern Idaho Economic Development Organization
- Applied for technical assistance through the Citizen's Institute on Rural Design (unsuccessful)
- Developed new sign ordinance
- · Initiated new standards for outdoor lighting

Community Expectations and Identification of Focus Areas

As described previously, Community Reviews concentrate on three subjects or "focus" areas identified by the Home Team. The focus areas are identified and described on the Community Review application submitted by the City of Fairfield (Appendix A). They were also discussed in-depth between Visiting and Home Team leaders in the months and weeks leading up to the review and involved a review of the opportunities and action items found in the City of Fairfield Community Revitalization Plan completed in August 2013.

The following summary of community desires and needs by focus area were used to create the community review's detailed agenda. See the "Community Comments and Concerns" section for each focus area in Part IV of this report for a summary of what we heard from leaders and residents during the community review.

Economic Development

Broadly defined as the development of new jobs through the creation, expansion, and recruitment of businesses, economic development is a required focus area for all community reviews.

Historically, most employment in Fairfield was directly or indirectly centered on farming, ranching, logging, and mining.

Jobs in these fields still exist, but to a lesser degree than in the past. A large number of jobs are in manufacturing, education, and government services.

Increasingly, Fairfield and Camas County workers are commuting to Blaine County and other nearby communities for jobs in tourism, services, retail, construction, and other sectors. Home Team leaders reported the number of people commuting went down and the unemployment rate went



up during the Great Recession period from (approximately) 2008-2011. This observation is supported by information provided by the Idaho Departments of Labor and Commerce.

Community leaders now estimate the percentage of workers commuting to Blaine County is at or nearly at pre-Recession levels (35%-45% of the workforce). Fairfield has become perceived by some as a bedroom community where an increasing number of people sleep, but don't work or recreate. The community would like to see economic development efforts that make it possible for more residents to have their homes *and* jobs in Camas County. With this context in mind, Fairfield Home Team leaders asked the Visiting Team to explore the following topics and questions within the Economic Development focus area:

- How can the community market available land and buildings businesses need in order to relocate to Fairfield, including properties at the existing industrial park?
- An inventory of existing vacant commercial properties and buildings has been initiated but not completed.
- How can we better support the retention and expansion of existing businesses? This will help achieve the goal of making it possible for young people to stay in or return to Fairfield, if they choose.
- What kinds of new businesses are most likely to thrive in small communities like Fairfield?
- The community seeks to identify and develop tourism-related opportunities. What services and improvements would attract more visitors? What can the community do to encourage tourists to turn off Highway 20 and come into town?
- There is currently little to no signage directing people to the downtown area.
- There has been some planning to relocate and re-build the existing "Welcome to Fairfield" community entrance sign.
- There has been some discussion about developing a "theme" for the downtown area.
- How can Fairfield improve the appearance and condition of downtown buildings?
- Existing electrical service capacity is seen as a limitation that could make it prohibitively expensive for potential new industrial employers to locate in Fairfield and/or Camas County.
- Broadband coverage is also limited.

Roads and Infrastructure

Like many rural communities, Fairfield is looking for ways to fund continued maintenance and improvement of local streets and County roads. Many of the existing streets are not paved and, consequently, are muddy in the spring and dusty in the summer. The City was built in a low-lying, swampy area, possibly making street paving impractical.

The Home Team also asked the Visiting Team for ideas that would increase opportunities for safe walking and biking. The team expressed a desire for the visiting professionals to offer feedback on several ideas currently being discussed by the community. Other specific topics and questions related to roads and other infrastructure the Home Team asked the Visiting Team to address through the community review included the following:

- How to fund proposed and existing sidewalks construction/re-construction. Sidewalks in downtown area are in generally poor condition. Accessibility is an issue in some locations.
- Looking for funds to replace old, rusted out culverts to improve storm drainage.
- Funding for additional street lamps to illuminate the sidewalks on Soldier Road. It is thought additional street lighting will help identify the downtown and draw visitors off of Highway 20.
- Interest in creating pedestrian/bike paths to connect existing and planned destinations such as Kid Pond and Manmade recreation area.

- Are there other improvements (and related resources) the City should pursue at or near the intersection of Highway 20 and Soldier Road, and extending north along Soldier Road?
- Significant water and sewer projects have been completed in recent years and/or are in the process of being completed. Inflow and infiltration is still an issue with the older sections of the sewer collection system.
- The City does not have a stormwater drainage system.
- There is no public transportation service. The Senior Center does not have a van or shuttle bus. Should such services be pursued?
- What can or should the City do to improve the airport?

Arts, Historic, and Recreation Resources

In its community review application, the City of Fairfield asked the Visiting Team to discuss and respond to several topics related to the Arts, Historic, and Recreation Resources. Many of these expectations focus on the design of proposed facilities, funding for planned improvements, and increasing participation (by both residents and visitors) in related projects and community events. The Home Team specifically asked the Visiting Team for input on the following subjects and questions:

- How can the community increase the size of events (e.g. rodeo, Camas Days) or create new large events by engaging more residents and visitors, especially given a limited number of hotel rooms?
- Projects related to the arts, historic preservation, and recreation currently seeking funding include:
 - · Painting the train depot
 - Historic information posted along proposed walking path from Highway 20 to downtown
 - · Mining exhibit.
- How can we most effectively preserve and interpret Camas County's noteworthy history and connect these efforts to economic development-related goals?
- Soldier Mountain Ski Resort and Solider Mountain Ranch are significant assets. What improvements would increase their economic impact? How can public and private stakeholders better coordinate efforts and resources?
- What can the community do to develop Centennial Marsh as a significant recreation attraction?
- Popular recreational activities in the area include mountain biking, motorcycle riding, ATV riding, snowmobiling, camping, hunting, and fishing. What can we do to improve and better market these opportunities?
- The temporary ice rink created in the park the past several years has proven to be popular, with people coming from outside Camas County to skate. Are there opportunities to develop this attraction for both residents and visitors?
- What can the community do to better support the arts and local artists/artisans? Should the arts committee that completed the bandshell project be re-formed? Many artists in

- the area do not live in Fairfield. How can the community include, support, and build mutually beneficial relationships with them?
- The community is interested in the Visiting Team's feedback on preliminary plans to develop Kid Pond and the Manmade recreation area. What funding resources are available to help the community develop these assets?

Other Community and Economic Development Issues

Other issues of concern that came up in early conversations with Home Team leaders do not easily fit into the three focus areas described. These issues are summarized as follows:

- Housing supply and variety are issues. Only three rental houses were available at the time of the community review. In contrast, 50 houses were empty a year ago. Many of them were sold and taken off the rental market.
- Looking to increase funding opportunities for local nonprofit organizations. Nonprofit leaders could develop their grantwriting skills and put them to use pursuing grants, but most people cannot afford to volunteer more of their time.
- What can the community do to increase the number of Fairfield residents who volunteer for community organizations and projects?
- How can we better communicate with people and organizations inside and outside the community? Chamber of Commerce has both a website and Facebook page. The City has a website only.
- Improved coordination and communication between the City, County, and Chamber is desired in order to achieve community and economic development goals.
- Property maintenance and appearance has been identified as a concern.

Pre-Review Community Survey

The Community Review process includes conducting a community survey in the weeks leading up to the review. This survey allowed residents of Fairfield and Camas County to share their opinions and ideas regardless of whether or not they had direct contact with the Visiting Team during the review. The information provided by the paper and on-line surveys gave the Visiting Team information to compare with comments gathered through public meetings and face-to-face conversations conducted during the community review.

Survey questions were developed in April and May 2015. Survey topics included the following:

- Infrastructure and services
- Employment and economic development
- · Available housing, goods, and services
- · Community events and facilities
- Community involvement and information

While the survey was anonymous, it also included some demographic questions for statistical purposes.

Camas County provided a mailing list of households in the County. Commercial, public, and vacant properties were removed from the list, resulting in a list of 353 residential addresses. These households received a survey in the mail in mid-May 2015. The 117 completed surveys received at the Idaho Rural Partnership offices by mid-June were recorded using Google Forms. Few if any Idaho communities in which Community Reviews have been conducted have topped Fairfield's impressive 33% response rate. The mailed survey form and a summary of survey results are included as Appendix C.

Summary of Survey Results

Less than one-half of survey respondents (41.4%) live in the City of Fairfield. Other demographic characteristics of people who completed a survey made it clear the results should not be considered representative of the views of City of Fairfield or Camas County residents overall. Slightly more than half of survey respondents (51.4%) are female. A large percentage (69%) is 55 years old or older. Not surprisingly then, 28% of respondents are retired and 49% have lived in Camas County for at least 21 years.

In response to a question about work-related commuting, 25.2% of survey respondents travel to another community for their employment; 44% of respondents work in Fairfield.

Infrastructure and Public Services

Survey respondents expressed the highest and lowest degree of satisfaction with the following types of infrastructure and public services (in no particular order):

Highest Satisfaction

- Local law enforcement
- Fire department
- Sewer & water services
- Library
- Senior programs
- · Quality of parks

Lowest Satisfaction

- Condition of city streets
- Bicycle & pedestrian access and availability of sidewalks
- Day care for children
- Drug & alcohol treatment programs
- Availability of high-speed Internet services

Economic Development and Local Businesses

The survey asked residents of Fairfield and Camas County to indicate their level of satisfaction with several topics related to economic development and available goods and services. Of these topics, survey respondents revealed highest and lowest levels of satisfaction with the following:

Highest Satisfaction

- Appearance of public buildings
- Level of business involvement in the community
- Variety of goods available in stores

Lowest Satisfaction

- Availability of local jobs
- Availability of quality jobs
- Variety of local businesses
- Appearance of downtown Fairfield

- Availability of job training programs
- Industrial park

 Availability of information and training for people starting new businesses

In response to three questions about housing, survey respondents were somewhat satisfied with the affordability of housing, slightly less satisfied with the availability of housing, and significantly less satisfied with the quality of housing in the community.

Importance of Improving or Increasing Specific Businesses and Services When asked to indicate the importance of providing or improving various facilities, businesses, and services, survey respondents revealed the following were *most* important.

- Camas County Courthouse
- · Youth services and facilities
- Retail stores and professional services
- Entertainment and recreation
- Fresh fruit and vegetables (e.g. via a Farmer's market)
- Visitor information and services

Among the survey respondents, we noted particularly strong support for the idea of a farmers market and other strategies that would increase the availability of fresh fruits and vegetables.

Another survey question asked residents to identify factors that prevent them from supporting locally owned businesses more often. By a large margin, the two most frequently identified factors were: (1) services and products I need are not available in Fairfield and, (2) Cost. "Nothing. Supporting Fairfield's businesses is a high priority to me" was the third most frequently selected answer to this question.

Community Involvement, Information, and Leadership

The survey asked residents to indicate how strongly they agreed or disagreed with a series of statements related to community involvement, information, and leadership. A large percentage of survey respondents chose the "neutral" option when asked if they are satisfied with:

- (1) The quantity and quality of information provided by the City of Fairfield
- (2) The City of Fairfield website
- (3) The Chamber of Commerce website
- (4) Opportunities to be involved in decisions effecting the community

Likewise, survey respondents gave us mixed results when asked if they generally trust the City Council to make decisions for the community.

Many (but not a majority) of survey respondents indicated dissatisfaction with the level of coordination and communication between the City of Fairfield and Camas County, suggesting they would like to see improvement in this area.

Most respondents (62%) somewhat agreed or strongly agreed they would like to be better informed about community issues and projects. About 50% of survey respondents indicated

satisfaction with their current level of community involvement. When asked what prevents them from being more involved in the community, survey respondents, a large percentage (52%) reaffirmed they are happy with their involvement. "Lack of time" and "Family responsibilities" were the two other answers given most frequently.

Reason to live in and visit Fairfield

The survey ended with the following two questions:

What are the 2-3 best reasons someone would want to move to Fairfield?

The most frequently given responses for this question were as follows:

- · Sense of community
- Friendly, small town character
- Recreation opportunities
- · Mountain views/scenery/open space
- School

What are the 2-3 best reasons someone would want to visit Fairfield?

Here are the most answers given most often for this question:

- Access to outdoor recreation (camping, fishing, hunting, skiing, hiking, and biking were mentioned most frequently)
- Beautiful
- Quiet

Key Participating Individuals

The success of the Fairfield Community Review is due to the efforts of many people. The Visiting Team wishes to thank all members of the Home Team for their time and contributions. These individuals are named by focus area at the beginning of this report. Also, the review would not have been successful without the active participation of many community residents who chose to spend time attending one or both community meetings and/or talking with various Visiting Team members during the review.

Home Team Leadership

Several people did an outstanding job leading the Home Team. Megan Stelma, Kathy Mennenga, Hugh and Afton Koonce, Marshall Ralph, Mayor Scott Marolf, and City Clerk Mickey Dalin consistently participated in the pre-review conference calls, provided leadership to the Home Team and inviting key individuals to participate. The Visiting Team gives special thanks to Megan Stelma for her overall coordination of local efforts to make the Community Review as successful as possible. Other individuals who played significant support roles included County Commissioner Barb McMurdo, Jerry Young, Sara Dunkersloot, Linda Thomas, and Dwight Butlin.

The individuals named above facilitated communication with the Home Team, coordinated local logistics, invited organizations and individuals to participate in the review, and served as primary contacts for Visiting Team leaders.

The Visiting Team would like to thank Carleen Herring with Region IV Development Association for attending the Community Review and for offering observations and information related to past and current experience working with the community. We also appreciated the attendance of Senator Michelle Stennett and Representative Steven Miller.

Visiting Team Leadership

The Visiting Team was comprised of 13 community and economic development professionals who were recruited based on their experience and expertise in the three selected focus areas. They came from local, state, regional, and federal agencies, universities, nonprofit organizations, and private businesses. Contact and biographical information for all Visiting Team members are included in this report as Appendix B. The following people served as Visiting Team focus area and listening session leaders:



Visiting Team Focus Area Leaders

Brent Tolman, Idaho Dept. of Labor Lori Porreca, Federal Highway Administration Steven Hatcher, Idaho Commission on the Arts Jon Barrett, Idaho Rural Partnership Stephanie Cook, Idaho National Laboratory Maren Scoville, Idaho National Laboratory (Intern) Erik Kingston, Idaho Housing and Finance Assoc. Economic Development
Road & Infrastructure
Arts, Historic, & Recreation Resources
Arts, Historic, & Recreation Resources
Listening Sessions
Listening Sessions
Listening Sessions

IRP Acting Executive Director Jon Barrett served as Visiting Team coordinator and report writer. Key support was provided by Idaho Rural Partnership administrative assistance Vickie Winkel.

Known as the Ad-Hoc Committee, the following individuals began meeting with Home Team leaders in April 2015 to coordinate review planning and recruit people to the Visiting Team. The committee is grateful to the Association of Idaho Cities for providing meeting space and teleconference services.

Visiting Team Ad-Hoc Planning Committee

Jon Barrett Idaho Rural Partnership Vickie Winkel Idaho Rural Partnership

Erik Kingston Idaho Housing and Finance Association

Lori Porreca Federal Highway Administration
Jerry Miller Idaho Department of Commerce
Brent Tolman Idaho Department of Labor

Review Itinerary

The Home Team and the above named Visiting Team focus area leaders jointly developed the overall master schedule, Listening Session schedule, and detailed itinerary for each focus area. This information is attached as Appendix D.

The review officially began at 9:00 am pm, Wednesday, June 24th, with a Home Team listening session conducted at the Camas County Public Library. Following the listening session, all Home and Visiting Team members traveled by school bus to visit the following locations:

- Kid Pond
- · Manmade recreation area
- Soldier Mountain Ski Resort
- Stillwill Farm

Following lunch at the Senior Center, Megan Stelma gave the Visiting Team a presentation about the 2013 Fairfield Community Revitalization Plan. The teams then traveled by bus for a brief visit to Soldier Mountain Ranch and a longer stop and discussion at Centennial Marsh.

Late Wednesday afternoon, the Economic Development and Infrastructure focus areas visited the following businesses and assets:

- High Country Fusion
- Industrial park
- Between the Lines Design
- · Camas Creek Country Store
- Airport

These two focus areas also conducted a walking tour and assessment of Solider Road, beginning at the intersection with Highway 20. Site design, development potential, community identity, signage, tourism, and sidewalk and streetscape improvement opportunities were all discussed. The Visiting Team members also visited the caboose visitor's center.

The Arts, Historic, and Recreation Resources focus area met at the following locations:

- Forest Service (to discuss recreational trends and opportunities on nearby Sawtooth National Forest lands)
- Claude Sports (to meet with the business owner)
- Museum tour (to meet with museum leaders and view the exhibits)
- 4H Park (to meet with member of the currently inactive Arts Committee)

Pizza dinner from Jim Dandy's was served at J & J's. During the meal, Hugh Koonce led a discussion about the history of Fairfield and the Camas Prairie.

On the morning of Thursday, June 25, the three focus areas separately discussed the following assets and issues:

Economic Development

- Housing
- Employment
- Marketing existing businesses and available properties

Roads and Infrastructure

- Condition of existing local streets (especially near park and health clinic)
- RV dump at 4H Park
- Manmade recreation area, Kid Pond, and ideas related to pathway/trail network

Arts, Historic and Recreation Resources

- 4H Park
- Rodeo Grounds

All Visiting and Home Team members convened at the Senior Center just before lunch for a conversation about intergovernmental coordination, community involvement, leadership development, and potential funding for community and economic development projects.

Following lunch, the Visiting Team met on its own at the Senior Center to develop observations, recommendations, and resources for each focus area. The Listening Session facilitators developed a separate presentation. The four



presentations were given at a community meeting held from 7:00-9:00 pm at the Senior Center.

Publicity and Public Participation

The Home Team made significant effort to make residents of Fairfield and Camas County aware of opportunities to participate in the Community Review. The cover letter included with the survey conducted in May 2015 announced the Community Review and encouraged participation. A flyer about the Community Review was posted at businesses, the post office, and other highly visible locations in the community. It was also printed in the *The Weekly Beaver* and *Camas Courier* newspapers. The Review was also publicized on the City of Fairfield Facebook page.

Participation in Listening Sessions and the community meeting held on Thursday evening, June 25, equaled if not exceeded what is typically experienced as part of Community Reviews conducted in larger cities. In short, the Visiting Team was quite impressed with the level of community awareness of and participation in the Community Review. Approximately 40 people (not including the Visiting Team) attended the June 25 community meeting at the Senior Center. In addition, business owners and other people we met in the community were very open and willing to share their ideas, experiences, and perceptions in conversations held on sidewalks and in restaurants and other businesses. Most Home Team members participated throughout the Review. As noted in Part III of this report, participation in the Community Listening Sessions was also very good.

PART III COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSIONS

Community listening sessions are open-ended, focus group-like discussions with key stakeholder groups identified by the Home and Visiting Team. The purpose is simple: we ask open-ended questions of a cross-section of community residents with diverse perspectives, listen to their answers, and reflect back what we hear. The Fairfield Community Review included listening sessions with the following six stakeholder groups:

- Home team
- High school students
- Seniors
- Business owners and chamber member
- Education personnel
- Emergency personnel

Listening sessions lasted approximately 60 minutes. Participants were not prompted to talk about any specific subjects, nor were the sessions directly associated with any of the four focus areas selected for the review. Facilitators simply ensured stakeholder groups understood the four questions, recorded comments, and encouraged everyone in attendance to participate in the session. The listening session questions were as follows:



- 1. What DON'T you want to see in your community over the coming 5-10 years?
- 2. What DO you want to see in your community over the coming 5-10 years?
- 3. What challenges prevent your desired future?
- 4. What assets exist that can be used to bring about your desired future?

The form distributed to all participants at the beginning of each listening session described the process this way:

"Please write down your thoughts on the following questions. During the listening session, we will invite you to discuss items you are comfortable sharing in a group setting. The process works best when we have your honest and frank assessment of your experience and perception; your responses will be treated confidentially and will help inform the overall picture of life in your community. Thanks for helping us paint that picture."

What DON'T you want to see in your community over the coming 5-10 years?

Many of the groups in our listening sessions were very unanimous in wanting to avoid desolation and blight in their community. Listening session participants also told us they do not want to see more rental housing that's not being properly maintained, relative to owner-occupied housing. Other frequently occurring responses to this question included:

- Same small handful of residents doing 90% of the volunteer work
- Poor sidewalks, trash, and abandoned cars along Soldier Road
- National, chain-type businesses

The following word cloud visually represents the most frequently voiced responses when listening session participants were asked what they did not want to see in the community over the coming 5-10 years.



What DO you want to see in your community over the coming 5-10 years?

The main desire by all listening session groups was the need for "smart" growth in the next 5 years. The community realized that their small town had a unique nostalgia and wanted to expand their employment opportunities without ruining the small town appeal. All of the groups noted their town needed better telecommunications service and better walking paths and roads. Listening sessions participations also supported modest population growth to help achieve the

desired future. Other conditions are improvements listening session participants said they would like to see in the future included:

- Better code enforcement
- · Increase student enrollment
- Heathier and an increased number of businesses

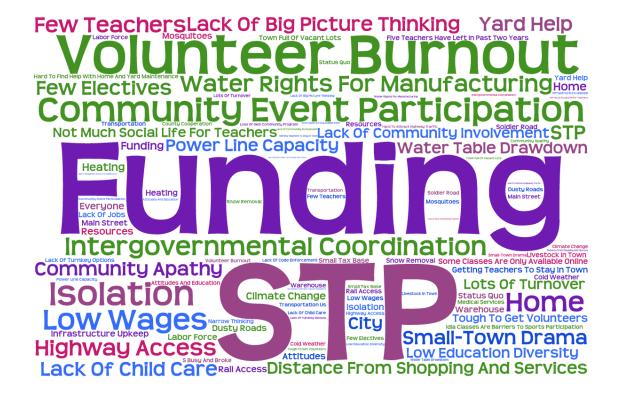
The following word cloud visually represents the most frequently voiced responses when listening session participants were asked what they wanted to see in the community over the coming 5-10 years.



What challenges exist that could cause the future you DON'T want?

According to listening session participants, Fairfield's challenges primarily revolved around a lack of funding for projects, insufficient number of volunteers, and the location and size of the town. There is a large group in Fairfield that are more than willing to donate their time and resource but that leads to volunteer burnout. Listening session groups often expressed the difficulty of trying to get to far away resources. The Emergency Response group emphasized that many resources that could help prevent incidents (like family counseling to alleviate domestic violence) were out of reach for the citizens of Fairfield.

The following word cloud visually represents the most frequently voiced responses when listening session participants were asked what they perceived to be challenges that could prevent the desired future.



What assets exist that support the future you DO want?

The love for Fairfield community really showed when residents spoke about assets. Many Groups such as 4H, City, Chamber, American Legion, and the Senior Center were spoken highly of by many participants. Listening session participants also saw the value in their natural assets and related recreational activities. The quiet and peace afforded by living in a rural area is very unique and important. Existing businesses – that could help attract related businesses – were also identified as a significant asset.

The visiting team witnessed and appreciated the hospitality and kindness freely shared by Fairfield residents. Listening session participants also talked about the sense of community in Fairfield and on the Camas Prairie in general. Community organizations and individuals look out for and support one another. They recognize their interdependences and the importance of working together to create their desired future. No one's going to do it for them.

The following word cloud visually represents the most frequently voiced responses when listening session participants were asked to identify assets that support their desired future.



PART IV FOCUS AREA REPORTS

Part IV of this report includes the predominant community comments and concerns recorded by the visiting team within each of the three selected focus areas. It also includes the opportunities, recommendations, and resources identified by the visiting team. The visiting team notes the interrelated nature of many of the issues and opportunities in this section of the report. One way or another, most if not all of our recommendations are intended to help make it possible for more people to both live *and* work in the Fairfield and surrounding area.

Economic Development

Community Comments and Concerns

The economic development-related comments and concerns frequently voiced by community residents and leaders fell into the following themes or categories:

If Our Population Declines....

Many people who spoke with visiting team members expressed concern about young adults and other talented people leaving the community once they have completed their high school education. We were told about talented people who came to the community, only to leave after a few years. Some young adults go on to pursue additional education. While they might come back to visit, a lack of job opportunities prevents them from moving back to Fairfield, should they want to do so. The community would like young adults to have the option of staying in or returning to Fairfield.

Fairfield folks talked about several consequences associated with population decline. These consequences included:

- Less people to support existing and future businesses
- Increased pressure on remaining taxpayers to maintain existing services and pay for improvements. There is a concern that services and facilities could be lost if they become financially unsustainable and/or there are not enough people using them. There is significant concern that the school could be in jeopardy if enrollment remains flat or declines.

Fairfield is a Bedroom Community

Many residents describe Fairfield as a bedroom community, with many workers commuting to jobs in Blaine County. The Wood River Valley is also a destination for recreation, cultural opportunities, shopping, and other services not available on the Camas Prairie. To the extent it is available for sale or rent, house is more affordable in Fairfield, relative to Blaine County.

Available Land and Buildings

Before and during the community review, the visiting team was made aware of significant developable land and vacant or underused buildings in Fairfield. The community clearly wants to see these properties used for economically productive purposes. Some of these properties

are within the existing industrial park. We were informed there have been efforts toward completing an inventory of existing vacant commercial properties and buildings.

Strong Interest in Attracting Visitors

The visiting team heard strong support for taking steps to attract additional visitors to Fairfield and the Camas Prairie. Some residents shared their opinion that it's too easy for would-be visitors traveling on Highway 20 to pass by Fairfield. There is significant support in the community to encourage travelers to turn off the Highway.

Agricultural Heritage and Economic Base Recognized

People in Fairfield expressed pride about the role of farming and ranching in the history and economy of the Camas Prairie. We enjoyed some good storytelling about events that happened long ago and we also heard a hope and expectation that agriculture would always be part of the area's identity. In other words, the agricultural land base, growing conditions, and long term investment in agricultural operations were all rightfully recognized as existing assets.

As an aside, the challenges that come with climate change were identified as a concern in one or more of the community listening sessions (see Part III).

Workforce Issues and Concerns

The visiting team members assigned to the economic development focus areas heard two different stories about the quality of the workforce in the Fairfield area. Some employers talked

about challenges finding workers for available positions. Others told us they can find people wanting work, but they don't necessarily have the needed skills.

Many employers shared that opportunities for workforce training and professional technical education are extremely limited.

Soldier Road and Downtown Fairfield

The visiting team recorded many comments expressing support for revitalizing downtown by: (1) improving Soldier Road to make the environment safer and more inviting for pedestrians and, (2) improving the condition and appearance of downtown buildings, and (3) finding new uses for vacant buildings. Most people we talked with felt improving the downtown is important for both residents and visitors.



