

WAUPACA LEADERS QUESTIONNAIRE

What do you think is unique about the community?

- People feel comfortable here.
- The beauty of our lakes, parks and countryside. How that pride is reflected in how well home owners, businesses and the public take care of their properties.
- Our love for the arts, our vibrant and soon to be redone downtown and also the high number of tourists drawn into the area every summer due to the Chain.
- Its appreciation of the arts, a fantastic library and parks. What other small community has summer musicals, Arts on the Square, an art show and lots venues for bands? The library offers programs for every age group with a variety of interests -- movies, lectures and exhibits; a teen room and story time for children. There are also wonderful parks in almost every neighborhood.
- Wauapca changes in population size by an enormous amount of people who visit spring, summer. call in comparison to winter months.
- The opportunities we have as a community for our size.
- Melting pot of people from many different places.
- Diversity in entertainment & eating/drinking establishments.
- Small town friendliness.
- Combination of lakes, rivers, and nice historic downtown.

- Small town character.
- The friendliness of the community - the environmental beauty of the community and surrounding area - a small town but many amenities such as hospital, good schools, great park/rec and library.
- The downtown is still vibrant.
- Small hometown feeling.
- For a small community there is a strain of progressivism that will help to continue to move our community forward.
- For a community this size, it has a lot to offer - recreation, the arts, as well as a number of organizations and nonprofits that offer programs and activities.

What are the three biggest opportunities for the community over the course of the next several years?

- Fund 80, Main St Project, TIF re-allocation
- 1 Climate change; 2 New and affordable housing construction; 3 Attracting remote workers to our "Norman Rockwell" community
- Something in place of the old "Vernas", the old Catholic Church building and the revitalization of the down town.
- The reconstruction of Main Street, economic growth on the city's east side, attracting new residents through arts and cultural events.
- To follow the present path 2. Have library remain open the present hours or even increase the times 3. to continue to survey community members
- Opportunities for community members to be involved; New community development leader;
- Growth (population and business); new big box retail to replace Shopko and K-Mart; increased tourism
- Growth + Walmart + Affordable Housing/ Taxes
- Fix streets, promote business to come to area and maintain workers
- Revitalize downtown and entry corridors; bring more housing downtown
- Redevelopment to attract new business to the area; investment in infrastructure;



- The chance for growth and revitalized interest in downtown with the new main street and completion of Danes Home - especially on the north end, 2) hopefully attract the young and growing families to make Waupaca their home, 3) the re-do of the ordinances / codes that will help make the above more likely.
- Rebuild the downtown. Attract new business to the area. Reduce the TIF burden.
- Upgrade downtown, bring in more business, eliminate waste
- I think the downtown project will be an important catalyst in bringing more private investment to our community. To experience a net migration into our community. More people means more consumers, more workers and more good folks to add to our community. More coordination and purpose between the City and towns. We will rise together or we will fall/fail together.
- The reconstruction and redevelopment of Main Street - attracting new businesses and people to the community; opportunity for continued growth on Churchill Street; a decrease in the city's debt, giving it the opportunity to lower city taxes and plan for future needs.
- Working together with the surrounding townships Lack of new people/jobs coming to town Perception of the city as a whole.
- Rural location; higher taxes; aging infrastructure.
- High cost of living + Not Welcoming to Businesses + Homelessness/Drugs.
- Budget limits for roads, finding affordable housing and employment opportunities.
- Financial sustainability; fiscal concerns.
- Providing services without raising property taxes or fees; attracting new businesses to area; providing funds for public safety and infrastructure.
- Continuing to provide the infrastructure and staff to provide a safe, clean, attractive community 2) financing to make all of this possible including adequate salary structure to get and keep the "best" employees 3) trying to find another large employer or two to build the tax base and attract more people to move to the city.
- Lower the tax burden. Improve the tax base. Attract new residents to the area.
- Overstaffing at library.
- Incessant focus, it seems, on Waupaca taxes. The City taxes are higher however we're providing a higher level of service as we subsidize town residents. I also think our youth are going away and not coming back. I also am worried about our youth generally. They face so many challenges that kids a generation ago didn't face.
- Substance abuse and all that comes with it; number of people living in crisis (paycheck to paycheck); affordable housing (rentals and homes) and related to this - what some houses, rentals, and yards look like and how that affects others in those neighborhoods, as well as attracting new people to the community.

What do you think are the three biggest challenges for community?