Economic Development Opportunity Areas

The Visiting Team's opportunity areas and recommendations for economic development are based on the above comments and concerns identified before and during the community review. Collectively, they will help the community and the region create new jobs by supporting entrepreneurs, the growth of existing businesses, and the recruitment of new employers to the area. They will also help support downtown revitalization and better prepare the community for future growth.

Economic development is abbreviated as "ED" throughout this section of the report.

Economic Development Opportunity Area 1: Develop today's workforce and support tomorrow's entrepreneurs

While in Fairfield and Camas County, employers talked with the visiting team about their experience with the local workforce. The team also noted the community is willing to pitch in and do what it can to support the academic and personal success of its young people. We offer the following recommendations related to adult workforce training and development of creative capacity and skills in youth.

Recommendations

ED 1.1 Continue pursuing the creation of a MakerSpace as a joint project of the school, library, local employers, and other partners. (Update: subsequent to the community review, the visiting team learned that this project is receiving initial grant funding from the Idaho Department of Labor.)

Sometimes known as Fablabs, MakerSpaces serve both an educational and economic development mission. The idea is that tools like design software, 3D printers, and laser cutters are shared, thus allowing students and entrepreneurs to share the costs of maintaining the equipment. Having the school host the space may make it easier to secure grants and donations for acquiring the equipment. User fees can be charged to help defray operating space.

Regardless of its location, the key is creating a space that can adapt to a wide variety of uses and shaped by educational purposes as well as the students' creative goals. Sometimes, skills developed through MakerSpaces directly apply to the workforce needs of local employers.

We encourage the Fairfield MakerSpace project to learn from examples here in Idaho and across the country. See the "Resources" section for more information.

- ED 1.2 Leverage the Micro Grant received through Idaho Department of Labor to apply for a larger MakerSpace lab, science department makeover grant, STEM teaching tools, or other workforce trainings.
- ED 1.3 Initiate an ongoing Community CEO/General Manager Roundtable to pursue objectives such as:
 - Establish workforce skills needed by the businesses

- Conduct a community workforce skills survey to identify existing skills and skill gaps of potential workforce
- ED 1.4 Host a Future In Technology (FIT) Night for high school and/or junior high school students. FIT night brings together businesses, educational institutions and parents and students to highlight career and training paths for good paying jobs that entail technical skills.
- ED 1.5 Create a business and career mentoring network. Volunteers might include existing business owners or retired professionals (accounts, lawyers, teachers etc).

Economic Development Opportunity Area 2: Retain and expand existing businesses – focusing on your most significant engines: agriculture and manufacturing.

Like many economic sectors, agriculture is adapting to technological advances, changes in consumer preferences, and responding to emerging environmental and political challenges. The visiting team suggests that these changes are creating opportunities for farmers and ranchers. Our recommendations below also identify ways the community can support existing manufacturing employers by, among other things, targeting recruitment efforts on complimentary businesses (e.g. suppliers).

Recommendations

ED 2.1 Support the growth of small- and medium-sized agricultural operations.

Smaller agricultural operations respond to increase demand for niche products and direct marketing to local customers. They also help diversify the local economy. People seeking to create such operations face challenges related to financing and access to



land. Engage Idaho's Bounty, US Department of Agriculture, Idaho Department of Agriculture, American Farmland Trust, Wood River Land Trust, and similar organizations in this effort.

ED 2.2 Retain and support the expansion of existing businesses. As a start, City, County, and economic development leaders should be in regular communication with businesses in the community and across the region to remain aware of their challenges and goals. Among other things, this communication can help identify business that, if recruited to

- the area, could promote import substitution (i.e. buying products and services from local businesses rather than importing them).
- ED 2.3 Strengthen participation in regional economic development initiatives and organizations. Subsequent to the community review, the City of Fairfield entered into a relationship with Southern Idaho Rural Development. We encourage the community to also be aware of and engaged with economic development efforts in the Wood River Valley and the Magic Valley. Specifically, supporting and being supported by the Magic Valley-based *All Things Food Manufacturing Community* initiative could prove mutually beneficial. Examples of other organizations that Fairfield and Camas County should maintain connections with include Region IV Development Association and Southern Idaho Economic Development Organization.
- ED 2.4 Increase communication and coordination with business, real estate, and development interests in the Wood River Valley. The Camas Prairie is a more affordable location for businesses that might otherwise locate in the Hailey or Ketchum area. Networking with applicable interests in Blaine County will make Camas Prairie leaders aware of opportunities to present your assets to such businesses.
- ED 2.5 Increase use of social media to market existing businesses and business-related assets. Local businesses need to have a social media presence that includes multiple platforms. Using Facebook is a good start, but it's not enough. Businesses need to be on trip advisor, yelp, twitter, etc. They should monitor and update their content on a regular basis.
- ED 2.6 Develop a marketing plan for the existing industrial park. The industrial park is ideally situated for small manufacturing. The lots are flat, not encumbered with residential neighbors, and have easy access to US Highway 20.
- ED 2.7 Fairfield has much to offer inventors and entrepreneurs in the recreational technology (rec-tech) field. Rec-tech entrepreneurs are attracted to communities where they can quickly and easily test their innovations. Often, locals who grew up in the area partaking of these activities have ideas for products but lack the knowledge or expertise for getting things started. Another barrier to growing this sector is providing these entrepreneurs access to tools (laser cutters, 3D printers, etc.) needed to construct and test proto types.
- ED 2.8 The community should encourage and promote energy audits for all of Fairfield's public, industrial and commercial buildings. Power companies often perform this service free of charge. It often results in ideas and resources for making buildings energy efficient. Lowering energy costs frees up money that can be spent in the community or reinvested in the business.
- ED 2.9 Form an Economic Development Ready Team. An Economic Development Ready Team (Ready Team) is a committee of local officials, state regulators, utility companies and business persons who are organized in advance to respond and assist with

business recruitment, expansion and retention opportunities. Ready Teams work best when they are organized in advance, meet on a regular basis and are scalable to specific opportunities. For example, if a business opportunity does not need water or sewer services then the City public works staff, consulting engineer, and Department of Environmental Quality Ready Team members are excused from that specific opportunity. Communities with Ready Teams are able to quickly respond to opportunities and are more successful landing and growing businesses than cities lacking this asset.

- ED 2.10 Develop an easy-to-read business checklist to make sure current and future businesses understand local permitting requirements and decision-making processes. The list should be available on-line and should include a good faith estimate of fees and estimated timelines for different permits and administrative approvals. This is a project that could be outsourced to the Ready Team described above.
- ED 2.11 Explore potential to adapt existing food processing and storage structures to develop a small scale, craft barley malting facility in Fairfield.
- ED 2.12 Connect local businesses to financing programs. Institutions like the Region IV Development Association, the Idaho Housing and Finance Association, Montana Community Development Corporation, the U.S. Small Business Administration and U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development have programs to help businesses that might otherwise not qualify for a standard bank loan get funding for start-ups and expansions.
- ED 2.13 Look for opportunities to locally source goods and services purchased outside of the community. A starting point might include goods and services purchased by state and federal agencies doing work on the Camas Prairie. While some contracts may be too large for local businesses, government agencies encourage their primary contractors to use local subcontractors.

Economic Development Opportunity Area 3: Increase the number of visitors to the Camas Prairie

This opportunity area is directly linked to all three opportunities areas in the Arts, Historic, and Recreation Resources focus area. There is no doubt that recreational and historical assets in Fairfield and across the Camas Prairie will continue to play a major role in attracting visitors (as well as future residents). Likewise, by incorporating them into community events and public amenities, the arts help you establish Fairfield and the Camas Prairie as an appealing place to visit and live. In the context of economic development, our recommendations below focus on marketing your visitor attractions and services. Recommendations regarding the development of recreational assets are found in the Arts, Historic, and Recreation Resources focus area.

Recommendations

ED 3.1 The community should continue pursuing development of a new, highly visible "Welcome to Fairfield" sign as near as possible to the intersection of U.S. Highway 20

and Soldier Road. The sign should direct travelers to downtown and visitor information. It might also include the name and date of an upcoming community event. It should also make reference to the Camas Prairie. The existing sign on the west side of town and near the highway could remain to help publicize local businesses.

- ED 3.2 As part of or in addition to the welcome sign described above, installation of an electronic reader board sign near the Highway should be considered. An electronic message sign would help calm traffic on the highway and spread the word about numerous community events and activities.
- ED 3.3 In addition to the Welcome to Fairfield sign described above, the County or other organization should consider creating large "Welcome to the Camas Prairie" signs at the west, east, and south edge of the Prairie (i.e. along Highway 20 and Highway 46).
- ED 3.4 Fairfield would attract more visitors by developing visually consistent directional or wayfinding signs guiding visitors to the park, specific businesses, the museum, rodeo grounds, Soldier Mountain, RV parking, and other destinations.
- ED 3.5 More important than physical signage is having local businesses and attractions easy to find via smart phone technology. Most travelers use social media to choose and find places to spend their money. They need to know what's available in Fairfield when they are in Boise, Idaho Falls, or other points along the route to the Camas Prairie. Studies show that people are inclined to forgo big chain franchise businesses like Subway and McDonalds provided local independent businesses are easy to find via social media and other websites.
- ED 3.6 Place greater emphasis on niche marketing. Niche marketing refers to a marketing campaign designed to appeal to specific groups of people (e.g. motorcycle riders, birder, snowmobilers, hunters, skiers, etc.). The marketing would include information about a range of activities that appeal to the specific group. In picking a niche it's important to focus on a segment likely to spend money in the community.
- ED 3.7 Concentrate on the Magic Valley and Boise Valley when marketing recreational opportunities available on the Camas Prairie and nearby public lands.
- ED 3.8 Take full advantage of Fairfield and Camas Prairie's proximity to the Wood River Valley/Sun valley area. When people from outside Idaho use the Internet to plan a vacation in Ketchum/Sun Valley, they should easily find information about Fairfield and the Camas Prairie.
- ED 3.9 The visiting team was impressed with the winter and summer recreation maps available through the Chamber of Commerce. These maps should be updated and reprinted.
- ED 3.10 Develop public restrooms at or near the caboose visitor center.

- ED 3.11 Consider improvements at the park and elsewhere that would make Fairfield a more appealing stop for long distance-bicycle riders traveling on Highway 20. Examples would be secure bike tools and coin-operated showers at the park.
- ED 3.12 Create a unified community branding strategy. A branding strategy should include a logo and slogan that triggers positive feelings in both residents and visitors. The brand should avoid the generic and be unique and specific to the community. A brand involving Soldier Mountain might be a good starting point. Design and signage should be built around the community brand.

Economic Development Opportunity Area 4: Community Revitalization and Image

As noted above, the entire visiting team heard many residents and leaders of Fairfield share their concerns and opinions about the "first impressions" a visitor might make about Fairfield. Numerous people also brought up the relationship between physical appearance and the community's sense of identity and pride. Our recommendations on these topics focus on Fairfield's most visible public areas: downtown, entrances to the community on Highway 20, and the intersection of U.S. Highway 20 and Soldier Road. Related recommendations are also found in the Road and Infrastructure focus area.

This opportunity area include a variety of strategies intended to make downtown Fairfield a more appealing and attractive destination for both residents and visitors. Collectively, these recommendations will help support existing businesses and encourage the creation of new stores. While we understand that some in Fairfield believe new businesses could hurt existing businesses, the visiting team feels it can also work the other way. Each new business creates another reason for someone to spend time in your community. More people spending more time downtown benefits all businesses.

The visiting team's recommendations reinforce the idea that downtown Fairfield should be thought of as an experience, rather than as a group of miscellaneous businesses. Create the kind of downtown that gives visitors a reason to say, "Let's spend a few hours here" when they are passing through.



Recommendations Related to Downtown and Community Revitalization

ED 4.1 Develop a downtown improvement program. Too often, downtown improvement efforts focus on beautification and ignore the economic and social conditions behind the decline of a business district. In order to be successful, a downtown improvement program also needs to help nurture new and existing businesses and promote events

and activities that bring people downtown. The most successful strategy or recipe for success is the Main Street Program ™ promoted by the National Main Street Center. This program uses a 4-point approach to downtown revitalization. See Appendix E.

Acting on this recommendation could include creating a downtown capital improvement fund with annual and long-term funding goals for funding. Starting this fund now for improvements that may take place five to ten years down the road will allow the City to accumulate significant matching funds for future grants.

- ED 4.2 Pursue participation in the Idaho Department of Commerce's Idaho Downtown Improvement Network.
- ED 4.3 Develop a volunteer effort to regularly pick up trash, pull weeds, and sweep sidewalks along Soldier Road. Community organizations or teams of people could complete this task on a monthly or quarterly basis. As a show of appreciation, local businesses could offer discount coupons to participating groups and individuals. The electronic sign at the school could also be used to recognize and thank people for their efforts.
- ED 4.4 Work with downtown building owners, the school, and other community organizations to identify temporary and community uses for vacant commercial storefronts.

 Temporary windows displays, pop-up businesses, and similar storefront uses add life to downtowns that have otherwise vacant buildings. On a related note, develop a temporary pop-up place making project that occasionally and temporarily creates public gathering spaces within downtown street rights-of-way.
- ED 4.5 Develop your own downtown façade improvement initiative after the successful Operation Facelift projects in Magic Valley and Eastern Idaho Communities or participate in future Operation Facelift projects.
- ED 4.6 See Road and Infrastructure section for recommendations related to Soldier Road.
- ED 4.7 Development of the highly visible vacant commercial property located on the east side of Soldier Road between Poplar Avenue and Garnet Avenue would help draw visitors to the downtown area. This development would help connect the Highway 20 and Soldier Road commercial areas by creating a more inviting environment that would encourage people stopping for a burger at the Wrangler to walk north on Soldier Road.
- ED 4.8 Explore funding and technical assistance resources that could help owners of existing building address maintenance and capital improvement needs. For example, commercial and industrial building owners could be encouraged investigate programs and incentives offered by Idaho Power and other energy conservation stakeholders to help lower energy costs. In some cases, building owners may qualify for tax credits and low interest loans, thereby offsetting the cost of improvements and adding value to the buildings.

- ED 4.9 New street trees and awnings would create a more unified downtown and more welcoming pedestrian environment by providing shade and protection from inclement weather. New pedestrian scale lighting would also make a positive difference.
- ED 4.10 Convert parking from parallel to diagonal orientation (this conversation would not only help calm traffic; it would also increase the number of parking spaces). It would also likely require reducing Main Street to one traffic lane each direction.
- ED 4.11 Develop a program that invites individuals, families, churches, businesses, and civic groups to sponsor flower boxes, benches, street lights, bike racks, and public art. Sponsors would not only pay for the improvement but would also be responsible for maintaining their donation similar to an "adopt a highway" program. Other cities sell engraved bricks and light pole sponsorships as methods for generating funds for downtown beautification.
- ED 4.12 Pursue opportunities to incorporate public art (e.g. one or more murals, artistic painting of above ground utility boxes) in the downtown area.
- ED 4.13 On a trial basis initially, encourage downtown businesses to consider extending downtown business hours until 7:00 pm one day per week. Also encourage businesses to be open on Sundays.
- ED 4.14 Be sure to include the businesses and properties along Highway 20 in your downtown and community revitalization efforts. People (e.g. potential customers) based their first impressions of the community on the appearance and appeal of this area.

Recommendations Related to Community Image and Property Maintenance

- ED 4.15 Seek to understand the barriers that prevent better property maintenance, then work to reduce the barriers.
- ED 4.16 Develop strategies that reinforce the message that taking care of our properties and public areas is the norm in Fairfield. In other words, encourage the behavior you want rather than focusing on what you don't want. One way to do this is to invite residents to publicly pledge to take care of their properties.
- ED 4.17 Publicize existing government and nonprofit programs and financing opportunities related to home renovation and energy conservation.
- ED 4.18 Partner with employers and the City to create a "Clean-up Fairfield" program that would use donated trucks to haul debris to the landfill once or twice a year (e.g., spring and fall). The visiting team was informed there has been such a program in the past. We're suggesting it be re-energized. Alternatively or in addition, consider placing large garbage and recycling dumpsters at city hall for community use or take it a step further and develop a permanent transfer station.
- ED 4.19 An innovative approach to promoting community beautification might be the creation of a Pay to Play Booster Club. The idea is that instead of giving contributions directly to

youth groups and service clubs, individuals and businesses would divert those donations to a pooled fund. Donors to the pooled fund would then create a list clean up and beautification projects in the downtown and elsewhere in the community with a dollar amount tied to the successful completion of each project. Instead of asking for handouts, groups seeking funds would work for their donation. This effort not only leverages community resources but instills a sense of community service and pride.

- ED 4.20 Create an annual community yard sale.
- ED 4.21 Create a 'paint the town' project that provides volunteer labor to help seniors and others on limited incomes paint their homes or complete minor improvement projects. Typically, a company, church, or club adopts a specific house. Even if the program completed only one house per year, it would make a big difference over time.
- ED 4.22 Use a website or a Facebook page to facilitate buying and selling of unneeded items between residents.
- ED 4.23 Create a community thrift store. Such an enterprise can raise funds for a nonprofit organization.
- ED 4.24 Review existing code requirements related to long-term outdoor storage of cars and other items and modify if needed. Pursue enforcement where warranted to reduce public health concerns and fire hazards.
- ED 4.25 Improved maintenance of public, quasi-public, and commercial buildings will inspire homeowners to improve their properties.
- ED 4.26 Create an award program to recognize the "most improved" residential and commercial properties in the community.
- ED 4.27 Pursue the development of a drop-off recycling center.

Economic Development Resources

The College of Business at Idaho State University offers its Bengal Solutions programs to connect the expertise of the College's faculty and graduates with businesses and entrepreneurs. Consulting is provided at an affordable cost to business owners. Go to http://www.isu.edu/cob/bengalsolutions.shtml. Contact Jeff Street at 208-282-2504 or streight@isu.edu.

The Idaho Small Business Development Center is located on the College of Southern Idaho campus in Twin Falls offers various types of assistance for people wanting to grow or start a business. Go to http://www.idahosbdc.org/locations/region-4-college-of-southern-idaho-twin-falls/. Call 208-732-6450.

U.S. Small Business Administration, Boise District Office. Go to http://www.sba.gov/id.

USDA Rural Business Development Grant Program can fund many projects that support business development and job creation. Go to http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/BCP_rbeg.html. Contact Tobin Dixon, Business Program Specialist, 208-733-5380, ext. 121, tobin.dixon@id.usda.gov.

Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) is a program offering workshops and mentoring to small businesses. Some of SCORE's services are available online. Go to https://easternidaho.score.org/.

The Ewing Kauffman Foundation supports projects that foster a society of economically independent individuals who are engaged citizens, contributing to the improvement of their communities. The Foundation focuses grant making on two areas—education and entrepreneurship. Go to http://www.kauffman.org.

Business Retention and Expansion Visitation Fundamentals is a joint publication of North Dakota State University Extension and Mississippi State University Extension. It provides a useful guide to beginning a business retention and expansion (BR&E) visitation program. Go to http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/pubs/agecon/market/cd1605.pdf.

The Western Rural Development Center at Utah State University strengthens rural communities by sharing scientific discovery and application of sustainable practices with rural citizens via conferences, trainings, Web 2.0, and publications. The Center aims to help rural communities prosper, thrive economically, and become self-sustaining. They can also connect you to other opportunities for partnerships at USU. Go to http://wrdc.usu.edu. Contact Don Albrecht, Executive Director, 435-797-2798, don.albrecht@usu.edu.

State of Idaho Industrial Revenue Bonds. Industrial revenue bonds provide businesses with a potentially lower cost alternative source of funding for purchasing and improving upon industrial facilities. The lower cost is realized because the bonds issued under this program are tax-free. This incentive might entice investors to accept a lower rate of return. Go to http://commerce.idaho.gov/assets/content/docs/IRB GUIDE 2010.doc. Randy Shroll, 208-334-2650, ext. 3168, randy.shroll@commerce.idaho.gov.

TechHelp provides technical and professional assistance, training and information to Idaho manufacturers, processors and inventors to help them strengthen their global competitiveness through product and process improvements. Go to http://www.techhelp.org/index.cfm.

University of Idaho Extension's "Open for Business" program is designed to bring business training to remote rural communities. Lorie Higgins, 208-885-9717, higgins@uidaho.edu.

The Center for Rural Entrepreneurship uses webinars, publications, and other tools to share timely information and best practices on a variety of topics related to economic development in rural communities. Go to www.energizingentrepreneurs.org/site. "Innovative Approaches to Entrepreneurial Development: Cases from the Northwest Region" is one publication of interest. To read or download, go to

http://www.energizingentrepreneurs.org/site/images/research/cp/cs/cs4.pdf.

The Eastern Idaho Entrepreneurial Center (E-Center) is a Rexburg-based nonprofit providing value-added business consulting through a network of local university students, government leaders, and business professionals. Go to http://www.idahoecenter.org/about/. Will Jensen, Executive Director, 208-356-5009, w.jensen@rbdcenter.org.

The *Entrepreneurs and Their Communities* archived hour-long webinars available through University of Idaho Extension are focused on research-based best practices for supporting small businesses. Free webinars are ongoing. Go to http://www.extension.org/entrepreneurship.

An entire curriculum focused on building an entrepreneur friendly community is available through Ohio State University. Go to http://sustentrep.osu.edu/building-an-entrepreneur-friendly-community.

Idaho Housing and Finance Association's Idaho Collateral Support Program establishes pledged cash collateral accounts with a lending institution to enhance loan collateral for businesses in order to obtain financing on acceptable terms. Go to http://ihfa.org/ihfa/small-business-loan-programs.aspx. Cory Phelps, coryp@ihfa.org, 208-331-4725.

Idaho Technology Council helps technology businesses get started and expand. One of the council's area of interest is Agriscience. Go to http://www.idahotechcouncil.org/. Contact Jay Larsen, ilarsen@idahotechcouncil.org, 208 -917-5181.

Idaho National Laboratory's Technical Assistance Program provides technical expertise to state and local government, and regional small businesses. The requesting organization can receive, at no cost to it, up to 40 hours of laboratory employee time to address technical needs that cannot readily be met by commercially available resources in the region. Go to http://tinyurl.com/992ayxe. Stephanie Cook, Stephanie.cook@inl.gov, 208-526-1644.

Idaho National Laboratory Regional Mini-Grants: The grant will support classroom instructional resources, materials, and laboratory equipment which is used to integrated the concepts of STEM across all disciplines. The grant will be awarded to a school rather than to an individual teacher, and the equipment will become and remain school property. Go to https://www.inl.gov/inl-initiatives/education/k-12-stem-grants/.

The Idaho National Laboratory Extreme Classroom Makeover Grant Program provides schools with up to \$10,000 to upgrade science laboratories or transform classrooms into modern STEM learning environments. Go to https://www.inl.gov/inl-initiatives/education/k-12-stem-grants/.

Several public libraries have developed and are developed Makerspaces. They represent an excellent opportunity for idea and information sharing. Libraries in Parma and Aberdeen are two examples. Go to http://www.parmacity.net/library and http://aberdeen.lili.org, respectively.

Battelle Energy Alliance corporate awards grants for projects aimed at spurring technology-based economic development, entrepreneurship and innovation in the region. Priority is given to projects that focus on connecting industry partners, universities, start-ups and economic development organizations that drive job growth. Go to https://www.inl.gov/inl-

initiatives/economic-and-workforce-development/.

The Northrop Grumman Foundation is welcoming submissions for its Fab School Labs online contest, a program that provides public middle schools with an opportunity to make their dreams of a state-of-the-art science lab a reality with grants of up to \$100,000. The contest is designed to drive students' interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics by giving public middle school teachers and school administrators the chance to create the STEM lab of their dreams and provide students access to learning tools and technologies that stimulate as well as teach. Teachers, principals, and school administrators are encouraged to submit photos and a video along with their application to help tell their story. (Videos may not exceed two minutes in length and photos are limited to twenty per application.) After semi-finalist schools have been chosen and announced at the end of August, the public will be invited to vote for their favorites on the Fab School Lab Facebook page. The winning schools will team up with Fab School Labs contest partner Flinn Scientific, Inc. to design a state-of-the-art lab complete with all the tools, resources, and furnishings needed. Go to www.fabschoollabs.com.

Lowe's Toolbox for Education® Grants. Each year, the Lowe's Toolbox for Education grants program contributes more than \$5 million to fund improvements at public schools in the United States. Projects should fall into one of the following categories: technology upgrades, tools for STEM programs, facility renovations and safety improvements. Grant requests can range from \$2,000 to \$100,000. A large majority of grants will be given in the \$2,000 to \$5,000 range. Go to http://responsibility.lowes.com/apply-for-a-grant/.

The Bank of America Charitable Foundation's goal is to build pathways to economic progress, including addressing social justice issues that are fundamentally connected to income mobility. Funding is directed to meet the needs of low-income communities, with a particular focus on revitalizing neighborhoods, educating the workforce for 21st century jobs and addressing basic needs, such as hunger and homelessness. Go to http://about.bankofamerica.com/en-us/global-impact/charitable-foundation-funding.html#fbid=Vf VfglpQU3/hashlink=housing.

Wealth Creation and Rural Livelihoods is a learning network of practitioners, researchers, and policy makers focused on creating and sustaining rural wealth. Go to http://www.ruralwealth.org.

Host a luncheon or meeting for business owners that features a showing of the "Maps, Apps, and Mobile Media Marketing" webinar available through University of Idaho Extension, then work together to help each other learn about and access the many resources provided in the presentation. Go to http://www.extension.org/pages/16076/etc-webinar-archive.

Local people investing in local businesses is a trend taking hold in many communities. Here's an article on the new Community-Supported Brewery in Boise being funded in this way: http://www.boiseweekly.com/boise/doors-open-at-boise-brewing/Content?oid=3129538.

Locavesting is a resource book by financial journalist Amy Cortese. Go to http://www.locavesting.com/Locavesting.html.

Harvest Hosts is a network of farmers, winemakers, and attractions that invites self-contained RVers to visit their vineyards and farms and stay overnight for free. Food producers in the Rigby area can join this network. Go to www.HarvestHosts.com.

Many communities are using principles of community-based social marketing to increase support for locally owned, independent businesses, increase recycling, and promote property maintenance. See "Fostering Sustainable Behavior: An Introduction to Community –Based Social Marketing" by Doug McKenzie-Mohr and William Smith, 1999, New Society Publishers. www.cbsm.com is a related website with a large amount of information, best practices, and networking opportunities related to reducing waste.

Idaho Biz Help is a website with resources and wizards to help businesses identify funding and address regulatory needs. http://idahobizhelp.idaho.gov/.

The Successful Communities On-line Toolkit is a searchable database of community design and planning best practices from across the west. It is a project of the Sonoran Institute. Go to http://scotie.sonoraninstitute.org/. 602-393-4310.

Region IV Development Association is a private, not-for-profit corporation established to encourage development and diversification in the economy of South-Central Idaho. Go to http://www.rivda.org/index.html. Contact 208.732.5727.

Southern Idaho Rural Development is involved in successful business creation and downtown revitalization efforts in Shoshone and other southern Idaho communities. Contact Julia Oxarango-Ingram, 208-309-3090, sird4u@gmail.com.

Sun Valley Economic Development's Mentors and Advisors Program (MAP) connects volunteer mentors with businesses looking for help with start-up and expansion issues. http://www.sunvalleyeconomy.org/mentor_advise Harry Griffith <a href="http://www.sunvalleyeconomy.org/mentor_advise Harry G

The Workforce Development Training Fund – WDTF – can reimburse employee training costs to eligible companies that are bringing jobs to Idaho, adding jobs through expansion or upgrading skills of current workers who are at risk of being permanently laid off. Go to http://labor.idaho.gov/dnn/idl/Businesses/TrainingResources/WorkforceDevelopmentTrainingFund.aspx. Also check out the new Micro Grant and Sector Grant efforts or contact Regional Business Specialist Brent Tolman at 208-735-2500 x3120 or brent.tolman@labor.idaho.gov.

Idaho Deparment of Labor, Wood River Office. Contact Carlos Hernandez, Manager, blainecountymail@labor.idaho.gov, 208-788-3526.

"Organizing a Successful Downtown Revitalization Program Using the Main Street Approach" is a book available through the Washington Department of Trade and Economic Development. Go to http://www.commerce.wa.gov/cted/documents/ID 160 Publications.pdf.

RampUpIdaho is a new effort being developed by a group of folks representing transportation, business, housing, government, economic development and accessibility. The group is planning

to compile a list of resources and outline a simple rationale for businesses, chambers of commerce, and other groups to begin thinking more strategically and collaboratively about access. Contact info@rampupidaho.org for more information.

USDA's Farmer's Market Promotion Program (FMPP) offers grants to help improve and expand domestic farmers' markets, roadside stands, community supported agriculture programs, agritourism activities, and other producer-to-consumer market opportunities. Go to http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSv1.0/FMPP.

Learn about the City of Glenns Ferry's downtown revitalization efforts here: http://glennsferryidaho.org/downtown/. Volunteer labor and financial sponsorship of individual downtown furnishings (lights, benches, etc.) by individuals, businesses, and community organizations significantly contributed to the success of this effort.

Idaho Department of Commerce – Community Development Block Grant Program can fund lighting, street trees, sidewalk, and other downtown projects. Go to http://commerce.idaho.gov/communities/community-grants/community-development-block-grant-cdbg. Contact Sharon Deal, sharon.deal@commerce.idaho.gov, 208-287-0774.

The Idaho Department of Commerce's Idaho Gem Grant program provides funding for public infrastructure projects that support economic development. Examples of eligible activities include: construction materials, new and rehabilitative construction, architectural and engineering services, and property acquisition. Grant amounts are up to \$50,000. Go to http://commerce.idaho.gov/communities/community-assistance/idaho-gem-grants/. Jerry Miller, jerry.miller@commerce.idaho.gov, 208-287-0780.

Idaho Department of Commerce's *Show Me the Money* funding newsletter has information about funding for a wide variety of community projects. To subscribe, go to http://idaho.us2.list-manage2.com/subscribe?u=74de75b2fc7e24670e05b0def&id=a1f3c8c6b9. Contact Jerry Miller at jerry.miller@commerce.idaho.gov or 208-287-0780.

Idaho Department of Commerce's *Show Me the Money* funding newsletter features grant opportunities for a wide variety of projects. To subscribe, go to http://idaho.us2.list-manage2.com/subscribe?u=74de75b2fc7e24670e05b0def&id=a1f3c8c6b9. Contact Jerry Miller at jerry.miller@commerce.idaho.gov or 208-287-0780.

Created and maintained by the Idaho Department of Commerce, Gem State Prospector is an on-line inventory of available buildings and properties in the state. Businesses and the real estate agents looking to expand or relocate in Idaho use this website to identify potential sites. Go to http://www.gemstateprospector.com/. The Idaho Department of Commerce offers periodic trainings for people interested in using Gem State Prospector. Contact Jenny Hemly, 208-287-3169, Jenny.hemly@commerce.idaho.gov.

For an article and resources on successful efforts to fill vacant downtown storefront windows with local art, go to http://ruraltourismmarketing.com/2011/03/using-art-in-vacant-storefronts-to-rebuild-a-small-town's-future/.

The American Farmland Trust has supported the completion of numerous studies that compare the fiscal impacts of different land uses. To download their "Cost of Community Services" Fact Sheet, go to http://www.farmlandinfo.org/sites/default/files/COCS 08-2010 1.pdf.

The City of Jerome uses both Urban Renewal and non-profit development corporation to manage and improve its industrial park. Go to http://www.ci.jerome.id.us/index.html. Contact: Mike Williams, City Administrator, mwilliams@ci.jerome.id.us, 208-324-8189 x 102

Rocky Mountain Power's WattSmart program offers a number of incentives for energy efficiency. https://www.rockymountainpower.net/env/ws.html. Contact wattsmart@rockymountainpower.net, 1-800-222-4335.

The Idaho Office of Energy Resources offers low interest loans for energy efficiency improvements for commercial buildings and agricultural facilities. Contact: Tammy Japhet, tammy.japhet@oer.idaho.gov, 208 332-1663.

The Database of State Incentives for Renewable Energy offers a comprehensive list of state, utility company and federal incentives for energy efficiency. Go to http://programs.dsireusa.org/system/program?state=ID.

The 22 Benefits of Street Trees is a free publication touting the benefit of planting trees in cities and commercial districts. Go to http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/22 benefits 208084 7.pdf

The National Main Street Center is a membership organization that offers a number of downtown improvement resources. A basic membership is \$350 per year. Go to http://www.preservationnation.org/main-street/.

The Idaho Main Street Program is a licensed partner of the National Main Street Center and offers help for communities interested in pursuing the Main Street ™ model. http://commerce.idaho.gov/communities/main-street Contact: Jerry Miller, jerry.miller@commerce.idaho.gov 208-287-0780.

Operation Facelift is a project of the Southern Idaho Economic Development Organization that's inspired many Idaho communities to spruce up their downtowns. Go to this article: http://www.expansionsolutionsmagazine.com/091011 siedo or call 208-731-9996.

Tourism Cares is a non-profit offering grants and technical assistance for the preservation, conservation and restoration of cultural and historic sites and visitor education. Go to http://www.tourismcares.org/.

Idaho Regional Travel Grant Program funds projects related to developing tourism-related amenities and marketing. Go to http://commerce.idaho.gov/tourism-resources/itc-grant-program. Contact Jill Eden, jill.eden@commerce.idaho.gov, 208-334-2650 ext. 2161.

As a way to promote tourism, the Visit Salmon Valley website is an excellent example for Fairfield and the Camas Prairie. Go to http://www.visitsalmonvalley.com.

Destination Development International is a community branding and tourism consulting firm based in Seattle offering several branding-related workshops, trainings, and a resource book entitled "Your Town: A Destination" (http://tinyurl.com/7v5l6h9). Notes from a presentation by one of the book's co-authors are available here: http://tinyurl.com/6mchhtp. Additional contact information: http://www.destinationdevelopment.com, Roger Brooks, 206-241-4770.

The Great Rift Business Organization created and co-sponsored the Future in Technology (FIT) school program. Contact Kristen Jensen, <a href="mailto:kristen:k

Roads and Infrastructure

Community Comments and Concerns

Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety and Accessibility

Community members expressed strong interest in making Fairfield a more bike and walk friendly community. Residents recognized that it would not only enhance the quality of life for residents, but would attract visitors to the community as well as encourage reinvestment in the downtown. Residents shared their desire to improve and increase sidewalks in the downtown and also to create a bike and pedestrian pathway system to connect recreational areas to town. In particular, community members would like to see connections from the City to Kid Pond, and along Soldier Creek from the City to Manmade recreation area. Many community members also expressed concern that existing sidewalks and some businesses along Main Street are not currently ADA accessible. This creates issues for many seniors as well as people with disabilities who want to access the downtown.

Sense of Community

Community members told the visiting team that Fairfield was a great place to live. The area around Fairfield had amazing natural assets and the people were kind and friendly and always willing to help those in need. Residents want to enhance this sense of community in Fairfield. Residents expressed interest in having more spaces and more community organized events to build an even stronger sense of community.

Unpayed Roads

The visiting team heard numerous comments about Fairfield's unpaved roads. Fairfield has one paved road (Soldier Road) and several miles of unpaved roads in the City limits. Many people would like to see more streets paved and better maintained. Several residents voiced support for paving Camas Avenue to the Camas Family Health Service clinic. Existing unpaved streets were described as inconvenient, hard to maintain, dusty, and difficult to walk and drive on in the spring because of mud and rutting. Residents also mentioned that Fairfield does not have a storm water system and that some culverts are in poor condition and need to be replaced to improve storm drainage. Many residents expressed awareness that the City simply does not have the funds to pave and maintain more roads and address many of the other concerns above.

Encourage Visitors and Preparing for Growth

The visiting team heard from many residents that encouraging visitors and tourists, and reinvestment in the downtown is vitally important to the growth and development of Fairfield. Residents talked about the many assets that could attract tourist dollars and outside investment in the community such as Soldier Mountain Ski Area, Soldier Mountain Ranch and Golf Course, Sawtooth National Forest, Kid Pond, Centennial Marsh, and Manmade Recreation Area. Community members expressed interest in improving the intersection of Highway 20 and Soldier Road and adding street lamps along Soldier Road to entice travelers to stop in Fairfield. Community members would also like to the properties and land along Soldier Road to be

cleaned up and improved to attract new investment in the downtown. Along with this, some residents expressed concern that Fairfield's ordinances were unprepared for new development.

Questions about Capacity of Electric, Broadband, and High-Speed Internet Service

Several City and County leaders and other folks with an interest in economic development in Camas County shared their understanding that there are limitations in the existing electrical service provided by Idaho Power that constraint future business expansion and relocation in Fairfield and Camas County. Idaho Power representatives told the visiting team they have made improvements in the recent past to address these concerns. The visiting team also heard numerous people express a desire for improved (yet still affordable) broadband and Internet service.

Housing Supply, Condition, and Variety

Home team members and other residents we spoke with during the community review relayed significant concerns about housing. At the height of the recession that started in 2007-2008, there are numerous foreclosures and empty homes in Fairfield. The situation has completely turned around in the last couple years, with vacancy rates being very low at present. In summary, we heard there are just not a lot of housing options for people moving into the community, especially if they are interested in anything other than a small, older home that needs a lot of work.

The Roads and Infrastructure Focus Area is abbreviated as "RI" throughout the following opportunity areas and recommendations.

Roads and Infrastructure Opportunity Areas

Roads and Infrastructure Opportunity Area 1: Prioritize Improvements on Soldier Road and around Downtown Fairfield.

Fairfield residents clearly want to see improvements to the community's streets. The community would like Fairfield to be more safe, accessible, and attractive for biking and walking for residents and visitors.

Soldier Road is wide enough to accommodate all users, but lacks defined driving, walking, biking and parking areas, which creates confusion and safety issues. The current transportation plan recommends 12' travel lanes and a center turn lane with angled parking. We feel this is in conflict with the community's desire to achieve a bike, pedestrian, and kid friendly community.

Recommendations

RI 1.1 Prioritize sidewalk improvements along Soldier Road in the center of town, as outlined in the City of Fairfield Community Revitalization Plan (August 2013). This will provide safe places for pedestrians and give the City, businesses, and residents space for activities that will help reinforce a sense of place in the downtown.

- RI 1.2 Implement 10'-11' travel lanes on Soldier Road. Along with other measures, narrower travel lanes will induce traffic to drive slower along Soldier Road.
- RI 1.3 Angled parking is significantly less safe for bicyclists. The visiting team recommends parallel parking. Fairfield has an abundance of space to accommodate parking on Soldier and on surrounding streets.
- RI 1.4 Make use of crosswalks and flags to let pedestrians know where it's relatively safe to cross Soldier Road and to let drivers know where to be looking for pedestrians.
- RI 1.5 A center turn lane is an inefficient use of space. The visiting team recommends providing left turn lanes at intersections as needed and reconfiguring the remaining space to accommodate bike lanes and a buffer. Designating bike lanes on Soldier Road will increase safety for users and also encourage outsiders to see Fairfield as a bike friendly community.



- RI 1.6 Create a gateway at the intersection of Soldier road and HWY 20. The Visiting team recommends a Monument-style sign placed in the center of Soldier road outside of the ITD ROW, or a gateway sign that extends over the roadway. This will allow Fairfield to avoid potential issues related to NHS routes and working with ITD ROW. In addition, placing the sign in the center of the road, in combination with narrowing the crossing distance with sidewalk and bulb outs (also called curb extensions) on both sides of the intersection will force motor vehicles to slow as they turn and enter Fairfield. It will also increase safety for pedestrians at the intersection by making them more visible and decreasing the crossing distance.
- RI 1.7 Work with the Idaho Transportation Department and local businesses to evaluate strategies to safely calm traffic on Highway 20 through Fairfield. Don't reinvent the proverbial wheel. Be inspired by what has been accomplished in other communities. Fairfield is unique in that the highway is adjacent to your community. This is in contrast to communities like Driggs, Preston, and Cascade that have highways through the center of downtown. The goal should be do slow down traffic so that it's safer for vehicles to exit and enter the highway from Soldier Road and businesses that front on the highway

- RI 1.8 Improve ADA accessibility. There is state funding available to install ADA ramps at intersections and driveways along State Highways. To successfully apply for this funding, Fairfield needs an ADA transition plan for their sidewalks. The visiting team recommends doing an inventory of current sidewalks to identify those curb ramps and driveways in the downtown area that are not ADA compliant.
- RI 1.9 Consider alternatives to asphalt paving for local roads. In the current transportation funding climate, it is unlikely that Fairfield will receive funding to pave their local City and County roads, or have the money to maintain them in the future. The visiting team recommends other alternatives that will preserve and maintain the unpaved roads, while also addressing the concerns that were raised about convenience and attractiveness. Examples to paving include:
 - Magnesium chloride treatments, which over time results in a more compact road surface
 - Bladed surface treatment
 - Double shot of seal coating

Roads and Infrastructure Opportunity Area 2: Make Connections

The Visiting team repeatedly heard creating bicycle and pedestrian on- and off-street connections are important to all of the area's assets for residents and for tourists, as well as to realize the potential of economic development in the area. In addition, the Visiting Team heard how important opportunities for social connection are for residents to have a strong sense of community.

Recommendations

RI 2.1 Develop a Pathways Plan. The visiting team recommends developing a plan for offstreet pedestrian and bikeways. Identify and map existing and potential routes for an
off-street trail and pathway system. Include those sections that may not be available
to the City now, but could become available in the future. Current property owners will
not be required to make improvements, but a property sale or proposed subdivision
could trigger dedication of easements. Pathway construction could then occur when
roads and other infrastructure are being completed. Having a plan will allow the
community to prioritize investments and make Fairfield attractive for outside funding for
bike and pedestrian pathways.

A completed pathway or trail network could connect, for example, the following community amenities:

- 4H Park
- School and library
- Rodeo grounds
- Kid Pond
- Downtown

- RI 2.2 Form an Active Transportation Committee. Include stakeholders from across the community (e.g., bicyclists, pedestrians, schools, seniors, disabled, health community, parks and recreation, Hispanics, public officials, general public, transit, business owners, youth, parents). This committee can provide recommendations about potential projects and help identify and secure funding.
- RI 2.3 Develop and install wayfinding signage to identify the bicycle and pedestrian network.
- RI 2.4 Work with the recommended Active Transportation Committee and other community organizations to develop and implement community events in the downtown. Events and programs will help create vibrancy in the downtown and also enhance the sense of community that residents value.

Roads and Infrastructure Opportunity Area 3: Improve other types of community infrastructure, including housing, electrical service capacity, broadband, and Internet service

The visiting team identified several types of infrastructure that need attention now or in the not distant future. Future progress in these areas will help the community achieve many of the community and economic development goals described in this report. Issues related to housing variety and condition, in particular, was identified as a limiting factor during the community review.

Broadband and Internet access were limitations experienced by the visiting team during the community review. The lack of consistent broadband service impedes the development of some businesses that rely on high quality broadband services to meet customer demands for access to their websites. Growth of Internet-based businesses could grow, bringing diversification and new opportunities if consistent broadband were available.

Recommendations

- RI 3.1 Representatives of the City, County, Chamber of Commerce, major employers, and Idaho Power need to assess existing electrical service and estimate future needs to see if upgrading the service is needed. If changes are required, a plan needs to be developed by all parties.
- RI 3.2 Continue to pursue replacement of older sections of sewer lines to eliminate existing inflow and infiltration concerns.
- RI 3.3 Encourage home owners to pursue energy and water efficiency improvements.

 Reducing water and energy usage provide residents with additional income to spend at local businesses. Reducing water consumption will extend the operational life of the water system and possibly improve fire protection.
- RI 3.4 When city streets are opened up for underground utility work consider the installation of conduit for telecommunication infrastructure. This will lower the costs of attracting improved broadband and prevent wear and tear on city streets should broadband improvement projects take place.

Roads and Infrastructure Opportunity Area 4: Plans and Ordinances

The visiting team encourages the City of Fairfield to review infrastructure and development-related policies and ordinances to identify changes that would encourage development that is more consistent with the community's long-term vision. The community is more likely to grow in a way that protects the qualities most valued if infrastructure plans and zoning ordinances are consistent with the preferred vision of Fairfield's future.

Updating and streamlining the City's decision-making and permitting processes and creatively minimizing the cost of owning, maintaining, and improving a business without shifting these costs onto local tax payers are equally important objectives to consider. We're not advising that existing regulatory requirements be scrapped; only that they be reviewed to ensure they are not creating an unnecessary barriers.

Recommendations

- RI 4.1 Consider developing design standards for downtown and commercial development.

 This will prepare the City for new investment while ensuring that new development will be in line with the community's vision for the future.
- RI 4.2 Explore creating a "Main Street" Overlay District in the downtown area. An overlay district would enable the City of Fairfield a voice in how properties develop in their downtown core. Parcels included in the overlay district should be identified in the ordinance. A requirement for design review should be established for all properties within this overlay district. The resign review process will enable the City to request additional landscaping, establish parking standards, and regulate building design in the overlay district without completely revamping the zoning ordinance for Fairfield. Ideally, Fairfield should codify parking requirements, landscape buffers, signage, and building design issues in their ordinance for the downtown overlay district, but establishing a design review requirement would at least improve the ability of the City to regulate development in their downtown. Alternatively, conditional use permits could be required for all building permits in the overlay district; this would allow the planning and zoning commission and city council to place additional conditions on development in the downtown core of Fairfield.
- RI 4.3 Adopt an Open Space Ordinance. Fairfield should also consider adopting an open space requirement for any future residential or commercial subdivisions. Dedication of 10% of the project area for useable open space is standard throughout Idaho. Fairfield should have an Open Space ordinance adopted in anticipation of future development.
- RI 4.4 Adopt the Pathways Plan into the Transportation and Comprehensive Plans for the City. The Pathways Plan should be adopted as a part of the City's Comprehensive Plan. Adoption of the Pathways Plan will make it easier to obtain funding for development of a professional Pathways Plan, which will include survey work and preliminary design in the future and adoption of the Plan will be critical for obtaining funding for construction of pathways.

- RI 4.5 Work with law enforcement to improve code compliance along Soldier Road. Consider organizing community clean up days to address some issues along Soldier Road.
- RI 4.6 Enlist the Economic Development Ready Team (See ED 2.9) in the effort to identify changes to City requirements and permitting processes that would help support future economic development.

Roads and Infrastructure Resources

The USDA Rural Development Community Facilities (CF) Program has a limited amount of grant funds available to assist in the development of essential community facilities (including infrastructure, streets, roads, and bridges) in rural areas and towns of up to 20,000 in population. Grants are authorized on a graduated scale. Applicants located in small communities with low populations and low incomes will receive a higher percentage of grants. Grants are available to public entities such as municipalities, counties, parishes, boroughs, and special-purpose districts, as well as non-profit corporations and tribal governments. Contact Dale Lish, dale.lish@id.usda.gov, 208-785-5840, ext. 119.

For additional Rural Funding Resources see http://ric.nal.usda.gov/Rural-Federal-Funding-Database. Also see A Guide to Funding Resources is available here: http://www.nal.usda.gov/ric/ricpubs/fundguide.html.

The Idaho Rural Water Association circuit rider program could provide further input on questions regarding the capacity and condition of the water and wastewater systems. Go to http://www.idahoruralwater.com/Pages/default.aspx or call 208-343-7001.

The Blue Cross Foundation Grant program funds, among other things, community walking and biking trails. Go to http://www.bcidahofoundation.org/.

Idaho Health & Welfare Community Activity Connection Grants. Go to http://www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/Health/IdahoPhysicalActivityandNutrition(IPAN)/PhysicalActivity/tabid/1970/Default.aspx and http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/downloads/UrbanDesignPolicies.pdf.

Idaho Smart Growth provides assistance to communities working to become more walkable and bikable as they grow. Go to www.idahosmartgrowth.org. Contact 208-333-8066.

The Idaho Department of Transportation has a website with information and links to ITD initiatives related to bicycling and walking, tips and resources for bicycling and walking in Idaho, information on how bicycle and pedestrian projects are implemented, as well as useful links to other organizations that are committed to bicycle and pedestrian mobility. Go to http://itd.idaho.gov/bike ped/proposals.htm and http://itd.idaho.gov/bike ped/FundingGuide2013.pdf.

The Transportation Research Board publishes resources related to selecting chemical treatments for unpaved roads. Go to http://docs.trb.org/prp/14-3437.pdf.

The Local Highway Technical Assistance Council provides a variety of educational opportunities and other assistance to local jurisdictions and transportation agencies in rural Idaho. Go to http://lhtac.org/. Contact Ihtac@Ihtac.org or 208-344-0565.

Idaho Walk Bike Alliance. Go to http://idahowalkbike.org/. Contact Cynthia Gibson at 208-286-1628, Cynthia@idahowalkbike.org.

Idaho Smart Growth (ISG) offers a number of resources that can help the City act on many of the planning, zoning, and transportation-related recommendations in this report. Go to www.idahosmartgrowth.org. Contact: Deanna Smith (<u>deanna@idahosmartgrowth.org</u>) or Elaine Clegg, (<u>elaine@idahosmartgrowth.org</u>) at 208-333-8066.

Horrocks Engineers has developed trail plans and related projects in other Idaho communities. Contact Fairfield Community Review visiting team member Wendy Kirkpatrick Shrief, 208-463-4197, wendys@horrocks.com.

A partial list of Idaho cities and/or counties who have successfully built community or greenbelt-like trail systems includes:

Pocatello/Bannock County
Driggs/Teton County
Glenns Ferry
Ketchum/Hailey/Blaine County
Kootenai County/Coeur d'Alene Tribe
Lewiston
Moscow/Troy/Latah County
McCall/Valley County

Weiser/Cambridge/Washington County Boise/Garden City/Eagle/Ada County Star Middleton Twin Falls/Twin Falls County Sandpoint/Bonner County Soda Springs

In some cases, success has been made possible by the creation of a non-profit organization specifically formed to fund and construct a trail or trail system. The Latah Trail Foundation is one example (http://www.latahtrailfoundation.org/default.aspx?PageID=1, 208- 874-3860, https://www.latahtrailfoundation.org/default.aspx?PageID=1, and advocacy of local citizens and community groups.

The Center for Transportation Studies at the University of Minnesota publishes a Gravel Road Maintenance and Design Manual. Go to http://www.mnltap.umn.edu/publications/videos/gravelroadmaintenance/.

For more on gravel road maintenance, contact Jason Giard at the Federal Highway Administration office in Boise. He's one of the operations engineers and he's had a long career

with Montana DOT, FHWA and is a real expert on alternative maintenance options. Contact Jason <u>Jason.giard@dot.gov</u> or 208-334-9180(ext. 123).

For an example of a very good local advocacy group that makes recommendations to the city on Bike and Ped look at Bike Walk Nampa. LaRita Schandorff is the lead. bikewalknampa@gmail.com. They also have a fantastic bike/pedestrian plan that would be a good model.

The Sonoran Institute's New Mobility West program does concept planning and technical assistance The Local Highway Technical Assistance Council can help Fairfield and Camas County identify potential funding for highway safety and other transportation projects. Contact Laila Kral at Ikral@Ihtac.org.

The Blue Cross/Blue Shield Foundation has provided money for planning and projects that encourage active living (e.g. biking and walking). Contact Kendra Witt-Doyle, kwitt-doyle@bcidaho.com.

Neighborhood Housing Services sponsors programs to help the elderly and disabled with raking and painting using volunteers. Go to http://www.nhsid.org/what-we-do/paint-the-town-boise/apply-for-paint-the-town-services and http://nwboise.org/rake-up-boise/.

Idaho Power offers a number of programs to help home owners and renters reduce their energy costs. Go to

https://www.idahopower.com/EnergyEfficiency/Residential/default.cfm?tab=Residential

The Idaho Office of Energy Resources offers low interest loans to help home owners with energy efficiency improvements. Contact Tammy Japhet, tammy.japhet@oer.idaho.gov, 208 332-1663. Go to http://energy.idaho.gov/financialassistance/energyloans.htm.

USDA Rural Development's Section 504 Home Repair program offers grants and low interest loans to help low income persons to improve, repair, modernize and remedy health and safety hazards. Go to http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/single-family-housing-repair-loans-grants. Contact 208-733-5380, Ext. 4.

The Idaho Water Resource board offers grants and low interest loans for projects designed to conserve water usage. Funds may be used for both drinking and irrigation water projects. https://www.idwr.idaho.gov/waterboard/Financial%20program/financial.htm
Contact Stuart VanGreuningen, 208-287-490, stuart.vangreuningen@idwr.idaho.gov.

Arts, Historic, and Recreation Resources

Community Comments and Concerns

Home team members and other residents of Fairfield shared numerous comments, concerns, and opinions that fall under the arts, historic, and recreation resources focus area. The statements that came up most frequently are summarized below.