- Funding, negative public perception of city, drug abuse.
- 1 Climate change; 2 Shrinking workforce while increasing number of retirees; 3 Lack of attractive or high tech jobs for young adults
- Getting rid of our DRUG problem, keeping services where they're at without raising taxes and affordable housing.
- Waupaca needs more affordable and quality housing for low-income families. Waupaca, like many other communities, has an opioid and meth crisis that is affecting a large number of our next generation. We need to reach out to at-risk kids before they become adults with little hope for their future.
- Serving the older population 2. providing jobs of value to the younger generation 3. Getting the younger generation to reside here and make Waupaca home



Where do you see the library helping the city reach its goals?

- Work with Park and Rec to consolidate services, become more cost efficient.
- Programming related to sustainability, showcasing local culture, technology, construction, and history. Encourage use of meeting facilities.
- By staying on budget or looking for ways to cut costs w/o lowering services (easy right!).
- If the city's goals include attracting new residents, then the library's programming and selection of materials is one way to accomplish that task.
- Addressing the younger generation beliefs and concerns.
- Creating opportunities for community involvement and the overall health of our community.
- Offer program to provide focus on assisting people to find jobs; Assist with programs to assist employers with filling vacant positions; eliminate duplication of services between city departments - private business and other outside organizations to ease the tax burden.
- Help the homeless who stay daily at the library find jobs + Integrate with other departments to eliminate duplication of services + Refine focus of library to core services.
- Keep budget low so that the funds the city gets can be used for infrastructure.
- Strengthen social capital.
- Reducing amount of property tax support so those dollars can be used for other city services like police and public works.
- The library is one of top services provided to the community. It needs to maintain its high standards and service to all levels of our city (young to old). The library can be another very positive entity that can be pointed out to all who may consider a move into our city.
- A good library system is essential to attracting new residents.
- Don't duplicate services at rec center/sr center, reduce staffing.
- Youth, under age 18 comprise a significant percentage of our residents. We need more focus on youth across all our public and

nonprofit sector.

- The library can continue to seek ways to get people talking and learning about city issues and goals through the types of programs and activities it offers.

What do you hear from community members about the library?

- There is too much staff.
- Generally positive about staff and facilities. Some complaints about groups being expected to make a donation to use meeting rooms.
- That it's top notch and well run!
- Only positive things. Almost everybody in Waupaca and nearby townships participates in at least one program. The children's section downstairs and programs are outstanding. Jack Rhodes' movies, Lunch and Learn, and Winchester Academy offer opportunities for culture and learning.
- It is a wonderful place to utilize.
- I don't hear anything negative from the community and we use the library on a regular basis. I wish more people used it.
- Overstaffed; large budget; great youth programs.
- Excellent Youth Programming & Staff + Internet Availability + Meeting room space. Library is nice but more than what this community really needs.
- NA
- Why are we providing library services to Portage County residents if they don't pay for it? If you don't live within the service area you can't use it.
- I never hear anything negative about the library except maybe somebody wanting it to be open more often or at times that fit their personal lifestyle better. The library is one of the top "draws" or "positives" in our great city.
- Only positive stuff.
- Too much waste, too many staff, unfriendly, not open early enough, why compete with private market such as movies/dvds/cds, loss of private areas to read/study with shelves moved, enjoy other small community libraries more they are more welcoming and helpful. costs nothing to fax but charge a fee when

other libraries are free. booksale has crap books and scattered all over building keep in single area and purge books on regular basis, hallway by meeting rooms is cluttered with tables they should be stored away when not in use

- All I hear is positive. The Library is a great resource and is valued by many of our residents. Programming is every changing, reacting to current needs/trends.
- They appreciate the library - and all that it offers.

Is there anything else you would like to share with us?

- Thanks for asking for input! ...Dmitri Martin
- Keep up the great work Peg and staff, you're doing a wonderful job for the city of Waupaca. The library has really transformed in the last few years and it looks fantastic!
- The library & senior center duplicates much programming and resources - the departments should be merged.
- Would like to see library detach from city and maybe become a standalone library that is funded by the people who use it.

- I think it would be interesting to bring the library outside during the summer; even if it's just a book shelf or two along with some chairs and games like Kubb or ball toss. Make it part of the unique experience of downtown and also market the library!
- Our library is awesome, as is its leadership.
- Have personally witnessed supervisory staff treating people like dirt because they have been in the wrong area and speak in a tones as if they are a burden to help.
- I think it would be good for the Library to benchmark itself against other communities our size to determine if the level of staffing and funding is comparable. I think it would inform your annual budget process.