Pride of place

Many people we spoke with during the community review impressed the visiting team with their knowledge of and appreciation for the landscape and history of the Camas Prairie. This information came to the visiting team in the form of engaging stories about specific time periods,



people, places, and events. This strong attachment to both the community and to the Prairie is reflected in community events like Camas Lily Days and Sho-Ban Camas Prairie Homecoming, rodeo, Fall Fest, and other events.

Natural heritage and related recreation opportunities
Whether it's hunting, fishing, four-wheeling, snowmobiling, golfing, camping, birding, or other activity, Fairfield residents enjoy recreation opportunities provided by nearby natural areas. There is also broad recognition that people from the Magic

Valley, Treasure Valley, and Blaine County come to the Fairfield area to enjoy these same opportunities.

The Fairfield District of the Sawtooth National Forest, Soldier Mountain Ski Resort, and Centennial Marsh are the three natural areas mentioned most often. At the time of the community review, the future of the family-oriented Soldier Mountain Ski Resort was somewhat uncertain primarily due to insufficient snowfall in recent years and deferred maintenance needs that were not addressed by previous owners. Community, Forest Service, and ski resort leaders expressed their opinion that improved communication, better understanding of stakeholder needs and interests, and a broader agreement on a vision for the resort would improve the resort's prospects going forward. Many folks expressed their view that Soldier Mountain has the potential to expand its operations and economic impact, provided future improvement projects are broadly supported.

Importance of existing recreational and cultural facilities

Fairfield residents place a high value several local recreational and cultural facilities. Many of them have been completed or improved through volunteer effort and donated of money and materials. The facilities mentioned most often (and visited during the community review) include:

- Senior Center
- 4H Park and Bandshell
- Rodeo Grounds
- Kid Pond
- Museum
- School

What's more, Fairfield impressed the visiting team as a community that is continually developing ideas future recreational and cultural projects. Recent and ongoing projects discussed before and during the community review include:

- Lighting, electrical and other improvements at the rodeo grounds
- Development of Manmade recreation area just north of the City
- Temporary ice skating rink at 4H Park
- Painting the train depot
- Bike/pathway system
- Swimming pool

Efforts to promote the arts

Fairfield home team leaders indicated there are many artists and artisans living on the Camas Prairie and elsewhere in the region (e.g. Blaine County), but relatively few of them living in Fairfield. Organized efforts to promote the arts on the Camas Prairie tend to be short lived. Results have been mixed. The Camas Arts Council that completed the bandshell in the park about five years ago is no longer active.

Artist and arts supporters we talked with during the community review are looking to incorporate the arts and arts education into community events, public properties, and school activities in ways that can be sustained.

Events that bring the community together and draw visitors

The visiting team frequently heard Fairfield residents express appreciation for the community's numerous annual events. Camas Lily Days/Sho-Ban Camas Prairie Homecoming, Camas County Rodeo, 4H Fair and Livestock Sale, 4th of July Celebration, Fall Fest, and the Christmas Tree Lighting are the significant events we learned about during the community review. Like most rural Idaho communities, high school athletic events also bring the community together. With regard to attendance at some events (e.g. Camas Lily Days), the visiting team was informed that the number of visitors exceed the number of Fairfield residents.

Arts, Historic, and Recreation Resources Opportunity Areas

AHR Opportunity Area 1: Continue to improve existing recreational facilities in and adjacent to town that are important venues for community events

The visiting and home teams spent significant time visiting and talking about Fairfield's recreational and culturally important facilities. These include the rodeo grounds, park, "manmade" property, kid pond, and museum. The visiting team's related recommendations are offered below.

Recommendations

- AHR 1.1 We encourage the community to continue improving your annual events as opposed to creating entirely new events. Keep your focus on quality, not quantity.
- AHR 1.2 Now going on its 6th or 7th year, the rodeo struck the visiting team as an important and successful event. The visiting team encourages the community to continue working on the following improvements at the rodeo grounds.
 - Upgrade utilities, especially electrical service and water
 - Arena lighting
 - Permanent restrooms
 - Replace/expand existing bleachers
- AHR 1.3 The city park is clearly an important landmark and location for community events. Improvements identified for the park include the following.
 - Electrical upgrades
 - Sound system
 - Bathroom expansion
 - · Covered concession stand
- AHR 1.4 The "manmade" site just north of the Fairfield city limits is a significant opportunity that has implications for both recreation and economic development. The visiting team offers the following ideas and recommendations regarding development of the site.
 - Reach agreement about what group or groups of people development of the property will serve. Do you envision it for primarily local use? As something that will attract visitors? As both?
 - Create something that generates revenue or otherwise draws visitors from outside
 the immediate community who will support local businesses. It should be
 something that reflects your community identity. Examples might include
 ATV/motorbike park, winter sports park (e.g. cross country ski center).
- AHR 1.5 Continue working with Idaho Fish and Game and other partners to improve the "Kid Pond". Specific improvements identified during the community review include:
 - Additional parking
 - Path around pond

- Tables
- Educational signage

AHR Opportunity Area 2: Develop key recreational assets in outlying areas It is the visiting team's perspective that Soldier Mountain Ski Area, Sawtooth National Forest, and the state-owned Centennial Marsh are the three most significant outdoor recreational assets in the area. They are highly valued by both locals and visitors.

Our recommendations related to the Soldier Mountain Ski Resort reflect our assessment of conditions that existed and the information that was collected at the time of the community review. The visiting team realizes that conditions have changed with the recent change in ownership. Still, we offer the following recommendations that we feel are applicable to the community and new owners of the resort.

The visiting team was impressed by the successful investments and improvements that have been completed in recent years. Improved facilities for sno-cat skiing, variable speed chairlift, magic carpet, and – in particular, the rebuilding of the lodge following loss by fire all speak to the resourcefulness and passion of the community and the resort leadership at the time.



In general, it was the visiting team's observation at the time of

the community review that the community was waiting for the ski resort to come to it in a collaborative manner to talk about improving the facilities and solidifying the resort's financial footing. By the same token, we also perceived the ski resort was waiting for the community to come to it to offer support. In the other words, the community and ski resort were waiting for each other. In a similar vein, we heard from ski resort leaders who said it was difficult to find people in the community willing to volunteer for events at the resort. At least one resident told us they communicated interest in volunteering for a specific event, only to be told no volunteers were needed.

Recommendations related to Soldier Mountain

AHR 2.1 Every event and improvement project at Soldier Mountain should be viewed as an opportunity to build trust and good will between the community and the resort.

- AHR 2.2 To encourage reciprocity, the resort should look for ways to be more visible in the community by, for example, supporting and being a visible part of at community events, improvement projects, and school-related activities.
- AHR 2.3 The resort should look for ways Invite community leaders and other stakeholders in a process to update the long term vision and capital improvement plan for Soldier Mountain. People and organizations who invest their time in creating this vision are more likely to help make it a reality through future donations of time, funding, and other types of support. The vision/plan for the resort should be aspirational, realistic, and clear. It should also articulate the market the resort seeks to attract as well as goals or targets regarding employment and economic impact.
- AHR 2.4 Resort planning should include, among other things, a decision about re-installing snowmaking equipment. When the topic came up during the community review, most people seemed to think snowmaking at Soldier Mountain is critical to extend the ski reason. Also, concerned was expressed that water rights currently available for snowmaking might be lost if not used.
- AHR 2.5 Greater emphasis should be placed developing year round activities. We suggest focusing on family-oriented mountain biking, bike racing, zip lines, ropes course, camping and other types of low impact lodging, and other summer season activities. In particular, the visiting team sees a significant opportunity to increase the resort's appeal for recreational mountain biking and racing. We think a trainings or skill-building course for youth and adults just getting into mountain biking would be a great addition. Environmental stewardship and education elements, as well as accessibility by people with disabilities, should be incorporated into the development of summertime activities.

Recent policy changes at the federal level potentially support the recommendation above. On November 7, 2011, President Obama signed into law the *Ski Area Recreational Opportunity Enhancement Act*. This Act established a regulatory process for permitting summer uses at the nation's ski areas that operate on public lands. It specifically allows four uses: zip lines, mountain bike parks/trails, Frisbee golf courses, and ropes courses. The Act excludes the following activities: tennis courts, water slides/parks, swimming pools, golf courses, and amusement parks.

- AHR 2.6 Strongly consider re-establishing the annual summer music festival or concern initiated a few years ago.
- AHR 2.7 Collaborate with the Forest Service to explore all options for increasing year round lodging at the resort. Any and all options should be considered. This recommendation is even more applicable if Soldier Mountain Ranch remains closed to the public.

- AHR 2.8 If Soldier Mountain Ranch re-opens to the public and/or is sold, encourage a stronger and mutually beneficial business and relationship between Solder Mountain Ski Resort and Soldier Mountain Ranch. Is there a way to physically connect the Ranch and the ski area via shuttle, ski runs, ski and stay packages, or development of a Nordic center at Solder Mountain Ranch?
- AHR 2.9 Find ways to document and celebrate the history of Soldier Mtn. Ski Area as a way to affirm past contributions of individuals and the importance of the relationship between the community and the hill. Involve the museum and community youth in this project.

Recommendations Related to Centennial Marsh

AHR 2.10 Develop stronger relationships between Idaho Fish and Game, the community, and the school in order to explore opportunities to, for example, increase use of the marsh for educational purposes. Students could be encouraged to maintain a life list of birds they've seen at the marsh. Such a project can develop a life-long

of bilds they we seem at the marsh. Such a project can develop a life-long

appreciation for wildlife and outdoor recreation.

AHR 2.11 Work with Idaho Fish and
Game to install one or more
live web cameras at the
marsh. Community residents
and potential visitors could
see what's going on at the
marsh in real time. For
example, they would be able
to see when the camas lilies
are in bloom and when
specific migratory birds have
returned in the spring.



- AHR 2.12 Similar to the web camera idea above, create an on-line journal or guestbook that visitors can use to describe their experience at the marsh, the birds they identified, etc.
- AHR 2.13 Develop interpretive signs at the marsh that provides information about birds and other wildlife, geology, and human history.
- AHR 2.14 Information about what to see and do and the services available in Fairfield and Camas County should also be provided at the marsh. Links to this information should also be added to the Idaho Fish and Game's website (http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/ifwis/ibt/site.aspx?id=SW31). (Currently, there is no information of this kind available at the IDFG site.)

- AHR 2.15 Increase the use of signature birds and camas lilies in printed literature, on-line marketing to visitors, and public areas (e.g. downtown street banners, signage, and other public art). In terms of establishing your brand that tells visitors and potential residents about life in Camas County, these icons are as important as your agricultural heritage and the Soldier Mountains.
- AHR 2.16 Install a secure donation box at the marsh to support some of the recommendations above.
- AHR 2.17 Reach out to and build relationships with on-line birding meet-up groups, Facebook pages like "Idaho Birding", and organizations like Golden Eagle Chapter of the National Audubon Society to identify ways to improve Centennial Marsh and services and information available in Fairfield (that would be appealing to birders).

AHR Opportunity Area 3: Develop the "Camas Prairie Heritage Project" and use it as a focus for historic preservation, community revitalization, and tourism marketing efforts.

During the Community Review, the visiting team heard a lot of residents and leaders express a desire to bring more people – from both inside and outside Fairfield – to events and to take advantage of the Camas Prairie's natural and cultural assets.

The "Camas Prairie Heritage Project" (CPHP) is a project idea developed by the Visiting Team as a way to organize your thinking about all these resources and assets in a new, integrated way. During our short time in Fairfield and on the Camas Prairie, it was clear to us that all the pieces—people, places, and things—are already here. There's no need to contrive a theme or visitor attraction that's not based on your actual history and culture. This project we're proposing can best described as cultural tourism (aka heritage tourism).

The CPHP would combine them all of your assets and resources in a creative, innovative, and potentially profitable way. It would incorporate your history and identity in all marketing, community development efforts, and events. If developed in phases as suggested by the recommendations below, the project will tell the compelling story of the Camas Prairie's history, heritage, and present day assets. It will also create a unique, integrated visitor experience and capitalize on the pride, legacy, historic, and living traditions of the Prairie. Fairfield and the Camas Prairie could learn from areas or regions of Idaho that have integrated history and culture it into their tourism efforts. These areas include include the Silver Valley in Shoshone County and the Bear River Heritage Area in Franklin County, Idaho and Cache County, Utah.

Recommendations

- AHR 3.1 Continue to increase use of the name "Camas Prairie" in efforts to market the area to potential visitors, residents, and businesses. "Camas Prairie" evokes images of strong sense of place, landscape, and history.
- AHR 3.2 Complete an inventory of the following:
 - Current and historic communities, including Fairfield, Soldier, Corral, Hill City

- Historically significant stories, events, visitors, and residents (to include pre-European settlement)
 – and associated stories
- Farms & Ranches
- Cemeteries, historic sites, architecture
- Festivals: Camas Lily
 Days, 4H Fair, Rodeo,
 Pioneer Picnic, Christmas
 Tree Lighting, etc.
- Natural Resources:

 Sawtooth National Forest,
 BLM land, Centennial
 Marsh, Mormon & Magic
 Reservoirs



 Defined space of Camas Prairie Valley. Where are the boundaries or edges of the Camas Prairie?

AHR 3.3 Who would be involved in the Camas Prairie Heritage Project?

- Tradition bearers: preservers & perpetuators of cultural traditions
- New residents
- Government and private entities
- Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
- Businesspeople/craftspeople/farmers & ranchers
- School kids

AHR 3.4 What does the project look like, how does it work?

- Phase 1: Cultural survey of the valley—document the historic and living traditions with photos, video, historic information, interviews, etc.
- Phase 2: Assess the information—categorize according to topic and theme (historic architecture, small production farms, heritage-based events, stories connected to place, etc.).
- Phase 3: Create interactive ways to access the information—driving tours, walking tours, biking tours, a heritage calendar, etc.
- Phase 4: Translate to a website, phone app, hard documents—maps, guidebooks, etc. This is where high school students could play a significant role incorporating aspects of science, art, history, and language skills.
- Phase 5: Marketing: how/where to distribute information (maps, website, brochures, Fairfield museum, Forest Service office, caboose, etc.).

AHR 3.5 Funding opportunities. Funders are more likely to support projects that involve authentic, diverse, and multi-stakeholder partnerships, and the use of technology. See the Resources section below for specific examples.

Arts, Historic and Recreation Resources

National Endowment for the Arts: Our Town Arts Engagement, Cultural Planning and Design Projects. Go to http://arts.gov/grants-organizations/our-town/arts-engagement-cultural-planning-and-design-projects-grant-program-description.

Challenge America grant program. Go to http://arts.gov/grants-organizations/challenge-america/grant-program-description.

Idaho Commission on the Arts (ICA)provides assistance and grants for a variety of arts-related projects. They also support the development of arts organizations. Go to http://www.arts.idaho.gov/. Michelle Coleman, Community Development Director, 208-334-2119, michelle.coleman@arts.idaho.gov. ICA's Community Scholar Program could help develop the Camas Prairie Heritage Project. See Appendix for a description of this program. For further details, contact Fairfield visiting team member Steven Hatcher at Steven.Hatcher@arts.idaho.gov or 208-334-2119 ext. 111.

The National Endowment for the Arts provides tools and articles on strategic planning on their website. http://www.nea.gov/resources/Lessons/index.html.

The Urban Institute publishes a free book titled *Culture and Commerce: Traditional Arts and Economic Development* that may be helpful in talking with business owners and community leaders about supporting the arts.

http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/410812 culture and commerce.pdf.

ArtPlace is an organization working to accelerate creative place making in the United States offers grants to projects that involve arts organizations, artists, and designers working in partnership with local and national partners to make transformative impact on community vibrancy. Go to http://www.artplaceamerica.org/.

Idaho National Laboratory's Community Giving Program funds philanthropic projects that focus on arts and culture, civic and community, and health and human services. Go to http://tinyurl.com/c3xrqpw for complete guidelines.

Two Degrees Northwest is a cultural tourism effort based in north central Idaho and southwest Washington coordinated by the University of Idaho Extension. http://www.2dnw.org. Lori Higgins, 208-885-9717, Higgins@uidaho.edu.

The Idaho Humanities Council provides grant funding for projects and events related to history, culture, and identity. The Council can also provide information regarding funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Go to www.idahohumanities.org. 208-345-5346.

Idaho State Historical Society's Community Enhancement grants can fund interpretive signage, brochures, and history-related audio and video projects. Go to

http://history.idaho.gov/community-enhancement-grants. Keith Peterson, keith.peterson@history.idaho.gov, 208.882.1540.

Tourism Cares is a non-profit offering grants and technical assistance for the preservation, conservation and restoration of cultural and historic sites and visitor education. Go to http://www.tourismcares.org/.

Some communities have used New Markets Tax Credits to rehabilitate historic buildings, which then become the cornerstones of their downtowns. In Idaho, New Market Tax Credits are administered by the Montana Community Development Corporation. Go to http://mtcdc.org/loans/new-markets-tax-credits/. Contact Dave Glaser, 406-728-9234 ext. 211, daveg@mtcdc.org.

The National Park Service has a historic tax credit that can be paired with New Market Tax Credit. Go to: http://www.nps.gov/tps/tax-incentives.htm.

Fred Walters, architectural historian with the Idaho Heritage Trust, will tour historic buildings and give ideas as well as roughly evaluate condition of structures. Contact Executive Director Katherine Kirk at 208-549-1778. Go to http://www.idahoheritage.org/.

Idaho State Parks and Recreation offers grants for recreation projects, particularly if they are multipurpose and attract multiple audiences. Go to http://parksandrecreation.idaho.gov.aspx. They also offer grants to communities looking to develop RV facilities. Go to http://parksandrecreation.idaho.gov/idaho-recreational-vehicle-rv-program. Contact Jennifer Park, jennifer.park@idpr.idaho.gov, 208-525-7121.

KaBOOM is a non-profit dedicated to the construction of parks and playgrounds. Go to http://kaboom.org/.

Major League Baseball's Baseball Tomorrow Fund assists communities developing playing fields and provides uniform and equipment to schools and youth baseball organizations. Go to http://web.mlbcommunity.org/index.jsp?content=programs&program=baseball tomorrow fund.

The U.S. Soccer Foundation awards grants on an annual basis to support both soccer programs and field-building initiatives in underserved areas nationwide. Go to http://www.ussoccerfoundation.org/.

The Saucony Run For Good Foundation supports programs promoting activity and healthy lifestyles for youth. Go to http://www.sauconyrunforgood.com/.

The American Medical Association's Healthy Living Grant Program supports grassroots health education programs to develop school and community-based solutions to behavioral health challenges. Go to http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/about-ama/ama-foundation/our-programs/public-health/healthy-living-grants.page.

The offices for the Bear River Heritage Area are located in Logan, UT. Go to http://bearriverheritage.com. Contact the Lisa Duskin-Goede, Bear River Heritage Area Coordinator, lisad@brag.utah.gov, 435-752-7242.

Sunrise Park Resort near Greer, AZ is one ski and snowboard resort that's actively working to decrease its dependency on snow by increasing its appeal as a year round destination offering a variety of activities. It is owned and operated by the White Mountain Apache Tribe. Go to http://sunriseskiparkaz.com/. Contact 855-735-SNOW or info@sunriseskipark.com/. A description of summer activities is available here: http://sunriseskiparkaz.com/summer-things-to-do/.

"Changing Climate Heats Up Ski Resort Summer Uses in Nevada" by Nick Exline is an article in the February/March issue of Western Planning magazine. The article describes how Heavenly Mountain Resort was the first Lake Tahoe resort to propose activities under a federal bill that allows the Forest Service to review and accept non-ski-related activities. Go to http://westernplanner.org/journal/current-issue/.

PART V CIVIC LIFE AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: A FOURTH FOCUS AREA

The Fairfield Community Review included two focus areas selected by the community. The third focus area three focus areas for the Fairfield Community Review — economic development — is a required focus area. This community-driven approach is one of the Idaho Community Review program's greatest strengths. In this section of the report, the visiting team identifies a fourth focus area. It is typically an area of concern discussed frequently by numerous residents and leaders participating in listening sessions and other meetings during the review, but not selected by the community in its application. It is often a subject that is applicable to all three focus areas.

The visiting team has selected Civic Life and Community Involvement as the fourth focus area for the Fairfield Community Review. This additional focus area was selected by the visiting team based on the frequency that comments and concerns came up during the community review on the following topics and questions.

- Residents of Fairfield and the Camas Prairie are caring, helpful, and generous.
- Certain organizations serve as important community anchors. Examples include the school, library, museum, senior center, 4H, Soldier Mountain, American Legion, and churches.
- Young people taught to work for what they want. High school students told the visiting team they often have to work for donations. They might not always like it when they're out there washing cars, but they appreciate this community value.
- Local community organizations seek funding for various projects many of these projects are described in this report.
- Community development projects depend on a small number of volunteers. Many of these volunteers are giving us much time and energy as they can.
- How can the community increase the number of residents who are volunteering for various events and projects?
- How can we engage more Fairfield residents and visitors from other communities in local events?
- How can we better communicate with people and organizations inside and outside the community? Chamber of Commerce has both a website and Facebook page. The City has a website only. There are questions and differences of opinion about whether word is getting out about events, issues, and opportunities.
- Improved coordination and communication between the City, County, and Chamber is desired in order to achieve community and economic development goals.

Recommendations

 Create opportunities for interested residents to build their grantwriting skills and confidence. There are training opportunities available, on-line and otherwise. See Appendix G for additional recommendations and information about fundraising and grantwriting.

- A few interested Fairfield residents could reach out to the Sho-Ban Tribal members who
 are involved in the annual Camas Prairie Homecoming to develop opportunities to build
 cross cultural friendship and understanding.
- Continue to take advantage of opportunities to involve Forest Service crews in community projects!!!!
- To increase volunteerism, the visiting team encourages Fairfield's community organizations to consider these general principles related to volunteer recruitment and development:
 - · ASK people to volunteer.
 - Ask volunteers to contribute for a specific project for a finite period of time. When this time period ends, ask them if they would like to continue volunteering.
 - Make the role of volunteers clear.
 - Celebrate accomplishments.
 - · Encourage volunteers to contribute their ideas.
 - Thank people for their efforts.
 - Never underestimate the power of food to bring people together.
- If it does not have one, the City should consider creating a monthly or bi-monthly newsletter to help keep residents informed about City and community initiatives.
- Make better use of Facebook to convey community information. This is a particularly important way to engage and inform youth and young adults. This same Facebook page can be used to promote events to people outside of Fairfield. Engage students in this project.
- Create and maintain one coordinated Prairie-wide community calendar. It would include all information about community affairs, events, and volunteer opportunities.
- Create an annual volunteer appreciation potluck dinner or other event.

Civic Life and Community Involvement Resources

"Social Capital Building Toolkit" by Thomas Sander and Kathleen Lowney is an October 2006 publication of the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Go to http://www.hks.harvard.edu/saguaro/pdfs/skbuildingtoolkitversion1.2.pdf.

"A Positive Revolution in Change: Appreciative Inquiry", by David Cooperrider and Diana Whitney, Case Western Reserve University, 1999. This document and many other resources related to Appreciative Inquiry are found at the Appreciative Inquiry Commons website. http://appreciativeinquiry.case.edu/.

Love Caldwell is a faith-based project to develop opportunities for civic engagement, bridge building, and community service in Caldwell. Go to www.lovecaldwell.org or call 208-459-1821.

The National Coalition for Dialogue & Deliberation (NCDD) promotes the use of dialogue, deliberation, and other innovative group processes to help people come together across

differences to tackle challenging problems. An impressive variety of resources are available for download at their website. http://ncdd.org/, 717-243-5144, info@ncdd.org.

The nonprofit Greater Menan Community, Inc. publishes a monthly community newsletter that may serve as a good example for Fairfield. See Appendix H. To learn more about the Greater Menan Community, Inc., to the www.thegmcinc.org or email mymenaninfo@gmail.com.

"Governments are from Saturn...... Citizens are from Jupiter: Strategies for Reconnecting Citizens and Government" is a publication available from the Municipal Research and Services Center. It is full of strategies the City could use to reconnect with citizens. Contact information for all strategies is provided. Go to http://www.mrsc.org/publications/textsrcg.aspx.

The Heartland Center for Leadership Development is a non-profit organization based in Lincoln, Nebraska that provides information and assistance to rural communities regarding collaboration, leadership development, and strategic planning.

http://www.heartlandcenter.info/publications.htm, 800-927-1115. The Center publishes *Better Schools Through Public Engagement* (among many other publications related to community leadership and development). Go to http://www.heartlandcenter.info/publications.htm, 800-927-1115.

Challenge Day is a nonprofit organization that provides youth and their communities with experiential workshops and programs that demonstrate the possibility of connection through the celebration of diversity, truth, and full expression. Several rural, suburban, and urban high schools in Idaho have partnered with Challenge Day. Go to www.challengeday.org, 925-957-0234.

HomeTown Competitiveness is a joint project of the Nebraska Community Foundation, the Heartland Center for Leadership Development and the RUPRI Center for Rural Entrepreneurship. Started in 2002, HTC's community development strategy focuses on four pillars: (1) Developing Local Leadership, (2) Increasing Community Philanthropy, (3) Energizing Entrepreneurs, and (4) Engaging Youth. Go to http://htccommunity.whhive.com for additional resources and contact information.

The Orton Family Foundation shares information, best practices, and tools on citizen-driven planning and public participation in rural communities. Stewarding the Future of Our Communities: Case Studies in Sustaining Community Engagement and Planning in America's Small Cities and Towns is one recent publication. Go to http://www.orton.org/resources/stewardship study.

Idaho Nonprofit Center provides education and networking opportunities to nonprofit organizations on a variety of issues, including organizational development, fundraising, and collaboration. Go to www.idahononprofits.org.

Boise-based Kessler-Keener Foundation creates events and supports other activities intended to increase understanding, respect, and friendship between Native and non-Native people in Idaho. Go to www.kesslerkeener.org or call Ed Keener at 208-429-0266.

The Nez Perce Tribe's annual Tamkaliks Celebration and Friendship Potluck near Wallowa, OR is a celebration and recognition of the continuing Nez Perce presence in the Wallowa Valley. Go to http://www.wallowanezperce.org/index.php/tamkaliks-celebration. Contact the Wallowa Band Nez Perce Trail Interpretive Center at 541-886-3101 or email tamkaliks@gmail.com.

Idaho National Laboratory's Community Donations. Idaho National Laboratory (INL), on behalf of corporate funds provided by Battelle Energy Alliance, funds philanthropic projects from nonprofit agencies that focus on health and human services, disadvantaged youth, environmental projects, civic affairs, or culture and the arts. Go to https://www.inl.gov/inl-initiatives/community-outreach/.

Karma for Cara Foundation has a microgrant program that encourages kids 18 and under to apply for funds between \$250 and \$1,000 to complete service projects in their communities. Whether it is turning a vacant lot into a community garden, rebuilding a school playground or helping senior citizens get their homes ready for winter, we want to hear what project you're passionate about. Go to http://karmaforcara.org/get-involved/apply-for-a-microgrant/.

PART VI FINAL THOUGHTS & NEXT STEPS

The Visiting Team ends its report to the community with the following thoughts. We hope they help you think about what might come next. We encourage you to take advantage of opportunities for continued assistance while at the same time keeping in mind that the future of Fairfield and Camas County will be determined by what you, the residents and leaders, do. No one can do it for you.

Becoming an Entrepreneurial Community

Entrepreneurial communities engage all ages and social groups in community improvement efforts. Likewise, your success will likely hinge on involving a diverse and representative group of community members to take stock of local assets, gain an understanding of *what is* driving and *what can* drive the area's economy, create a shared community vision, and develop teams to focus on various aspects of that vision.

Many of the opportunities and recommendations described in this report will help Fairfield become more entrepreneurial. For overall guidance and assistance with this process, the visiting team encourages the communities to give special consideration to the recommendations and resources identified in the Economic Development focus area beginning on page XXX, and *Part V* beginning on page xxx.

We also encourage community leaders and residents to "Like" the Idaho Community Review program on Facebook at www.facebook.com/IdahoCommunityReview.

Community Coaching for Grassroots Action

University of Idaho Extension faculty are available to work with Fairfield residents and leaders to get organized to implement community review recommendations by bringing a cross-section of the community together to identify assets, deepen understanding of economic drivers, conditions, and possibilities, create a vision, develop teams, and take action. The program, Community Coaching for Grassroots Action, is designed to build leadership capacity while establishing and moving toward shared goals for the community. The brochure for this program is included as Appendix L. More information may be found at: http://cd.extension.uidaho.edu/leadership/index.php. Contact Lorie Higgins, 208-669-1480 or higgins@uidaho.edu.

Why it Matters

Funding from government agencies and non-government organizations from outside the community is often needed to accomplish larger-scale community and economic development goals. As all Idaho communities know firsthand, the amount of funding for public facilities and infrastructure is limited while the needs (and competition for funds) are ever increasing. Funding applications that result from the use of the positive, inclusive, agreement-seeking tools and principles identified in this report are more likely to be approved than applications from other communities that do not benefit from the same level of broad support. In other words, using inspiring planning and project development processes will mobilize resources within the community and generate greater support from outside the community.

A Final Recommendation

In the Visiting Team's experience, the use of certain principles seem to increase success and build capacity regarding a variety of community and economic development issues and opportunities. We encourage the community leaders and residents of the Lost Rivers Valley to revisit these principles often and apply them as appropriate:

- Start small.
- Start with what you have and who you are (i.e. assets) and build from there.
- Emphasize volunteerism.
- Celebrate each success and honor participants.
- Build local capacity to take on larger projects over time.
- Embrace teamwork.
- Give credit and thanks.
- Make it clear that volunteers are local heroes.
- Engage youth and young adults in a way that allows them to take responsibility and develop leadership skills.

A Last Word.... for Now

Finally, we leave you with the top ten attributes of successful communities. This list was prepared by David Beurle and Juliet Fox, Innovative Leadership 2011 and adapted from the Heartland Centre for Rural Leadership's "20 Clues to Rural Survival".

Top Ten Attributes of Successful Communities

1. Evidence of an inclusive culture

Successful communities are often showplaces of care, attention, history, and heritage. They celebrate their success and have a strong and positive local attitude and support a culture of risk taking and innovation. Diversity is often celebrated and new people are welcomed.

2. Invest in the future – built to last!

People believe that something worth doing is worth doing right. In addition to the brick-and-mortar investments, all decisions are made with an outlook on the future. Expenditures are considered investments in the future, including investments in people. People have their attention on the long-term success of their community.

3. Participatory approach to decision making

Even the most powerful of opinion leaders seem to work toward building a consensus. The stress is on groups, organizations, and communities working together toward a common goal. The focus is on positive results. People, groups, and communities collaborate and share resources.

4. Creatively build new economic opportunities

Successful regions and communities build on existing economic strengths in a realistic way and explore new economic opportunities provided by the 'new economy'. They actively seek out new opportunities and ideas for new businesses. They look for ways to smooth out the impacts of the booms and busts.

5. Support local businesses

Local loyalty is emphasized, but thriving regional communities know who their competitors are and position themselves accordingly. They look for creative ways to leverage the local economy off the resource sector.

6. Deliberate transition of power to new leaders

People under 40 regularly hold key positions in civic and business affairs. Women (and people from minority groups) often hold positions as elected officials, managers, and entrepreneurial developers.

7. Strong belief in and support for education

Good schools are the norm and centers of community activity.

8. Strong presence of traditional institutions that are integral to community life.

Churches, schools, and service clubs are strong influences on community development and social activities.

9. Willingness to seek help from the outside

People seek outside help for local needs, and many compete for government grants and contracts for economic and social programs. They seek out the best ideas and new people to help build their local community and regional strengths.

10. Communities and regions are self-reliant

There is a wide-held conviction that, in the long run, 'You have to do it yourself'. Thriving communities believe their destiny is in their own hands. Making their region a good place to live is a pro-active assignment, and they willingly accept it.

APPENDICES

- **Appendix A: Fairfield Community Review Application**
- **Appendix B: Contact and Biographical Information for Visiting Team Members**
- Appendix C: Fairfield Community Review Survey Form and Summary of Survey Results
- Appendix D: Community Review Master Schedule, Focus Area Itineraries, and Listening Sessions
- Appendix E: Summary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Four-Point Approach to Downtown Revitalization
- Appendix F: Information about the Idaho Commission for the Arts Community Scholar Program
- **Appendix G: Tips for Grantwriters**
- **Appendix H: Greater Menan Community Newsletter**
- Appendix I: University of Idaho's Extension's Community Coaching for Grassroots Action program brochure

Appendix A: Fairfield Community Review Application

Please complete this application and return to:

Idaho Rural Partnership

PO Box 83720, Boise, Idaho 83720 -- (208) 780-5149

Idaho Community Review Application

A Community Visitation Program

Offered in Partnership by the

Association of Idaho Cities, Idaho Department of Commerce, Idaho Housing & Finance Association, U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, University of Idaho, U.S. Department of Agriculture – Rural Development, & Idaho Rural Partnership

Please submit the answers to the following questions. Cities with populations under 10,000 are eligible to apply.

The community review program is an excellent in-kind value for its cost. Idaho cities such as Bonners Ferry, New Meadows, Glenns Ferry, Nez Perce Tribe/City of Lapwai, and Driggs have recently conducted successful community reviews for under \$2,500. Estimated costs for a community review through a private consulting firm, including salary, travel, lodging, site visit, data collection, and report fees, is approximately \$50,000 for equivalent expertise from 15-18 community development professionals.

Your community must agree to accept the following responsibilities to ensure the success of the review:

- Provide mailing labels for the selected households for the purpose of mailing the prereview community survey.
- Arrange for large and small group meeting sites throughout the review with community leaders and citizens.
- Appoint a home team leader for each of the community review focus areas (economic
 development + two other areas selected by the community) who will work with the
 visiting team leaders to plan and coordinate the community review.
- Arrange community tours and meeting agendas in the three focus areas you identify
- Pay for postage for the pre-review community survey, group transportation during the community tours, and all team meals. Many communities have partnered with businesses, school districts, and civic groups to share postage, transportation, and meal costs).
- Suggest lodging locations for the visiting team and supply related information.
- Publicize the community review to maximize community participation
- Assist with collection of background information and data prior to the community review
- Designate at least two community members to facilitate the follow-up process

Community:City of F	airfield
Main Contact Person:	Megan Stelma
Address/City/State/Zip:_	PO Box 336 Fairfield, ID 83327
Phone, Fax, Email:cel	1481-1358, office 764-2333 fax 764-2335 pandzfairfield@frontier.com

Economic development is a required focus area for all community reviews. Circle or write in the two other focus areas your community would like to emphasize. Focus areas might include some combination of the following:

Infrastructure Housing

Land Use Planning Community Design & Identity

Education Health Care

Seniors and Youth Arts, Historic, & Recreation Resources

Civic Life & Community Involvement Transportation

Other Focus Area(s): Arts, Historic, & Recreation Resources and Civic Life & Community Involvement.

Names/phone numbers/Email addresses of the three Focus Area Team Leaders:

- 1. Economic Development: Megan Stelma, 481-1358 pandzfairfield@frontier.com
- 2. Arts, Historic, & Recreation Resources/Civic Life & Community Involvement: Janet Croner, 764-2333 treasurerfairfield@frontier.com
- 3. Infrastructure: J.L. Staley, 764-2333 worksfairfield@frontier.com

In the Focus Areas identified, what specific issues does your community want to address?

1.) Economic Development:

How to market available land and buildings to outside businesses to relocate to Fairfield. Ideas for retention and expansion of existing businesses.

Lack of employment opportunities. Bedroom community.

Identify holes in current offerings – What kind of business thrives in small communities that are not currently represented in Camas Co.

2.) Arts, Historic, & Recreation Resources/ Civic Life & Community Involvement:

How to engage more citizens and outside communities in events.

Explore additional tourism strategies.

How to have large events with limited hotel rooms.

Funding opportunities to support local nonprofit organizations.

Fundraising Options:

Paint Depot

How to fund historic information post along walk path and possible mining exhibit in town.

Ideas for youth activities.

3.) Infrastructure:

How to fund new sidewalks and repair existing for pedestrians usage.

Dirt side roads in the spring are hard to maintain and hard for citizens to walk or drive.

How to fund the replacement of old rusted out culverts to improve storm drainage.

How to fund additional street lamps to illuminate the sidewalks on Soldier Rd.

Pedestrian and bike path from City to Kid Pond.

Pedestrian and bike path along Soldier Creek from City to Man-Made recreation area.

What is the best possible outcome resulting from a community review in your town?

New ideas and specific needs that will increase the community's success in:

- 1. Business retention and new business growth.
- 2. Better communication/relationships for more citizen participation.
- Grant opportunities for sidewalks, street lamps, storm drainage (replacing culverts) and better side roads within the city.

The city hopes that this process will help create an Economic Development Committee to update the 2002 Economic Plan and include implementation strategies for each focus areas.

What strategic planning, business development, enhancement, revitalization, clean-up, contracted or consulting efforts have occurred in your community in the last one to three years? (attach additional sheets, documentation, brochures, or report summaries as necessary)

1) Community Plan:

In August of 2013 the City established a Community Revitalization Plan. City staff has met with Chamber in November 2013. From this meeting the Chamber had several volunteers join a marketing group. The group consists of chamber, non-chamber, city, and county representatives. This group is currently in the process of creating a list of all businesses within the county and city. The list will show which businesses are not yet with the Chamber and help the Chamber better utilize local businesses for different events. This list will also help in finalizing a brochure that has been in the works with the Chamber and Southern Idaho Tourism. The brochure will include businesses, events, and recreation activities (summer & winter). The group has also been in contact with Southern Idaho Tourism to set up another business education seminar in the spring of 2014. Seminar will focus on customer service and marketing tools.

The City held a public workshop regarding a "Welcome" sign in November of 2013. A Chamber member was present. Staff has contacted three different Idaho sign companies to receive quotes on a "Welcome" sign for the intersection of Highway 20 and Soldier Road.

The City has installed trees and a pathway along east side of Soldier Road between Spruce Ave and Garnet Ave. Along the same section on the west side the city has installed a berm, trees, street lights and a paved pathway. The pathway on the east does not support the type of pedestrian activity needed for biking or wheelchair accessibility.

The City and County are currently in discussions to partner on clean up weekends in the spring and fall.

2) Updated Water & Sewer:

The City has updated their water and sewer lines in 2012 & 2013 and has also extended the lines to the Light Industrial (LI) district in the south west portion of Fairfield. This extension is to help with economic development within the LI district as well as the residential and commercial districts. A new well and water tank will be built in 2014.

- **3.** The city has explored joining the Southern Idaho Economic Development Organization; however, they are unable to included Fairfield at this time due to their funding.
- 4. The City applied for the Citizens' Institute on Rural Design (CIRD) for a rural design workshop in 2013 and was unsuccessful. The application was focused on funding new infrastructure to connect Highway 20 to the downtown core.

Describe any economic development projects the city would like the visiting team to examine. For the purpose of this question, an economic development project is any initiative to attract new business, help retain or expand existing business or improve infrastructure. In your description of the project, identify any funders and partners contacted and/or involved with the project.

Implementation strategies to market retention/expansion of existing businesses, new businesses, and tourism. Partners in this effort would include city, county, chamber, school, and local businesses.

What other projects has your community completed in the last one to three years? (Attach additional sheets or information as necessary.)

Finalized a sign ordinance to not allow new billboards and to regulate new signs.

Start legislation process for new outdoor lighting. The City of Fairfield considers its dark skies an asset to the community and wants to insure it will not be negatively impacted by growth.

Farmers market every Friday during summer months.

City Park: New band shell

Ice rink (winter months)

An annual water fun day in the summer

New playground equipment New sign and flagpole Trees planted in park Downtown businesses held a closed block party every first Saturday during the summer of 2012. This did not extend into 2013 due to the lack of community involvement.

Chamber completed phase 1 of the permanent rodeo arena.

Soldier Mountain Ski Resort acquired a 501C3 nonprofit.

Camas County School installed a digital reader board.

New City web site.

We ask that communities participating in the review process provide brief updates on an annual basis. These updates will share progress the community has made as either a direct or indirect result of a community review. IRP will use the information to help future visiting team members adjust their discussions and presentations to better meet the needs of participating communities. This information also helps the partnering agencies and organizations measure the impact of reviews and demonstrate how resources and investments are leveraged through the process. This is critical to maintain support for our work with rural Idaho.

What possible dates do you propose for a community review?

First week in June (Not July or August)

Mayor's Signature: Jan Mary

Date: 1-27-2014

Please complete this application and return to: Idaho Rural Partnership

PO Box 83720, Boise, Idaho 83720 -- (208) 780-5149

Appendix B: Contact and Biographical Information for Visiting Team Members

Economic Development Focus Area

Brent Tolman, MBA, CPM (focus area leader) Regional Business Specialist Idaho Department of Labor 127 W. 5th Street N. Burley, ID 83318

Office: 208-678-5518 Cell: 208-670-3476

Brent has worked for the Idaho Department of Labor (IDOL) for 18 years. After starting as a workforce Consultant, he was promoted through the ranks of Supervisor, Manager and most recently as a Regional Business Specialist. Prior to join IDOL he worked in private industry as a production supervisor and Human Resource Manager.

During his time with IDOL, he has been involved extensively in economic development projects and currently serves on the executive board for the Southern Idaho Development, the board of directors for Region IV Development Association, and as a commissioner for the Heyburn Urban Renewal Agency. Brent previously served on the board of directors for the Mini-Cassia Chamber of Commerce for seven years including serving as Board President for one year.

Brent recently completed his MBA at Boise State University where he also did his undergraduate work, receiving a Bachelor's of Business Administration with an emphasis in Human Resource Management. Brent speaks, reads and writes Spanish fluently and also received a minor in Spanish while completing his undergraduate studies. In addition to his post-secondary and graduate education, Brent has also completed the Idaho Certified Public Manager program receiving this certification in 2003.

Jerry Miller, PCED

Economic Development Specialist Idaho Department of Commerce 700 West State St.

Boise, ID 83720

Office: 208-334-2650, ext. 2143

Cell: 208-921-4685

Email: jerry.miller@commerce.idaho.gov

Born and raised in Des Moines, Iowa, Jerry attended the University of Iowa, receiving an undergraduate degree in history and political science and a graduate degree in Urban and Regional Planning. Since 1992, Jerry has toiled in the fields of community and economic development, and is currently employed by the Idaho Department of Commerce as an economic development specialist. Jerry is the co-creator of the Idaho Rural Partners Forums and is editor-in-chief of the Show Me the Money funding newsletter. Jerry serves on the board of the Idaho Human Rights Education Center (the Anne Frank Memorial) and will be a class leader at this year's Northwest Community Development Institute. Jerry's passions include Iowa Hawkeye sports, dogs, movies, travel, blogging, and the performing arts.

Julia Oxarango-Ingram

Director Southern Idaho Rural Development P.O. Box 5079 Twin Falls, 83303

Cell: 208-309-3090

Email: Julia@sird4u.org>

Julia has been involved in community and economic development in Lincoln County, Blaine County, and the Magic Valley for over 14 years. Prior to her present position as the Director of Southern Idaho Rural Development, she was actively involved in creating the Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce. She has also worked for the Hailey and Sun Valley-Ketchum Chambers of Commerce, Arch Community Housing Trust, Habitat for Humanity, and the Blaine County Commissioners. She has led and served on numerous boards and committees related to community and economic development. Julia is also a graduate of the Northwest Community Development Institute.

Roads and Infrastructure Focus Area

Lori Porreca, PhD (focus area leader)

Community Planner Federal Highway Administration, Idaho Division 3050 Lakeharbor Lane, Suite 126

Boise, ID 83703

Office: 208-334-9180, ext. 132

Cell: 856-630-1635

Email: lori.porreca@dot.gov

Lori has over nine years of experience working in the public, non-profit and private sectors assisting communities in a variety of planning and development efforts including policy analysis for agricultural land management, recreation and master plan development, zoning, land use and food policy analysis, grant writing and fundraising, volunteer coordination, and outreach/collaboration with the general public, elected officials, professionals and stakeholders. She has designed curriculum and outreach education for traditional classrooms and community settings. She has six years of experience designing and implementing socioeconomic, land use, policy and community planning studies in local food system assessment, community perception studies, agricultural land use change assessment, natural resource assessment. She has worked with focus groups, individual and group interviews, community and landscape surveys, and has experience writing and presenting reports, factsheets, articles, and plans for public and professional audiences. Lori has a Masters in Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning and a Ph.D. in Sociology from Utah State University. Currently, Lori works as a community planner for the Federal Highway Administration and has responsibility for the livability program.

Cynthia Gibson

Executive Director Idaho Walk Bike Alliance P.O. Box 1594 Boise, ID 83701

Office: 208-345-1105 Cell: 208-336-5721

Email: Cynthia@idahowalkbike.org

Cynthia has lived in Boise for the last twenty-plus years after leaving the east coast congestion behind. She has loved every single moment in Idaho and how considers this vast state her home.

Cynthia is passionate about being outdoors, whether she is traveling to work or recreating in Idaho's wilderness. Working for Idaho Walk Bike Alliance allows her to share her love to more move and drive less, which she relishes every day. Now that she has landed her dream job,

she enjoys connecting with all the amazing advocates throughout the state to make their communities safer, healthier, and more livable.

Prior to this position, she worked in media sales in Boise. She liked that job, too, but it required daily driving. When she isn't working, you can find Cynthia in the foothills with her dogs, Maggie and Olive.

B. Heath Price

State Loan Specialist, Community Programs USDA Rural Development 9173 W. Barnes Dr., Ste. A1 Boise, ID 83709

Office: 208-327-6461 Cell: 208-407-0867

Email: Benjamin.Price@id.usda.us

Heath was born and raised in Teton Valley where he helped out on the family cattle ranch. He earned a bachelor's degree in Construction Management from Brigham Young University-Idaho and has spent the last 11 years working with rural communities and non-profits to finance critical facilities and infrastructure projects throughout Idaho. Heath began working for Rural Development (RD) in 2008 as an Area Loan Specialist in the Southwest Idaho Area Office. In 2010, he was promoted to be the State Loan Specialist for RD Community Programs in Idaho. He currently lives in Nampa with his wife and 5 sons.

Wendy Kirkpatrick Shrief

Horrocks Engineers 5700 E. Franklin Rd., Ste. 160 Nampa, ID 83687

Office: 208-463-4197 Cell: 208-598-6413

Email: wendys@horrocks.com

Wendy is a veteran land use planner with over 15 years of experience working as both a government planner and a planning consultant. Wendy's areas of expertise include housing, infrastructure design, and sustainable design. Wendy has lived, worked, and planned in Idaho since 2001. She lives in Boise with her husband and two young children. She has a Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Portland State University and a degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Kansas. She currently works as a planner with Horrocks Engineers, where she works with both municipal and land development clients.

Arts, Historic, and Recreation Resources Focus Area

Steven Hatcher

Idaho Commission on the Arts

P.O. Box 83720 Boise, ID 83720

Office: 208-334-2119, ext. 111

Email: <u>steven.hatcher@arts.idaho.gov</u>

Steven is the state folklorist of Idaho and director of the Folk and Traditional Arts program at the Idaho Commission on the Arts. He has an M.A. in American Studies from Utah State University and a B.A. in English from the University of Utah. For the past ten years, Steven's work has focused on the educational side of public folklore, either through contract positions awarded by the State Department or as an expatriate hired on the local economy. In Kazakhstan he worked with the American Corners project to deliver a series of lectures to students and other artists groups. At Santiago, Chile's *Pontificia Universidad Católica*, he was asked to develop and teach the university's first Introduction to Folklore course in their burgeoning American Studies department. In Geneva, Switzerland Steven continued his role as the embassy's in-house folklorist and was sent to diplomatic meetings and schools to speak on subjects like the study of folklore, trickster tales, and cowboy songs, among others.

Jon Barrett

Acting Executive Director Idaho Rural Partnership 1090 Watertower Street Meridian, ID 83642

Office: 208-332-1730 Cell: 208-383-9687

Email: jon.barrett@irp.idaho.gov

Jon grew up in Colville, Washington. His career in community and economic development began soon after graduating from Washington State University with a degree in Landscape Architecture. He has worked on staff and in a consulting capacity with numerous rural Idaho and Washington communities. From 1997-2006 he was the co-executive director of Idaho Smart Growth, a statewide nonprofit organization. He started his own consulting business in 2007 to provide services to government agencies, tribes, and nonprofit organizations.

Jon is a graduate of Leadership Idaho Agriculture and has also completed advanced training in mediation, fundraising and other topics. He has expertise in project management, group facilitation and multi-interest collaboration, organizational development and strategic planning, community design, policy development, and grantwriting. In 2004 the Idaho Planning Association recognized Jon as Idaho Planner of the Year.

Jon enjoys Idaho's rural communities, mountains, trails, and trout streams.

Rep. Donna Pence

Idaho State Legislature 1960 U.S. Highway 26 Gooding, ID 83330

Home: 208-934-5302

Email: dpence@house.idaho.gov

Donna is originally from Joliet, Illinois and lived in California prior to calling Idaho home. Her family settled in Richfield, Idaho in 1949 to take over the Richfield Telephone Company. She graduated from Richfield High School in 1960 and the University of Idaho in 1964 with a degree in Physical Education, Health and Social Studies. She completed a Masters from ISU in 1966. She taught and coached in the schools of Pocatello, Buhl, Boise and Gooding and retired in 1998. Donna helped run the small family farm in Gooding and after retirement worked along with her husband Lew to establish a tree farm business that they still run. She was active in the Gooding Chamber of Commerce. Nature Conservancy's Thousand Spring Festival, Idaho Nursery Association, Idaho Education Association, and Delta Kappa Gamma teachers' society. She served on the State Physical Education Association's Board of Directors for 8 years and awarded the State Distinguished Award in 2008. Donna served as State President of Delta Kappa Gamma and was awarded the Golden Gift Seminar for two weeks at the University Of Texas School Of Business. In 2004 she was elected State Representative from District 26 and has served in this capacity for the last 11 years. She is currently the Minority Caucus Chairwoman and serves on the Education, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Committees.

Community Listening Session Facilitators

Stephanie Cook

Technology Based Economic Development Idaho National Laboratory- Technology Deployment

Office: 208-526-644 Cell: 810-338-9772

Email: stephanie.cook@inl.gov

Stephanie Cook joined INL in October 2011 to manage the Laboratory's Technology Based Economic Development and Technical Assistance Programs that develops partnerships with local, regional, state and national groups to establish a favorable climate to stimulate economic developments within the technology business sector. Stephanie has national business background in industrial supply, healthcare and technology manufacturing, working with federal agencies in the U.S. She was instrumental in a \$20M healthcare company start-up in the reusable surgical gowns and instrumentation business. Her enterprise building experiences have supported companies ranging from \$10 million to those with more than \$8 billion in sales within the private, public and government sectors.

Erik Kingston, PCED

Housing Resources Coordinator Idaho Housing and Finance Association PO Box 7899

Boise, ID 83707-1899 Office: 208-331-4706 Toll-free 1-877-438-4472 Email: Erikk@ihfa.org

Erik has managed IHFA's Housing Information and Resource Center since 1998, after serving three years as IHFA's Senior Communications Coordinator. Responsibilities include program development, contract management, community outreach, fair housing education initiatives and strategic planning for a range of housing and community development efforts. He is project coordinator for www.housingidaho.com, co-author of IHFA's Workforce Housing Toolkit: Simple Steps for Stronger Communities and author of the 2011 Housing Assistance Guide for Idaho. Erik is a long-time planning member with the Idaho Community Review Team, board member of the Idaho Rural Partnership, and a graduate and faculty member of the Northwest Community Development Institute. He currently serves as a member and web moderator for the Idaho Fair Housing Forum (www.fairhousingforum.org) the East End Neighborhood Association's Armory Committee (www.reservestreetarmory.com), and the Boise/Eagle Tour de Coop (www.boisechickens.com). He has over 30 years of professional experience in the areas of nonprofit management, grant administration, disability rights, refugee and immigrant empowerment, the performing arts and grassroots community activism. In addition to professional activities. Erik has spent time driving thirsty cattle through dry country and working underground in a Central Idaho hard rock mine. He really likes his current job.

Maren Scoville

Partnerships, Engagement & Tech Deployment Idaho National Laboratory Intern

maren.scoville@inl.gov Office: 208-526-1149 Cell: 360-271-6217

Maren Elizabeth Scoville is an Economic Development Intern from for Idaho National Laboratory. She is studying Business Management at Brigham Young University-Idaho and has a minor in European Languages. After learning to speak Italian fluently, she is determined to have a basic knowledge of all the Romance languages and eventually travel the world. Maren grew up in the Greater Seattle Area and loves to hike and swim outdoors, paddleboard and kayak in her spare time.

Appendix C: Fairfield Community Review Survey Form and Summary of Survey Results

FAIRFIELD COMMUNITY REVIEW SURVEY

This survey is being conducted as part of the Fairfield Community Review happening June 24-25, 2015. Your response will help a team of visiting experts understand issues and opportunities related to economic development, infrastructure, and arts, historic, and recreation resources in Fairfield and Camas County. Your response is important to us! Results are confidential and will only be reported as totals with no identifying information. Please complete only one survey per household and respond by June 1, 2015.

Part 1: Infrastructure: In this section of the survey, please rate your satisfaction with various public services and infrastructure. Please mark N/A (not applicable) if you do not use or receive a particular service.

	Highly Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Neutral	Somewhat Satisfied	Highly Satisfied	N/A
Condition of city streets	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Bicycle and pedestrian access	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Availability of sidewalks	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Local law enforcement	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
5. Fire Department	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
6. Water services	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
7. Sewage treatment services	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Quality of library	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Condition of school facilities	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
10. Quality of K-12 education	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
11. Availability of general health care	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
12. Availability of emergency health care/EMS	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
13. Availability of food bank	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
14. Availability of day care for children	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
15. Availability of Senior programs	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Availability of drug and alcohol treatment programs	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Availability of high-speed Internet service	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Availability of local arts and cultural opportunities	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
19. Quality of parks	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
20. Availability of recreation programs	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
21. County Fairgrounds	1	2	3	4	5	N/A

Part 2: Economic Development: In this section of the survey, please rate your satisfaction with each of the following aspects of your local economy. Please consider only those businesses or services located within Fairfield and Camas County. Please mark N/A (not applicable) if you are not familiar with a particular service.

	Highly Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Neutral	Somewhat Satisfied	Highly Satisfied	N/A
Appearance of downtown Fairfield	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Appearance of public buildings	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Availability of local jobs	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Quality of local jobs	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
5. Variety of local businesses	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Level of business involvement in the community	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
7. Variety of goods available in stores	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
8. Availability of job training programs	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
9. Industrial Park	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
10. City planning and zoning policies	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Availability of information and training for people starting new businesses	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
12. Housing availability	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
13. Housing quality	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
14. Housing affordability	1	2	3	4	5	N/A

Part 3: Businesses, Services, and Jobs in Fairfield. In this section, please tell us how important it is to increase or improve the following businesses, services, and jobs in the Fairfield area.

	Very Unimportant	Somewhat Unimportant	Neutral	Somewhat Important	Very Important
Social services such as domestic violence shelter	1	2	3	4	5
Fairfield airport	1	2	3	4	5
3. Camas County Courthouse	1	2	3	4	5
Youth services and facilities	1	2	3	4	5
5. Retail stores	1	2	3	4	5
Professional or personal services	1	2	3	4	5
7. Entertainment and recreation	1	2	3	4	5
Camas County Rodeo	1	2	3	4	5
9. Availability of fresh fruits and vegetables	1	2	3	4	5
10. Farmer's market	1	2	3	4	5
Visitor information and services. (e.g. lodging)	1	2	3	4	5
12. Comment about other types of businesses	s, services, and j	obs:			

Part 4 Community Involvement and Information. In this section, please tell us how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

	Strongly Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Neutral	Somewhat Agree	Strongly Agree
 I am satisfied with the quantity and quality of information provided by the City of Fairfield. 	1	2	3	4	5
I am satisfied with the City of Fairfield website. http://cityoffairfieldidaho.com/	1	2	3	4	5
 I am satisfied with the Chamber of Commerce website. http://www.fairfieldidaho.net/community/chamber-of-commerce/ 	1	2	3	4	5
I am satisfied with the level of coordination and communication between the City of Fairfield and Camas County.	1	2	3	4	5
 I would like to be better informed about community issues and projects. 	1	2	3	4	5
I am satisfied with opportunities to be involved in decisions affecting the community.	1	2	3	4	5
I generally trust City Council to make decisions for the community.	1	2	3	4	5
I am happy with my involvement in community issues and organizations.	1	2	3	4	5

9. W	/hat prevents you from being more involved in the comr _ Lack of time _ Family responsibilities _ I am not asked to become involved. _ I don't know how to become more involved. _ Nothing. I am happy with my level of involvement. _ Other _	munity? (check all tha	t apply)	
	Vhat prevents you from supporting Fairfield's locally ow Cost Local businesses are not open when I need them. Services and products I need are not available in Fa Lack of parking Nothing. Supporting Fairfield's businesses is a high Other rt 5: Demographics.	irfield.	e often? (check all	that apply)
	Where do you live?within Fairfield city limits	Outside city lim	its	
2.	Do you commute to another community to work?	Yes Don't work	No Retired	
3.	Gender	Male	Female	
4.	Age group	under 25 46-55	25-35 56-65	36-45 over 65
5.	Ethnicity	Non-Hispanio	:	Hispanic
6.	How many years have you lived in Camas County?	1-10	11-20	21+

We end with these final questions:
What are the 2-3 best reasons someone would want to: visit or move to Fairfield?
Best reasons to visit Fairfield:
Best reasons to move to Fairfield:

Thank you! In the space below, please describe additional ideas or improvements you think would make Fairfield a better place for residents, businesses, and visitors.

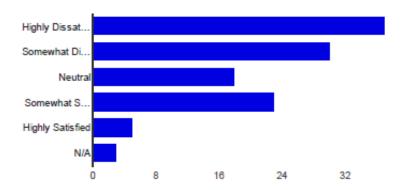
117 responses

View all responses

Publish analytics

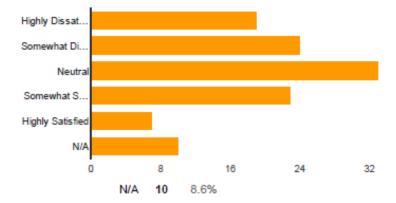
Summary

 Condition of city streets [Part 1: Infrastructure: In this section of the survey, please rate your satisfaction with various public services and infrastructure. Please mark N/A (not applicable) if you do not use or receive a particular service.]

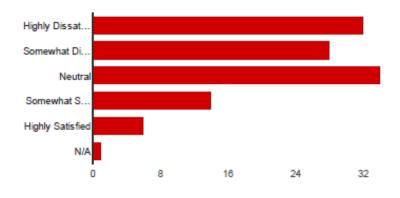


Highly Dissatisfied 37 31.9% Somewhat Dissatisfied 25.9% Neutral 18 15.5% Somewhat Satisfied 23 19.8% Highly Satisfied 4.3% N/A 3 2.6%

 Bicycle and pedestrian access [Part 1: Infrastructure: In this section of the survey, please rate your satisfaction with various public services and infrastructure. Please mark N/A (not applicable) if you do not use or receive a particular service.]



 Availability of sidewalks [Part 1: Infrastructure: In this section of the survey, please rate your satisfaction with various public services and infrastructure.
 Please mark N/A (not applicable) if you do not use or receive a particular service.]



Highly Dissatisfied 32 27.8%

Somewhat Dissatisfied 28 24.3%

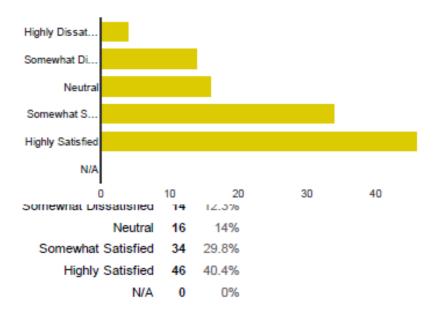
Neutral 34 29.6%

Somewhat Satisfied 14 12.2%

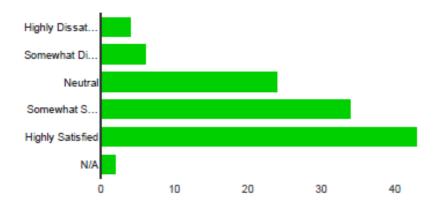
Highly Satisfied 6 5.2%

N/A 1 0.9%

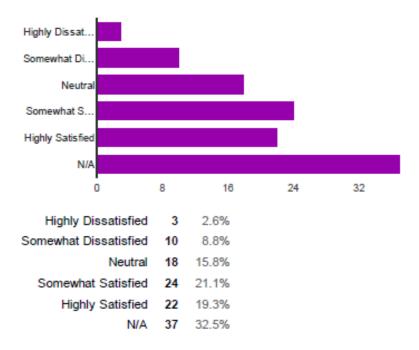
4. Local law enforcement [Part 1: Infrastructure: In this section of the survey, please rate your satisfaction with various public services and infrastructure. Please mark N/A (not applicable) if you do not use or receive a particular service.]



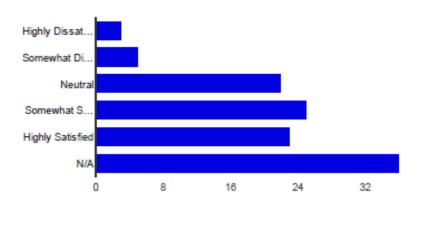
5. Fire Department [Part 1: Infrastructure: In this section of the survey, please rate your satisfaction with various public services and infrastructure. Please mark N/A (not applicable) if you do not use or receive a particular service.]



Highly Dissatisfied 4 3.5% 5.3% Somewhat Dissatisfied 6 Neutral 21.2% Somewhat Satisfied 34 30.1% Highly Satisfied 43 38.1% N/A 2 1.8%

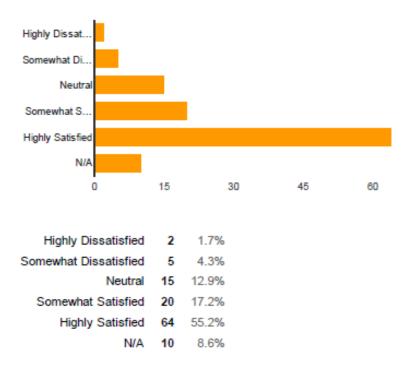


7. Sewage treatment services [Part 1: Infrastructure: In this section of the survey, please rate your satisfaction with various public services and infrastructure. Please mark N/A (not applicable) if you do not use or receive a particular service.]

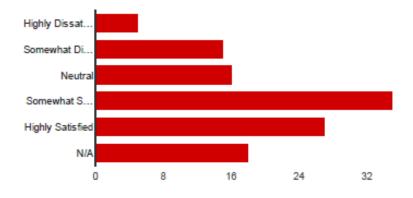


8. Quality of library [Part 1: Infrastructure: In this section of the survey, please

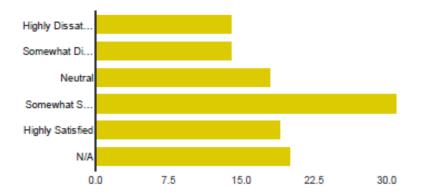
rate your satisfaction with various public services and infrastructure. Please mark N/A (not applicable) if you do not use or receive a particular service.]



 Condition of school facilities [Part 1: Infrastructure: In this section of the survey, please rate your satisfaction with various public services and infrastructure. Please mark N/A (not applicable) if you do not use or receive a particular service.]

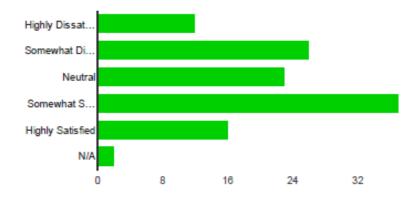


10. Quality of K-12 education [Part 1: Infrastructure: In this section of the survey, please rate your satisfaction with various public services and infrastructure. Please mark N/A (not applicable) if you do not use or receive a particular service.]



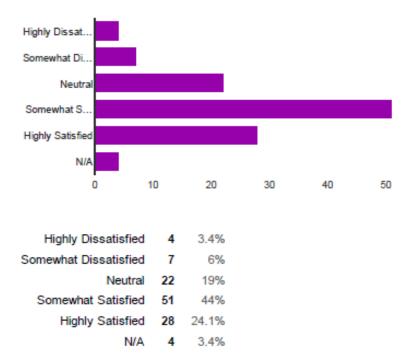
Highly Dissatisfied 12.1% Somewhat Dissatisfied 12.1% Neutral 15.5% 18 Somewhat Satisfied 31 26.7% Highly Satisfied 19 16.4% N/A 20 17.2%

11. Availability of general health care [Part 1: Infrastructure: In this section of the survey, please rate your satisfaction with various public services and infrastructure. Please mark N/A (not applicable) if you do not use or receive a particular service.]

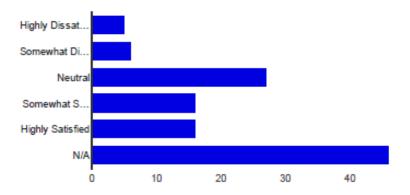


Highly Dissatisfied 12 10.3% Somewhat Dissatisfied 26 22.4% Neutral 23 19.8% Somewhat Satisfied 37 31.9% Highly Satisfied 16 13.8% N/A 2 1.7%

12. Availability of emergency health care/EMS [Part 1: Infrastructure: In this section of the survey, please rate your satisfaction with various public services and infrastructure. Please mark N/A (not applicable) if you do not use or receive a particular service.]

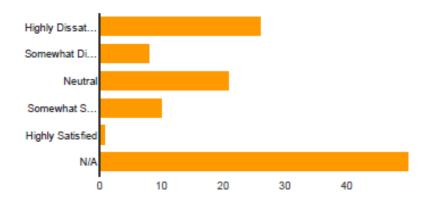


13. Availability of food bank [Part 1: Infrastructure: In this section of the survey, please rate your satisfaction with various public services and infrastructure. Please mark N/A (not applicable) if you do not use or receive a particular service.]



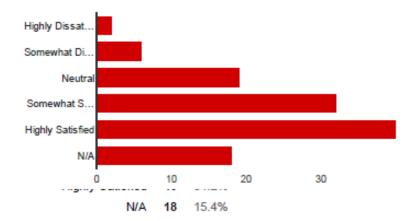
Highly Dissatisfied	5	4.3%
Somewhat Dissatisfied	6	5.2%
Neutral	27	23.3%
Somewhat Satisfied	16	13.8%
Highly Satisfied	16	13.8%
N/A	46	39.7%

14. Availability of day care for children [Part 1: Infrastructure: In this section of the survey, please rate your satisfaction with various public services and infrastructure. Please mark N/A (not applicable) if you do not use or receive a particular service.]

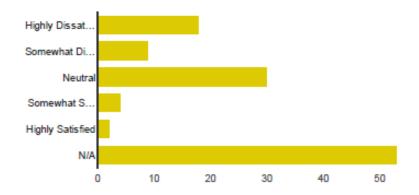


Highly Dissatisfied	26	22.4%
Somewhat Dissatisfied	8	6.9%
Neutral	21	18.1%
Somewhat Satisfied	10	8.6%
Highly Satisfied	1	0.9%
N/A	50	43.1%

15. Availability of Senior programs [Part 1: Infrastructure: In this section of the survey, please rate your satisfaction with various public services and infrastructure. Please mark N/A (not applicable) if you do not use or receive a particular service.]



16. Availability of drug and alcohol treatment programs [Part 1: Infrastructure: In this section of the survey, please rate your satisfaction with various public services and infrastructure. Please mark N/A (not applicable) if you do not use or receive a particular service.]



Highly Dissatisfied 18 15.5%

Somewhat Dissatisfied 9 7.8%

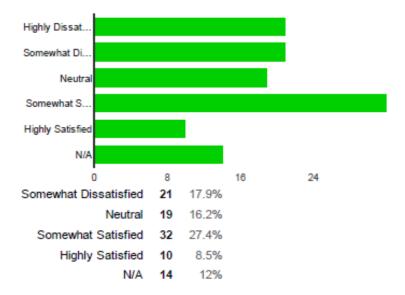
Neutral 30 25.9%

Somewhat Satisfied 4 3.4%

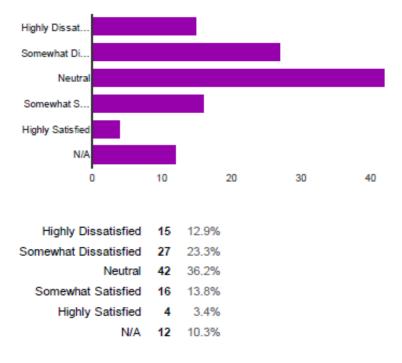
Highly Satisfied 2 1.7%

N/A 53 45.7%

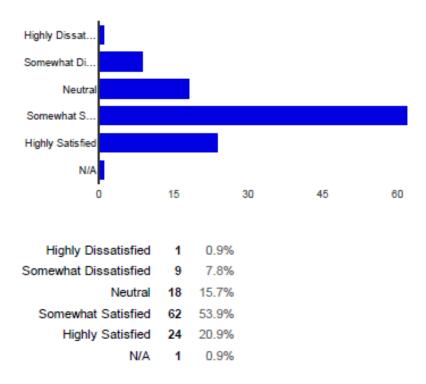
17. Availability of high-speed Internet service [Part 1: Infrastructure: In this section of the survey, please rate your satisfaction with various public services and infrastructure. Please mark N/A (not applicable) if you do not use or receive a particular service.]



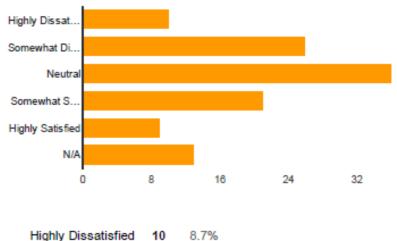
18. Availability of local arts and cultural opportunities [Part 1: Infrastructure: In this section of the survey, please rate your satisfaction with various public services and infrastructure. Please mark N/A (not applicable) if you do not use or receive a particular service.]



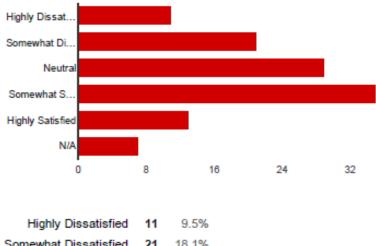
19. Quality of parks [Part 1: Infrastructure: In this section of the survey, please rate your satisfaction with various public services and infrastructure. Please mark N/A (not applicable) if you do not use or receive a particular service.]



20. Availability of recreation programs [Part 1: Infrastructure: In this section of the survey, please rate your satisfaction with various public services and infrastructure. Please mark N/A (not applicable) if you do not use or receive a particular service.]



21. County Fairgrounds [Part 1: Infrastructure: In this section of the survey, please rate your satisfaction with various public services and infrastructure. Please mark N/A (not applicable) if you do not use or receive a particular service.]



Highly Dissatisfied 11 9.5%

Somewhat Dissatisfied 21 18.1%

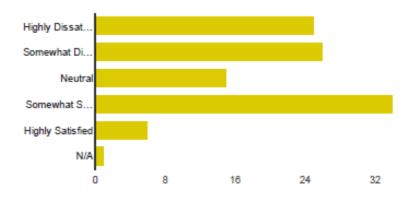
Neutral 29 25%

Somewhat Satisfied 35 30.2%

Highly Satisfied 13 11.2%

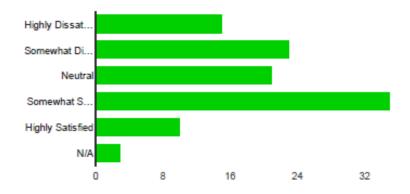
N/A 7 6%

Appearance of downtown Fairfield [Part 2: Economic Development: In this
section of the survey, please rate your satisfaction with each of the following
aspects of your local economy. Please consider only those businesses or
services located within Fairfield and Camas County. Please mark N/A (not
applicable) if you are not familiar with a particular service.]



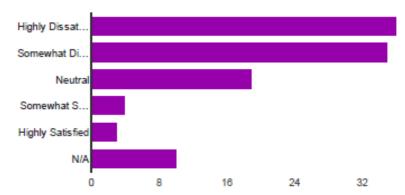
Highly Dissatisfied 25 23.4% Somewhat Dissatisfied 26 24.3% Neutral 15 14% Somewhat Satisfied 34 31.8% Highly Satisfied 6 5.6% N/A 1 0.9%

Appearance of public buildings [Part 2: Economic Development: In this
section of the survey, please rate your satisfaction with each of the following
aspects of your local economy. Please consider only those businesses or
services located within Fairfield and Camas County. Please mark N/A (not
applicable) if you are not familiar with a particular service.]

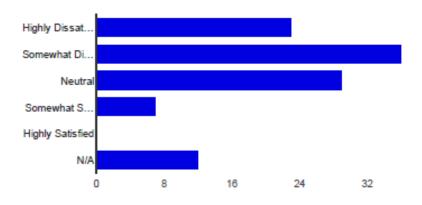


Highly Dissatisfied 15 14% Somewhat Dissatisfied 23 21.5% Neutral 21 19.6% Somewhat Satisfied 32.7% Highly Satisfied 9.3% 10 N/A 3 2.8%

3. Availability of local jobs [Part 2: Economic Development: In this section of the survey, please rate your satisfaction with each of the following aspects of your local economy. Please consider only those businesses or services located within Fairfield and Camas County. Please mark N/A (not applicable) if you are not familiar with a particular service.]

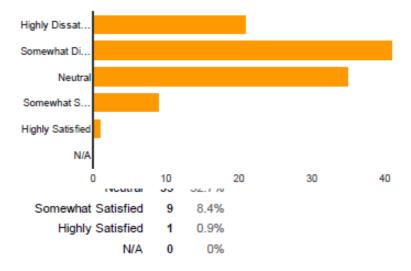


4. Quality of local jobs [Part 2: Economic Development: In this section of the survey, please rate your satisfaction with each of the following aspects of your local economy. Please consider only those businesses or services located within Fairfield and Camas County. Please mark N/A (not applicable) if you are not familiar with a particular service.]

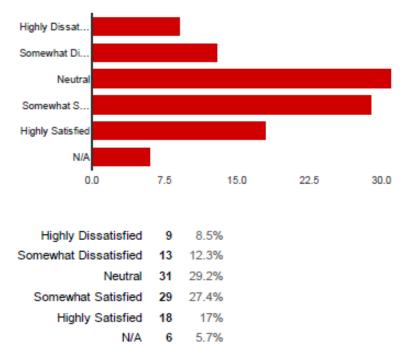


Highly Dissatisfied 21.5% 23 Somewhat Dissatisfied 33.6% 36 Neutral 29 27.1% Somewhat Satisfied 7 6.5% Highly Satisfied 0 0% N/A 12 11.2%

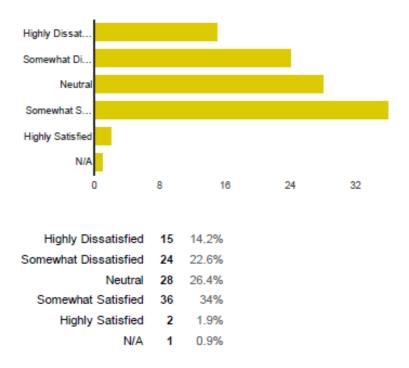
5. Variety of local businesses [Part 2: Economic Development: In this section of the survey, please rate your satisfaction with each of the following aspects of your local economy. Please consider only those businesses or services located within Fairfield and Camas County. Please mark N/A (not applicable) if you are not familiar with a particular service.]



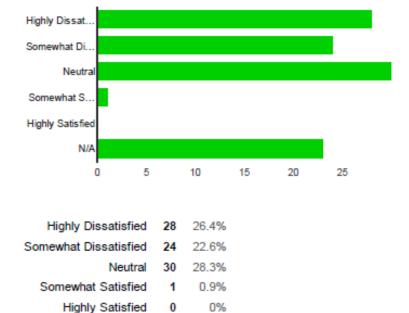
6. Level of business involvement in the community [Part 2: Economic Development: In this section of the survey, please rate your satisfaction with each of the following aspects of your local economy. Please consider only those businesses or services located within Fairfield and Camas County. Please mark N/A (not applicable) if you are not familiar with a particular service.]



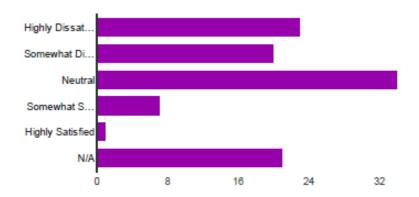
Variety of goods available in stores [Part 2: Economic Development: In this section of the survey, please rate your satisfaction with each of the following aspects of your local economy. Please consider only those businesses or services located within Fairfield and Camas County. Please mark N/A (not applicable) if you are not familiar with a particular service.]



8. Availability of job training programs [Part 2: Economic Development: In this section of the survey, please rate your satisfaction with each of the following aspects of your local economy. Please consider only those businesses or services located within Fairfield and Camas County. Please mark N/A (not applicable) if you are not familiar with a particular service.]

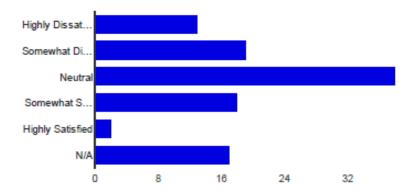


9. Industrial Park [Part 2: Economic Development: In this section of the survey, please rate your satisfaction with each of the following aspects of your local economy. Please consider only those businesses or services located within Fairfield and Camas County. Please mark N/A (not applicable) if you are not familiar with a particular service.]



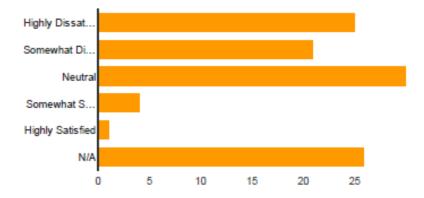
Highly Dissatisfied	23	21.7%
Somewhat Dissatisfied	20	18.9%
Neutral	34	32.1%
Somewhat Satisfied	7	6.6%
Highly Satisfied	1	0.9%
N/A	21	19.8%

10. City planning and zoning policies [Part 2: Economic Development: In this section of the survey, please rate your satisfaction with each of the following aspects of your local economy. Please consider only those businesses or services located within Fairfield and Camas County. Please mark N/A (not applicable) if you are not familiar with a particular service.]



Highly Dissatisfied	13	12.1%
Somewhat Dissatisfied	19	17.8%
Neutral	38	35.5%
Somewhat Satisfied	18	16.8%
Highly Satisfied	2	1.9%
N/A	17	15.9%

11. Availability of information and training for people starting new businesses [Part 2: Economic Development: In this section of the survey, please rate your satisfaction with each of the following aspects of your local economy. Please consider only those businesses or services located within Fairfield and Camas County. Please mark N/A (not applicable) if you are not familiar with a particular service.]



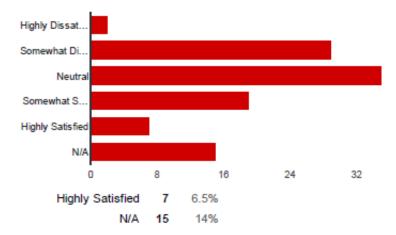
23.4%

riigiliy Diaaddancu	20	20.470
Somewhat Dissatisfied	21	19.6%
Neutral	30	28%
Somewhat Satisfied	4	3.7%
Highly Satisfied	1	0.9%
N/A	26	24.3%

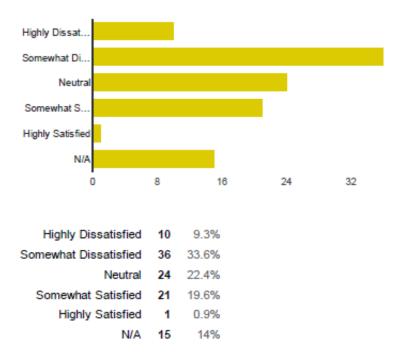
25

Highly Dissatisfied

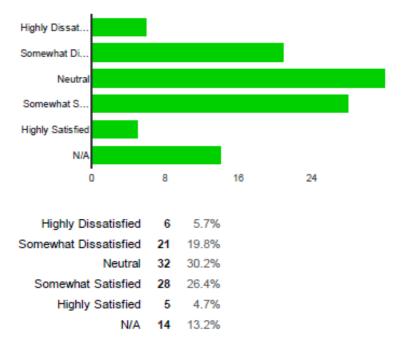
12. Housing availability [Part 2: Economic Development: In this section of the survey, please rate your satisfaction with each of the following aspects of your local economy. Please consider only those businesses or services located within Fairfield and Camas County. Please mark N/A (not applicable) if you are not familiar with a particular service.]



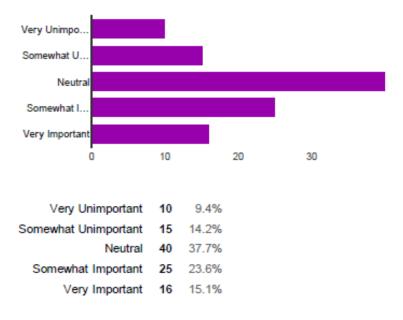
13. Housing quality [Part 2: Economic Development: In this section of the survey, please rate your satisfaction with each of the following aspects of your local economy. Please consider only those businesses or services located within Fairfield and Camas County. Please mark N/A (not applicable) if you are not familiar with a particular service.]



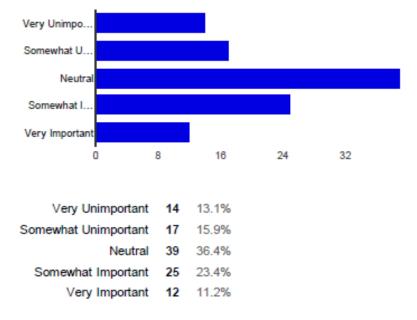
14. Housing affordability [Part 2: Economic Development: In this section of the survey, please rate your satisfaction with each of the following aspects of your local economy. Please consider only those businesses or services located within Fairfield and Camas County. Please mark N/A (not applicable) if you are not familiar with a particular service.]



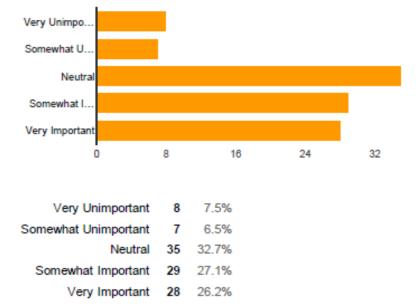
 Social services such as domestic violence shelter [Part 3: Businesses, Services, and Jobs in Fairfield. In this section, please tell us how important it is to increase or improve the following businesses, services, and jobs in the Fairfield area.]



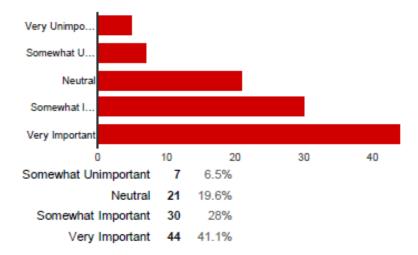
2. Fairfield airport [Part 3: Businesses, Services, and Jobs in Fairfield. In this section, please tell us how important it is to increase or improve the following businesses, services, and jobs in the Fairfield area.]



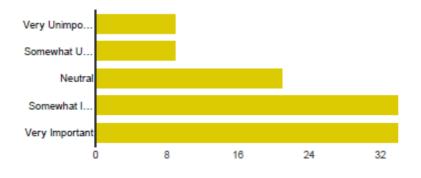
3. Camas County Courthouse [Part 3: Businesses, Services, and Jobs in Fairfield. In this section, please tell us how important it is to increase or improve the following businesses, services, and jobs in the Fairfield area.]



4. Youth services and facilities [Part 3: Businesses, Services, and Jobs in Fairfield. In this section, please tell us how important it is to increase or improve the following businesses, services, and jobs in the Fairfield area.]



5. Retail stores [Part 3: Businesses, Services, and Jobs in Fairfield. In this section, please tell us how important it is to increase or improve the following businesses, services, and jobs in the Fairfield area.]



 Very Unimportant
 9
 8.4%

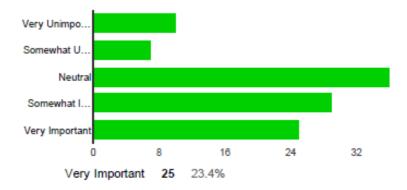
 Somewhat Unimportant
 9
 8.4%

 Neutral
 21
 19.6%

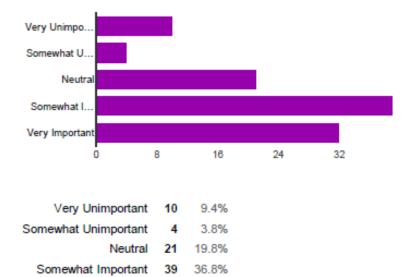
 Somewhat Important
 34
 31.8%

 Very Important
 34
 31.8%

6. Professional or personal services [Part 3: Businesses, Services, and Jobs in Fairfield. In this section, please tell us how important it is to increase or improve the following businesses, services, and jobs in the Fairfield area.]



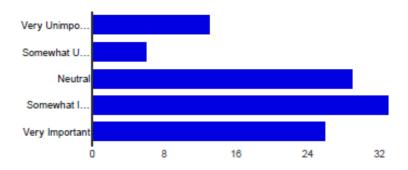
7. Entertainment and recreation [Part 3: Businesses, Services, and Jobs in Fairfield. In this section, please tell us how important it is to increase or improve the following businesses, services, and jobs in the Fairfield area.]



30.2%

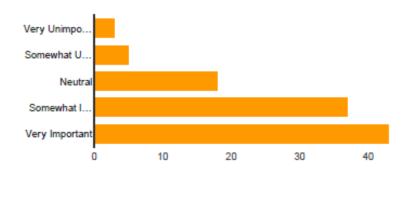
Very Important

8. Camas County Rodeo [Part 3: Businesses, Services, and Jobs in Fairfield. In this section, please tell us how important it is to increase or improve the following businesses, services, and jobs in the Fairfield area.]



Very Unimportant	13	12.1%
Somewhat Unimportant	6	5.6%
Neutral	29	27.1%
Somewhat Important	33	30.8%
Very Important	26	24.3%

9. Availability of fresh fruits and vegetables [Part 3: Businesses, Services, and Jobs in Fairfield. In this section, please tell us how important it is to increase or improve the following businesses, services, and jobs in the Fairfield area.]



 Very Unimportant
 3
 2.8%

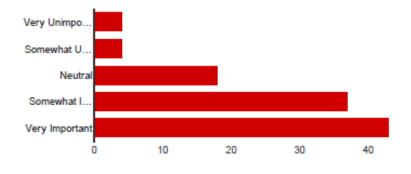
 Somewhat Unimportant
 5
 4.7%

 Neutral
 18
 17%

 Somewhat Important
 37
 34.9%

 Very Important
 43
 40.6%

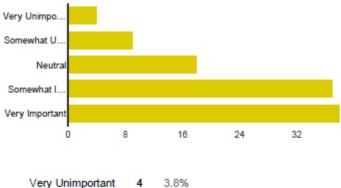
 Farmer's market [Part 3: Businesses, Services, and Jobs in Fairfield. In this section, please tell us how important it is to increase or improve the following businesses, services, and jobs in the Fairfield area.]



Very Unimportant 4 3.8%

Somewhat Unimportant	4	3.8%
Neutral	18	17%
Somewhat Important	37	34.9%
Very Important	43	40.6%

11. Visitor information and services. (e.g. lodging) [Part 3: Businesses, Services, and Jobs in Fairfield. In this section, please tell us how important it is to increase or improve the following businesses, services, and jobs in the Fairfield area.]



Very Unimportant 4 3.8%

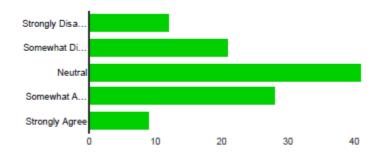
Somewhat Unimportant 9 8.5%

Neutral 18 17%

Somewhat Important 37 34.9%

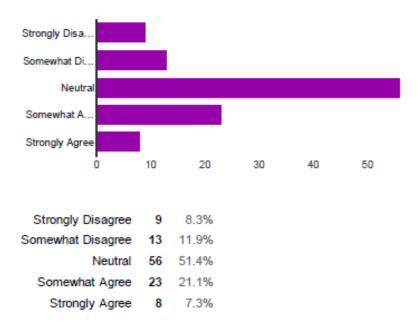
Very Important 38 35.8%

 I am satisfied with the quantity and quality of information provided by the City of Fairfield. [Part 4 Community Involvement and Information. In this section, please tell us how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.]

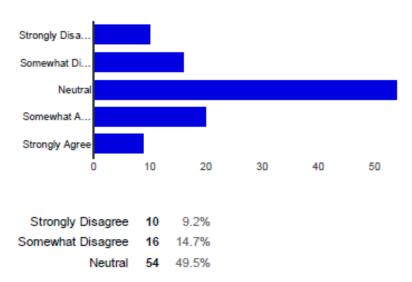


Strongly Disagree 12 10.7% Somewhat Disagree 21 18.8% Neutral **41** 36.6% Somewhat Agree **28** 25% Strongly Agree **9** 8%

2. I am satisfied with the City of Fairfield website. http://cityoffairfieldidaho.com/ [Part 4 Community Involvement and Information. In this section, please tell us how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.]

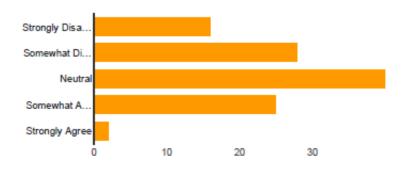


3. I am satisfied with the Chamber of Commerce website. http://www.fairfieldidaho.net/community/chamber-of-commerce/ [Part 4 Community Involvement and Information. In this section, please tell us how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.]



Somewhat Agree 20 18.3% Strongly Agree 9 8.3%

4. I am satisfied with the level of coordination and communication between the City of Fairfield and Camas County. [Part 4 Community Involvement and Information. In this section, please tell us how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.]



 Strongly Disagree
 16
 14.3%

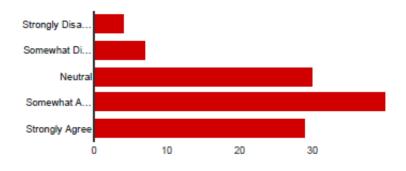
 Somewhat Disagree
 28
 25%

 Neutral
 40
 35.7%

 Somewhat Agree
 25
 22.3%

 Strongly Agree
 2
 1.8%

5. I would like to be better informed about community issues and projects. [Part 4 Community Involvement and Information. In this section, please tell us how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.]



 Strongly Disagree
 4
 3.6%

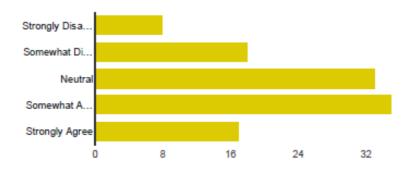
 Somewhat Disagree
 7
 6.3%

 Neutral
 30
 27%

 Somewhat Agree
 40
 36%

 Strongly Agree
 29
 26.1%

6. I am satisfied with opportunities to be involved in decisions affecting the community. [Part 4 Community Involvement and Information. In this section, please tell us how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.]



Strongly Disagree 8 7.1%

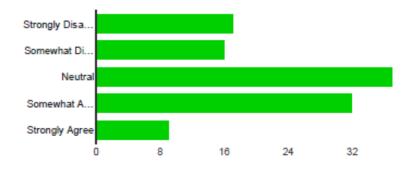
Somewhat Disagree 18 16.1%

Neutral 33 29.5%

Somewhat Agree 35 31.3%

Strongly Agree 17 15.2%

7. I generally trust City Council to make decisions for the community. [Part 4 Community Involvement and Information. In this section, please tell us how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.]



 Strongly Disagree
 17
 15.2%

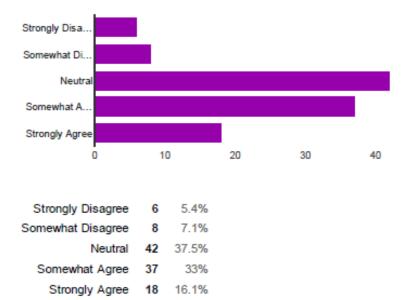
 Somewhat Disagree
 16
 14.3%

 Neutral
 37
 33%

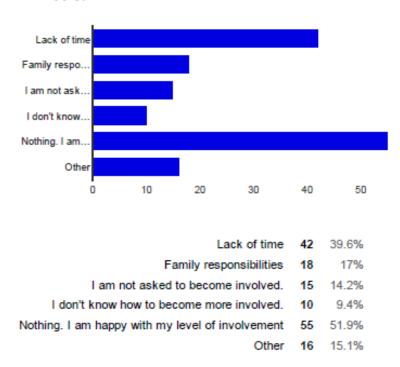
 Somewhat Agree
 32
 28.6%

 Strongly Agree
 9
 8%

8. I am happy with my involvement in community issues and organizations. [Part 4 Community Involvement and Information. In this section, please tell us how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.]

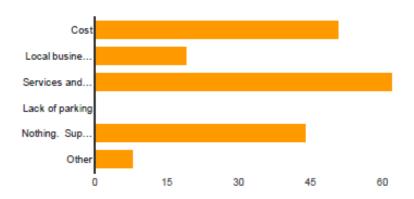


What prevents you from being more involved in the community? (check all that apply)



10 What prevents you from supporting Fairfield's locally owned businesses

more often? (check all that apply)



Cost 51 47.7%

Local businesses are not open when I need them. 19 17.8%

Services and products I need are not available in Fairfield. 62 57.9%

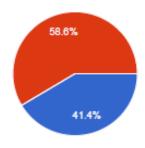
Lack of parking 0 0%

Nothing. Supporting Fairfield's businesses is a high priority to me. 44 41.1%

Other 8 7.5%

Part 5: Demographics Section

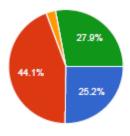
1. Where do you live?



within Fairfield city limits 46 41.4%

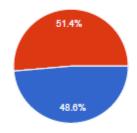
Outside city limits 65 58.6%

2. Do you commute to another community to work?



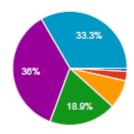
Don't Work 3 2.7% Retired 31 27.9%

3. Gender



Male 53 48.6% Female 56 51.4%

4. Age group



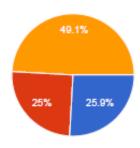
under 25 0.9% 25-35 3 2.7% 36-45 9 8.1% 46-55 18.9% 40 56-65 36% Over 65 37 33.3%

5. Ethnicity



Non-Hispanic 104 97.2%

6. 6. How many years have you lived in Camas County?



0-10 **29** 25.9% 11-20 **28** 25% 21 + 55 49.1%

Best reasons to visit Fairfield

Beautiful area, outdoor activities

Scenic, friendly people, excellent visitor center

Clean air, recreation, friendly folks

Recreation, hunting, fishing, lifestyle

Other than family, nice people, skiing, hunting

Camping, fishing, hunting, outdoors

Scenic beauty

Best ski area ever!

Quaint and friendly

Great people

Excellent sense of community, kind and friendly people, recreation, stunning beauty and serently, small population

Location to mountains

Camas is a beautiful county.

Quiet and friendly and plenty of space

N/A

Recreation, hunting, quiet, retirement

Recreation opportunities

Recreation

Fair, rodeo, and montains

Clean mountain air

Nice, quiet, relaxing and great food.

Back country access. Beautiful area, clean air, and open spaces

Recreation and hunting

Camping and skiing

Beauty of the prairie

Quiet, country atmosphere, nice people, birds

Relatives, recreation

To get away

Great place to visit for outside activities.

Rural community, hunting, mountains close, fishing

It's beautiful.

Great bread at Jim Dandys! It's beautiful country.

Quiet friendly unique community

Not over developed, still quiet rural, friendly

Recreation, winter and summer, hunting, camping, fishing, kite skiing, cross country and downhill skiing, snow mobiling, biking

Access to outdoors

Quiet and friendly. Lots of down time.

Close location to forest service and recreational opportunities

Beautiful area, nice people, way of life, recreation

Quiet town, close to mountains, at least one good restuarant

Scerney, camping, hiking, cycling, snowmobiling

Hunting, skiing, camping

A camping trip

Recreation, not much traffic

Nice community. Close to great outdoor activities.

Mountains

Weather, camping, fishing, skiing, etc.

Friendly small town, beautiful scenery, wild animals

Camas Lilly Days

To get access to more natural environment, cleaner air, break from the rush of other communities

Recreational opportunities

Outdoor activities

Outdoor recreation, ski, hunting, fishing, biding, local beauty

To see family or friends

Beautiful surroundings

Small town and country atmosphere

Outdoor activities

Peasce and quiet, scenery, easy access to recreation

Outdoor recreation

Beautiful area with friendly people

Snowmobiling, hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, motor cycling, playing in the mountains

Beautiful scenery, good get away area

Recreation such as camping, hiking, biking, and hunting.

Recreation

View

Beauty of area

Skiing, SoldierCreek Brewing sandwiches

Small town atomosphere

Outdoor recreation nearby

Outdoor recreation

Great recreation and restuarants

Gateway to central Idaho Mountains skiing

Recreation, small friendly community

There are very good people and lots to do here.

Events

Friendly people in Fairfield.

Recreation, family, relaxation

Outdoor sports opportunities, hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, motor cycling, biking

Quiet, relazing, friendly

Scenic views, national parks

Climate, recreation, cost of living, life style

Best reasons to move to Fairfield

Schools, friendly people, small town

Get away from it all!

Quality of life.

If you have a job, it's a good place to raise your children.

When you move here, the friendly goes away.

Rather they not. Fairfield is a nice size place the way it is.

Beautiful area, nice people, way of life, recration, small school

Peace and quiet

Small town caring

Mountain access, skiing, snow machining, hunting, slow pace of life.

Pretty peaceful and if you like wide open spaces.

Excellent sense of community, kind and friendly people, recreation, stunning beauty and serently, small population

Don't know, no jobs, no great rate of pay

N/A

Great community to raise kids because it is a safe community, low crime rate, pretty place

Wonderful people, willing to help anyone.

Good area to raise a family.

Retire here.

Small town atomsphere

Excellent schools and friendly people

To retire

Recreation and just an easy place to live

Country life

Fewer people, outdoor recreation, close to local beauty, quiet life

Retirement, recreation, hunting, quiet

Beautiful scenery, good get away area

Relative low cost of living - if you can find a place to rent or buy

Small schools, lifestyle, very laid back

Way of life. Great place to raise kids.

Friendly people in Fairfield

None. Town is a dimp and weeds are everywhere.

Friendly people, good schools

None

Beautiful area, outdoor activities, good people

Private, quiet, low income housing

Small community environment

Small community, outdoor activities

Rural, friendly community

Peaceful, clean, friendly

Rural community, hunting, moutains close, fishing

Snowmobiling, fishing, mountains, camping, no crime

Community

Peaceful town, small town. I love it here.

Beautiful, rustic, and low taxes and quiet

Living in a small town is best.

Retirement

Mountains

A great commuity with awsome people.

Small town and country atomsphere

Clean air, clean water, quiet, great people

Wildlife, scenery, frienldy people, school system is great and caring

Small friendly town, recreation, slower livestyle

Open space

Friendly people, reasonable housing, quiet scenic area

Cheap housing. Fairfield is a great place to live especially if you work here.

Quiet and kid friendly

Small community

Beautiful area with friendly people

Close to the outdoors.

Rent and housing are expensive, no jobs, no economy to support them

Not over developed, still quiet rural, friendly

Housing availability

Rural life

Small

To get away from all the traffic and crowds of people and be close to ourdoor type recreation.

Great Community

People are NOT busy minding your business.

Affordable, scenery, easy access to recreation

Snowmobiling, hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, motor cycling, playing in the mountains

Quiet country atmosphere, nice people, birds

It is friendly and peaceful.

Related to someone, quiet nights

It's beauty and pretty safe and good school

Small town ambiance, Limited but good services

Close to outdoor activities, nice people, beautiful place

Low crime rate, lots of open space

Small community, closeness, caring people, "rally round mentality."

Location

Not much here to intice anyone.

Small town, nice people

Climate, recreation, cost of living, life style

Fairfield Survey Word Clouds

Comment about other types of businesses, services, and jobs:



Best reasons to visit Fairfield



Best reasons to move to Fairfield



Additional ideas or improvements you think would make Fairfield a better place for residents, businesses, and visitors.



Appendix D: Community Review Master Schedule, Focus Area Itineraries, and Listening Sessions

Fairfield Community Review Master Schedule Outline June 24-25, 2015

Visiting Team Coordinator

Home Team Coordinator

Jon Barrett 208-383-9687 (cell)

Megan Stelma 208-481-1358 (cell)

Wednesday, June 24th

9:00-10:00 am Listening Session with home team

Location: Public library

10:15-11:45 am Bus Tour-All Focus Area Groups

Locations:

• 10:15-10:35 Kid Pond

• 10:40-11:00 Manmade

• 11:10-11:30 Soldier Ski Area

• 11:35-11:50 Stillwill Farm

Topic(s)

1. How to make/fund a pedestrian and bike path from City to Kid Pond to

Mandmade.

2. Asset of Soldier Ski Area.

3. Asset of local foods/farmers.

12:00-1:00 pm Lunch

Location: Senior Center

Speaker(s): Hugh Koonce, History of Camas County

Megan Stelma, Community Revitalization Report

1:15-2:45 pm Bus Tour-All Focus Area Groups

• 1:30-1:50 Soldier Ranch

• 2:10-2:30 Centennial Marsh

Topic(s):

1. How to market local businesses.

2. How to market recreation opportunities.

3:00-4:50 Bus Tour-Economic and Infrastructure Groups

Locations:

• 3:00-3:20 High County Fusion

• 3:25-3:45 Light Industrial Zone (Miller)

• 3:50-4:10 Between the Lines Design

- 4:15-4:30 Camas Creek Country Store
- 4:35-4:50 Airport

Topic(s):

- 1. How to market available land and buildings to outside businesses to relocate to Fairfield.
- 2. How to increase local business.
- 3. Chamber Welcome sign.

2:50-5:00PM

Bus will drop of Recreation group at Forest Service Office Recreation Group

Walking Tour on Soldier Rd:

- 2:50-3:15 Forest service office
- 3:20-3:35 Claude Sport to caboose
- 3:50-4:20 to Museum
- 4:30-4:55 Meet with former arts committee members at 4H Park.

Topic(s)

- 1. Recreation assets. Forest Service projects.
- 2. What recreation opportunities are we missing?
- 3. Visitor Center and Museum have limited hours. How to fund new recreation/historic brochure.
- 4. Assessing current pathways/sidewalk.
- 5. What worked/didn't work with Art committee.
- **Suggestion to meet at library 5:15pm to walk back toward Hwy 20 with all three groups***

4:50-5:30PM

Walking Tour on Soldier Rd (Main Street)- Economic and Infrastructure Groups

Topic(s)

- 1. What can we do to encourage tourist to turn off Hwy 20 and come to town? New welcome sign area. Site survey needed.
- 2. How to fund new sidewalks and repair existing for pedestrians' usage.
- 3. How to fund additional street lamps to illuminate Soldier Rd.
- 4. How to fund replacement of old rusted out culverts to improve storm drainage.
- 5. Discussion about pedestrian/bike paths.

6:00-7:00 pm

Dinner

Location: J&Js

7:00-8:00 pm

Visiting Team debrief meeting

Location: same as dinner

Fairfield Community Review 128 June 24-25, 2015

Thursday, June 25

8:00-8:45 am Breakfast

Location: J&Js

9:00-10:05 am Infrastructure Focus area site visit

Topic(s)

1. Dirt road to clinic has been problematic for emergency vehicles.

2. Dirt road around 4H Park is hard for ADA.

3. RV dump in 4H Park.

4. Discussion on kid pond and manmade.

Location: 4H Park

9:00-10:15AM Recreation Focus area site visit

Topic(s)

1. Meet with Chamber members to discuss events in the 4H Park and rodeo What is Chamber's wish list for park and rodeo grounds?

2. How to market and increase size of events or create new large events

given limited hotel rooms.

Location: 4H Park and rodeo grounds.

9:00-10:05AM Economic Focus area meeting

Topic(s)

1. Lack of housing/rental. Invite real estate agents

2. Lack of employment opportunities. Identify holes in current offerings.

3. How can/does the Chamber market new businesses to Fairfield?

Location: Senior Center

10.15-10.30 Infrastructure & Economic Focus area meeting

Topic: Rideshare opportunities

Location: Senior Center

10·30-11·45AM All Focus area meeting

Topic(s)

1. How to improve working relationships between the City, County, and Chamber to achieve community and economic development goals.

2. How to fund goals:

a. Infrastructure needs City and County.

b. Property corner survey need for welcome sign.

c. Is there a need for a part time/full time marketing director/group to pursue new or larger events and new/expansion of businesses? If so, how to fund such group? Would the group be under City,

County, or Chamber?

3. How to engage more citizens & outside communities.

Location: Senior Center

12:00-1:00 pm

Lunch
Location: Soldier Creek Brewery take out to the Senior Center

1:00-5:00 pm

Visiting team meets on its own to develop verbal presentations
Location: Public library & Senior Center (Both are available)

5:00 - 6:00 pm

Dinner
Location: 4H Park picnic

7:00 - 9:00 pm

Community meeting starts at 7PM featuring visiting team presentation w/
Q & A
Location: Senior Center

Listening Session Schedule

Time	Stakeholder Group	Location
	Monday, May 18	
Early afternoon, May 18	High school students	School
	Wednesday, June 24	
9:00-10:00 a.m.	Home team	Public library
1:15-2:15 p.m.	Seniors	Senior Center
2:30-3:30 p.m.	Business owners & Chamber members	Public library
3:45-4:45	Education personnel	Public library
		I
	Thursday, June 25	
10:30-11:30 a.m.	Emergency personnel	Public library

Appendix E: Summary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Four-Point Approach to Downtown Revitalization

As a unique economic development tool, the Main Street Four-Point Approach® is the foundation for local initiatives to revitalize their districts by leveraging local assets—from cultural or architectural heritage to local enterprises and community pride.

The four points of the Main Street approach work together to build a sustainable and complete community revitalization effort.

Organization

Organization establishes consensus and cooperation by building partnerships among the various groups that have a stake in the commercial district. By getting everyone working toward the same goal, your Main Street program can provide effective, ongoing management and advocacy for the your downtown or neighborhood business district. Through volunteer recruitment and collaboration with partners representing a broad cross section of the community, your program can incorporate a wide range of perspectives into its efforts. A governing board of directors and standing committees make up the fundamental organizational structure of volunteer-driven revitalization programs. Volunteers are coordinated and supported by a paid program director. This structure not only divides the workload and clearly delineates responsibilities, but also builds consensus and cooperation among the various stakeholders.

Promotion

Promotion takes many forms, but the goal is to create a positive image that will rekindle community pride and improve consumer and investor confidence in your commercial district. Advertising, retail promotions, special events, and marketing campaigns help sell the image and promise of Main Street to the community and surrounding region. Promotions communicate your commercial district's unique characteristics, business establishments, and activities to shoppers, investors, potential business and property owners, and visitors.

Design

Design means getting Main Street into top physical shape and creating a safe, inviting environment for shoppers, workers, and visitors. It takes advantage of the visual opportunities inherent in a commercial district by directing attention to all of its physical elements: public and private buildings, storefronts, signs, public spaces, parking areas, street furniture, public art, landscaping, merchandising, window displays, and promotional materials. An appealing atmosphere, created through attention to all of these visual elements, conveys a positive message about the commercial district and what it has to offer. Design activities also include instilling good maintenance practices in the commercial district, enhancing the district's physical appearance through the rehabilitation of historic buildings, encouraging appropriate new construction, developing sensitive design management systems, educating business and property owners about design quality, and long-term planning.

Economic Restructuring

Economic restructuring strengthens your community's existing economic assets while diversifying its economic base. This is accomplished by retaining and expanding successful businesses to provide a balanced commercial mix, sharpening the competitiveness and merchandising skills of business owners, and attracting new businesses that the market can support. Converting unused or underused commercial space into economically productive property also helps boost the profitability of the district. The goal is to build a commercial district that responds to the needs of today's consumers.

Coincidentally, the four points of the Main Street approach correspond with the four forces of real estate value, which are social, political, physical, and economic.

Source: This summary (and much more information) is found at: http://www.preservationnation.org/main-street/about-main-street/the-approach/#.UT5WqI7UAII.

Appendix F: Information about Community Scholar Program (Idaho Commission on the Arts)



FOLK & TRADITIONAL ARTS COMMUNITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Community Scholars Program at the Idaho Commission on the Arts is a training opportunity for Idahoans to learn how to identify, document, and present representations of their community's traditional arts, folklife, and worldviews.

With the idea that nobody knows a community better than its own members, the Community Scholar Program engages populations directly by teaching its members to document themselves. A short workshop is offered to teach both the basics of oral documentation as well as an overview on the fundamentals of folklife studies. Participants learn how to collect, interpret, archive, and present their subjects.

Interested participants might include:

- · Those who work in heritage and cultural tourism.
- Cultural organizations (museums, arts councils, historical societies, and genealogists).
- Students, educators, and librarians.
- Artists, actors, and musicians.
- · Anyone with an interest in community development and documentation.

Following the workshop, the scholars are let loose to interview, photograph, uncover, and discover the people, places, and things they decide form the foundation of their community's identity. After a determined time the group will reform, compare documentation, and decide as to what capacity the collected material will be presented. Results of the fieldwork, then, are available for local, regional, or statewide exhibits, publications, educational programs, or whatever the community sees fit.

Examples of potential projects might include:

- · A traveling photo exhibit of local ranching and farming customs and practices.
- A driving tour of the region focused on cultural heritage tourism.
- The development of educational curriculum for local schools.
- A regional heritage festival.
- A website devoted to the traditional cultural expressions of a particular place, a specific community, or a geographic area.

Training serves as an investment and the work accomplished through the investment adds value to the historic and living traditions of the community. By nurturing appreciation, Community Scholars help to preserve, perpetuate, and celebrate a community's diversity and cultural legacy.

For more information contact: Steven Hatcher, Folk Arts Director, Idaho Commission on the Arts 208-334-2119, steven.hatcher@arts.idaho.gov

Appendix G: Quick Tips for Grant Writers

Compiled by Jerry Miller, Idaho Department of Commerce <u>Jerry.miller@commerce.idaho.gov</u>, 208-287-0780

Quick Tips for Grant Writers

- Tip #1 Give your group a business image makeover Today's grant makers are paying more attention to the ability of a grant seeker to deliver upon their promise of a successful project. Developing management expertise and sound accounting practices will tell potential grant makers that your group is a good risk.
- **Tip # 2 Develop Good Projects –** A former boss of mine used to tell prospective grantees "We fund projects, not ideas!" What this statement really means is that every detail needs to be well thought out, budgeted and verified before submitting an application. I tell grant seekers that they need to break their projects into individual task. When each task has assigned to it budget, deadline, responsible person and a method for determining whether or not the task is completed they are then ready to think about looking for grants.
- **Tip # 3 Become Tech Savvy** Both government and private grant makers are using the internet to screen and gather applications and collect administrative information. Grant seekers need both a fast internet connection (DSL or better) and a computer that won't freeze while using the internet. Another thing to watch for is the differences between the printed page and an online submittal box. What really looks nice on paper may look terrible when copied and pasted into box. Pay extra attention to proof reading when filling out an online grant application.
- **Tip # 4 Build Partnerships** I've said it before and I will say it again grant makers are risk averse creatures. Any thing you can do to mitigate that risk will improve your success. Partnerships are an excellent tool for increasing the pool of available resources while reducing risk. This is especially true when a newly form or inexperienced group is going after a grant. Partnering with a group with a good track record of success will alleviate the fear that a grant maker may have with working with an inexperienced group.
- Tip # 5 Timeliness is next to...- Patience is not a virtue for those of us who work for grant makers. Our bosses are always on our case to closeout projects. So to keep our bosses happy those of us in the grant making business seek projects that we are certain will quickly be completed. I go by a 24 month rule. If a project can't be reasonably finished within 24 months of being funded then it is too big and needs to be broken down into phases or smaller projects.
- Tip # 6 Don't Lie Those of us that work in grant making arena are cynical and distrustful of every proposal we review. Grant reviewers take pride in catching liars and often bet big money with colleagues to see who can catch the most lies. The other thing you should know about the grant making community is that we like, no let me strike that, we LOVE to gossip. So the bottom line is don't lie or even fudge facts, figures and timelines. You will get caught and everyone will know. Not only will lying hurt you but through guilt by association hurt the reputations of similar groups.
- **Tip # 7 Ask Questions? –** The only stupid question is the one that goes unasked. Ask questions early, often and until you are blue in the face. See the handout *Questions to Ask Before Writing a Grant* for a list of question.

Tip # 8 - A good need statement will... - Most applications will ask for some sort of need or purpose statement. Even though the application guidelines may not explicitly say so most grant makers want you to...

- Explain why your community/constituency needs the proposed project.
- Describe what will happen if your project isn't funded or is delayed?
- Use numbers to quantify the problem or issue.
- Show that your community/constituency is more needed than others seeking the same grant.
- Avoid generic statements

Tip # 9 – A good project description will... - A common mistake found in most project descriptions or scopes is that they are written in technical language. Who are we kidding grant writers are lazy and it is easier to copy and paste a consultant or engineer's description than taking the time to write or adapt their own. Because we are essentially cowards those of us in the grant making world will use boards and volunteer reviewers to do our dirty work for us. On rare occasions we will find folks who know the subject matter better than we do but those instances are rare. So to maximize the chance that the reviewers reading your application will stay awake ALWAYS USE PLAIN ENGLISH! Additionally a good project description or scope will tell the reviewer...

- · What you are doing?
- Where are you doing it (attach maps)?
- How much are you doing?
- · How are you doing it (staff, contractors, consultants, volunteers)?

Tip # 10 – Triple Check the numbers - If lying grant writers are the scum of the earth, mathematically challenged grant writers are their first cousins. Nothing says "We can't be trusted" better than a grant application chalk full of budget errors and inconsistencies. To leave no doubt that you did indeed graduate from the third grade make sure your numbers are...

- Consistent- Make sure your budget numbers match budget figures in other parts of the application.
- Accurate Triple check your math.
- Documented Budget figures should be supported by studies, and empirical data.
- Screened for hidden administrative cost This is especially important when working with government grants since they may contain prevailing wage (Davis-Bacon) or environmental review requirements.

- **Tip # 11 Matching funds** Even if it isn't required documenting matching funds goes a long way to elevate your proposal above the crowd. Matching funds tell the grant maker that your board, community and constituents are fully invested in the project and committed to its long term sustainability and success. In the event of cost overruns matching funds alleviate fears that your group isn't prepared for the unexpected. Many grant opportunities requiring match will allow you to use a combination of cash, other grants and volunteer efforts to meet minimum thresholds. If using volunteer services as part of your match check with the grant maker to see if they have any special rules, rates or record keeping requirements for counting volunteer or in-kind match.
- **Tip # 12 Deadlines** This can be confusing. Some grant notices will list a date and not say if it is a "postmark" or an "on my desk" deadline. Unless otherwise stated assume that any listed deadline is an "on my desk" deadline. If hand delivering your application makes sure you note the person accepting your application and ask them to date stamp or date and initial each copy of your proposal and ask for a receipt.
- **Tip # 13 Follow up -** Contact the grant maker three working days after the submittal deadline to see if your grant made it on time or if there are any immediate clarifications that need to take place.
- **Tip # 14 Rejection** A looser isn't someone who is unsuccessful, a looser is someone who does not turn failure or rejection into a learning opportunity. It is not personal. There is never enough money to fund every request. Ask for feedback and find out if there are some fixes that will make the proposal better the 2nd time around. Look for other sources of funding.
- Tip #15 Don't confuse grant making with fundraising Most grant makers want to fund new and innovative programs and projects that are sustainable after closeout. If you are looking for grants to make payrolls and pay the rent then you are wasting your time. Most grant makers will not provide funding for operations and many will not allow fund grant writing or administrative expenses.
- **Tip #16 Thank Before You Bank –** Successful grant seeking is about building relationships. A good thanking strategy lays the foundation for future grants. Every grant seeking effort should be followed up by thanking...
 - Individuals Start with the individual(s) who answered your questions and assisted you through the process. To really standout use the old fashion hand written note.
 - Bosses Thank the managers, boards, and CEOs of the organization providing the grant. Mention by name the individual(s) who helped you through the process.
 - Organization Offer a public thank you to the organization providing you with a grant. The thank may take the form of an ad, an acknowledgement on your website, social media, newsletters, formal letter and/or all of the above.

Appendix H: Greater Menan Community Newsletter, June 2013

Volume 5 • Issue 6 IN THIS ISSUE: • Choosing Civility • Making the Most of Summer • Raising Chickens • History of Menan Grocers Residents of Menan participate in the City-wide Cleanup on May 18

A Monthly Insight into Menan and the Surrounding Area from The Greater Menan Community, Inc.



CALENDAR

City Council June 13 • 7 p.m.

County Commissioner
Meeting
June 17 & 24 * 9 a.m.

Planning & Zoning June 19 • 7 p.m.

Cress Creek Hike June 8 • 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

July 4th Participation

Booth Registration Deadline: July 1 Contact Brenda 403-7773 or Cathy 754-8876 M,W 11-5, F 9-1

> Interested in entertaining? Call Cindy Cunningham 360-0282

myMenan Newsletter Staff

Karie Nelson Sonja Schaat Kate Lloyd Suzy Lloyd Katrina Deaton Tamar Reese Lacie Willmore Wanda Gallup Linda Radford

Civility is a Choice | By Pam Lilburn

We are all stressed with rising prices, unemployment, crowds, and demands on our time. With summer approaching, we can anticipate higher gas prices, crowded highways, and a long list of summer activities to crowd into our short season. We can choose how to deal with these stresses. We can be patient or impatient.

When we are over-whelmed, we often are impatient and treat others rudely. We have seen an increase in road rage because it is an easy quick response. Another effective, but often more difficult strategy, is to be patient, restrain our anger, and respond with kindness. If we would like a more civil society, we should

remember what Mahatma Gandhi said, "Be the change you wish to see in the world."

When others are impatient and treat us rudely, we should try to restrain our impulse to get even, and give the other person the benefit of the doubt. We need to remember that others are overwhelmed by the demands of their lives also. By responding with patience, kindness, or a smile, we contribute to a more civil society. The Chinese philosopher Lao-Tse expressed how to attain a more civil society this way:

If there is to be peace in the cities, There must be peace between neighbors. If there is to be peace between neighbors, There must be peace in the home, If there is to be peace in the home, There must be peace in the heart.





Junior Explorer Cress Creek Hike

BLM will host another Junior Explorer event June 8 at Cress

Creek Nature Trail (1 of 3 BLM sites) from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Kids complete a variety of fun activities to complete a booklet, take the Junior Explorer pledge, become official BLM Junior Explorers and receive their badge!

For more information or to pick up a booklet, stop by the visitor center (425 N. Čapital Ave., IF) or contact Chris Deets, 523-1012, cdeets@blm.gov. Booklets also online at http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/environmental_education/education/junior_explorers.html.

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${\bf Council\ Bits:}_{{\it May}\ 9}._{\it New\ Menan\ Sign\ Proposed;} \ {\it 4th\ of\ July\ Fireworks\ Donations\ Needed\ }\ |\ {\bf By\ Suzy\ Lloyd}$

Police Report

Complaints have been received about late night 4-wheelers speeding along the streets of Menan and crashing stop signs. Officer Keller said they will step up their coverage to try to put a stop to this.

Safe Routes to School

Elaine Clegg, Interim Executive Director of Idaho Smart Growth, acting for the Safe

Routes to School assessment grant, made a presentation of their findings to City Council. The visual draft proposal made various suggestions of improvements to the safety of Menan's streets for pedestrians and bicycles, especially more crosswalks with better markings and signage. Feedback was given by Council members and a final draft will be drawn up for recommendations.

Replacement Sign Proposed

Since the Menan sign by the Post Office is showing major signs of age and wear, area resident Renee Fullmer expressed willingness to help replace or revitalize Menan's sign near the post office. It would make a good eagle

project. Nathan Bronson will propose this to potential Eagle Scout Tucker Hancock.

Keller Associates: Jeanne Mecham informed Council that, for the third year in a row, Menan had been turned down for the transportation grant called LRHIP (Local Rural Highway Improvement Program). This grant provides up to \$50,000 to qualifying counties and cities with populations of less than 5,000 to develop a transportation plan and capital improvement plan and would pay for Menan to evaluate the City's roads,

MENAN IDAHO

EST. 1879

ELEV. 4798

sidewalks, pedestrian facilities and growth patterns. It would help identify and prioritize the system needs and develop a plan for maintaining, reconstruc-ting or expanding the transportation system in Menan. It then becomes the basis for seeking other funding to make improvements.

Jeanne said the reason the grant was denied was because the City's accounting method doesn't clearly show budget monies spent on Menan's roads, sidewalks and labor, etc. Accounting will clearly separate this in the

4th of July Update

The City is looking for donations to help defray the cost of fireworks for the 4th. Cathy Harding said donations have dropped way off since Easter but by law no taxpayer money can be used for this purpose so donations, no matter how small, are needed.

Volunteers are still needed to help with the day's events. If you would like to donate even tust a small amount of time or effort, please contact Cathy at the City Offices. The theme for the parade this year will be America: Past, Present & Future.

Hwy 48 Intersection Report

Council has received no update from Valley Wide Co-Op since the work meeting on April 18th. Neil Jensen added a short discussion to the agenda by motion and discussed a conversation he had with someone at the ITD. This prompted a decision for a 3-way meeting to be arranged with an official at the ITD, and one member each from the City Council and the Planning & Zoning Commission to discuss how to further proceed.

Community Service: Suggestions for Individuals* and Families to Give Back

MIDWAY ELEMENTARY • Contact Mr. Eric Jensen, 754-8604

- Relocate one of the baseball diamonds
- Repaint the map/BBall Court Lines/4-Square Lines
- Plant plants on the outside of the new
- Make signage for native plants on the path/fitness stations/playground.

CITY COUNCIL REVIEWED

- Wayfinding signs on along greenbelt, especially close to the school Sharrows (with bicycle sign)
- Create a durable "Welcome to Menan Sign" (possibly including date established & elevation). Collaborate with Renee Fullmer, 754-4388.
- Refinish Town Hall benches
- · Develop and build a way to properly store tables at Town Hall
- Build shelves in rooms next to the stage
- Restore Town Hall stage
 Build more picnic tables for July 4th celebration.

GENERAL COMMUNITY . Ideas generated by general citizens

· Tree Labels for Trees along Greenbelt

- Distance markers along Greenbelt
 Walking Tour of Historical Places in Menan's History
- Collect & recycle abandoned cars and equipment
- Create paper recycling bins (Other) interested citizens are Lorna Wheeler and Stacy Scott)
- Collecting more Menan History. Interviewing and collecting pictures from senior Menan residents.
- Configure & mark Town Hall asphalt for parking line.
- Landscape around
- Town Hall area.

 Fir in around furnace duct work, Town Hall vestibule.
- Procure stage curtains for Town Hall.
- · Install more cabinets in Town Hall kttchen.

Have any tdeas of ctty tmprovements to add to the ltst? Send them to mymenantnfo@gmatl.com



An example of a wayfinding sign along the Menan greenbelt.

← Valley Wide Co-op

← Menan City Park

*Posstble Eagle Scout projects (2013)

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Juan Deaton President 351-4584

Tad Haight Vice-President 754-4927

Laura Schwendiman Treasurer 754-4143

> Ashley Munns Secretary 317-6518

Jolyn Haight 754-4927 Suzy Lloyd 705-0174 Kristi Moore 754-4293 Karie Nelson 754-4987

Menan City Office

P.O. Box 127

M,W • 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. F • 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

754-8876

Cathy Harding Clerk/Treasurer

> Betty Day Mayor 754-0066

City Council Nathan Bronson 754-4589 Kent Clark 313-5600 Neil Jensen 754-4626 Gary Maples 754-4568

Public Works

Matt Walker 569-6701

Amos Williams 317-3787

Jefferson County

Brian M. Farnsworth bfarnsworth@co.jefferson.id.us

Jerald Raymond jraymond@co.jefferson.id.us

Tad Hegsted rthegsted@hotmail.com

Emily Kramer County Ádministrator 745-0868

Midway Elementary Gets a Walking Track

By Brittney Foster, Midway PTO Vice-President

What an experience the last three years has been! It all started with an idea between teachers, the PTO, & Mr. Jensen, the principal. We all thought it would be really neat to someday see a track around the playground at Midway Elementary. Little did I know then just how much work was in store for us over the next three years.

The PTO had just introduced to the school the Pacer Program, a running program done once a week during the students' lunch recess. It was a new idea, and I was very excited to see what would happen. The Pacer program has grown to be more than I ever expected. Because of its success, it was crucial the track be completed so kids would have a place to walk or run.

We began raising money through fundraisers at the school, but quickly found out we would need more help. At the end of last year, I visited with HK Contractors and they gave us a price for the track and a very gracious donation to go with it. We just needed a little more funding and our dream would become a reality. We approached the Jefferson Education Foundation, Spud-nik and South Industries. They were all very generous and gave money to help make up the funds we were still lacking to complete the track. On April 16, 2013, ground was broken and our track was placed in just two days.

The excitement at the school is something I will never forget. The kids, faculty, and even community have been thrilled. I remember watching as they placed the first little bit of asphalt on the ground and the emotion that took over. Our hard work had finally paid off, and our little school was going to receive the track they had been waiting for.

The track was started on a Tuesday and completed on Wednesday evening. The Pacer Program is done on Thursdays. It was very rewarding to see the overwhelming excitement by all the students and even teachers as they walked on the path. There were smiles all around! It has been a hard and sometimes overwhelming thing to undergo a project like this, but in the end it is so worth it. I am so very grateful for a wonderful school and community who supported an idea to help our children. I feel the track will be used for many more years to come to help encourage and strengthen our children.









How To Build Community | Submitted by Nathan Bronson

- Turn off your TV
- Leave your house
- Know your neighbors
- Greet People
- Look up when you're walking
- Sit on your stoop
- Plant flowers
- Use your library
- Play together
- Buy from local merchants
- Share what you have
- Help a lost dog
- Take children to the park
- Honor elders
- Support neighborhood schools
- Fix it even if you didn't break it
- Have pot lucks
- Garden together
- Pick up litter Read stories aloud
- Dance in the street
- Talk to the mail carrier

- Listen to the birds
- Put up a swing
- Help carry something heavy
- Barter for your goods
- Start a tradition
- Ask a question
- Hire young people for odd jobs Organize a block party
- Bake extra and share
- Ask for help when you need it
- Open your shades
- Sing together
- Share your skills
- Take back the night
- Turn up the music
- Turn down the music
- Listen beore you react to anger
- Mediate a conflict
- Seek to understand
- Learn from new and uncomfortable angles
- Know that no one is silent though many are

not heard. Work to change this.

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Appendix I: University of Idaho's Extension's Community Coaching for Grassroots Action program brochure



Contact and Information Lorie Higgins, higgins@uidaho.edu

208-885-9717
Kathee Tifft, ktifft@uidaho.edu
208-799-3054
http://cd.extension.uidaho.edu/leadership/

COSTS AND COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITIES

small communities with very small in order to make them available to very and LMDI costs are kept as low as possible materials costs, but in general, both CCGA workshops and meetings and coordinate recruit participants, as well as advertise to hire a coach or recruit a volunteer. Extension person is not available for long Extension faculty and staff. If a local communities are generally expected to pay (LMDI) has some additional staffing and venues and refreshments as needed. The Additionally, communities are expected to term coaching, the community may choose most travel costs, but not the salaries of personnel and funding. For CCGA, location and availability of Extension _eadership to Make a Difference Institute facilitation services will vary depending on Community costs for the training and

University of Idaho

Extension

LEADERSHIP
TO MAKE A
DIFFERENCE

LIDAHO RURAL
DARTNERSHIP
Strangthowing Street Labor

PARTNERS

LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

The University of Idaho Extension Community Development Team, with faculty located in all regions of the state, focuses on leadership, business and economic development and community design. Co-chairs are Harriet Shaklee (hshaklee@uidaho.edu). For more information about Extension programs in Community and Economic Development: http://cd.extension.uidaho.edu/.

The Idaho Rural Partnership (IRP) joins diverse public and private resources in innovative collaborations to strengthen communities and improve life in rural Idaho. IRP's Idaho Community Review brings experts from across the state to small communities for three days to provide objective observations, recommendations and resources to help communities build capacity, engagement and the local economy. For more information: http://irp.idaho.gov.

Leadership to Make a Difference Institute: A collaborative partnership between University of Idaho Extension and the Spirit Center at the Monastery of St. Gertrude, LMDI is designed to assist people in developing confidence in their own leadership abilities and the courage to take action to address community issues. For more information, contact Kathee Tifft (ktifft@uidaho.edu).



suppose leadership at one time meant muscles, but today it means getting along with people.

Mahatma Gandhi

Community Coaching for Grassroots Action (CCGA) is designed to help communities build leadership capacity while developing and implementing a community vision. The program takes a "guide on the side" approach, with Extension faculty supporting community members as they identify their assets, create a vision, build agreed-upon strategies and develop the networks and good working relationships needed for progress toward prosperity for everyone.

University of Idaho Extension builds partnerships to Ignite, Coach and Sustair **positive change** in Idaho's rural communities

CCGA can be implemented in conjunction with the Idaho Community Review process (www.irp.idaho.gove/Home/ Community_Review). The review creates a comprehensive inventory of community assets, focus areas for action and menu of strategies and resources for implementing recommendations. The review ignites change and engages a broad spectrum of the community in the process. CCGA captures that energy and builds on its momentum through a community coaching process.

UI Extension faculty provide neutral facilitation and coach community leaders and action committees as they implement plans in the months following the Review.

LAUNCHING THE PROGRAM

The CCGA process begins with an initial meeting to introduce the program and develop an outreach plan followed by a series of intensive workshops over the course of 2 - 3 months. Typical workshop sequence:

1. Creating a Community Vision

Futures Game - Learn to think beyond immediate gains and identify investments in community that will reap long-term benefits.

Understanding the Local and Regional Economy - this is essential for identifying the community's assets and thinking about how to link them for effective economic development.

Building a Vision from Assets - Identifying community assets involves listing the obvious rivers, views, highways and buildings - but it also involves looking at what is working well in the community and the root causes of local successes. This helps the community distill the essence of the best of the community's culture, people, enterprises and leadership and turn that into a vision and focus areas for action.

2. Creating Action Teams & Steering Committee

This workshop series focuses on how to build effective teams and manage meetings and relationships to avoid needless conflict. Once action teams are formed, the group is led through the process of selecting a steering committee and identifying its roles and responsibilities.

From this point, action teams will usually be meeting on their own but will come together regularly for a period of time in order to facilitate communication, enhance individual

and team skills and sustain positive change.

COACHING & MOVING FORWARD

In addition to continued facilitation/coaching, capacity-building workshops will be provided as needed/requested by the teams.

Topics may include (but are not limited to) >Effective goal setting; >Entrepreneurial communities; >Creating a vibrant downtown business district; >Using social media to support community activities.

LEADERSHIP TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE INSTITUTE

This program is for communities wishing to focus on building local leadership capacity and so is designed to assist people in developing confidence in their own leadership abilities and the courage to take action to address community issues through:

- Strengthened skills for leading meetings, working with others, and dealing with conflict,
- Strategies for communicating, partnering and fundraising within communities, and
- Development of a personal leadership plan and strategies for implementing new ideas in current community work.