

## **FORT WORTH PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION**

Wednesday, September 25, 2002

### **1. WHAT ARE THE STRENGTHS OF THE COMMUNITY OF FORT WORTH?**

Friendly city

On a human scale

Rich cultural life

- Accessible to most people

Citizens that give back to the community

- Share money
- Share volunteer time

Interesting and exciting to live here

This is an enthusiastic community

There is lots of diversity

- Lots of things to do
- Ethnic diversity
- Cultural diversity

Fort Worth is a mini-Texas

Fun place to live

Manageable place to live

- Can get around
- Can be a part of (community) life
- Open - If you want to be involved, you can

Nice place to raise children

- Children grow up - and come back

Big city with a small-town feel

Not Dallas

Hidden jewel

Vibrant downtown

Several universities improve quality of life

Government (top administration) concerned about City and try to provide service the best they can

People have a sense of ownership

- People don't give up
- Multi-generational families support that ownership

We don't have political factions

- Balanced ethnically
- We get along

It's civilized here

## **2. WHAT ARE THE AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN FORT WORTH?**

Public transportation - mass transit

We could a higher intellectual life across the board.

- There is a huge emphasis on social aspect
- Less emphasis on creative/intellectual life

Wealthy people with their own agendas creating services with no support from the community – lost resources

Lots of have-nots who can get left off the train

The gap is growing

A lot of people don't take advantage of services that are available

- Awareness issues
- Priority issues

Bad air

## **3. WHAT NEW OR ENHANCED SERVICES NEED TO BE PROVIDED BY THE CITY IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS?**

Mass transit services

- Lost the subway system

We need to improve downtown parking

Clean streets

More greenbelts

Issues related to codes

- Zoning
- Coming urbanization
- Fill-in neighborhoods
- Revitalizing neighborhoods

**4. WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR INFORMATION?**

Internet

TV

Newspaper

Encyclopedia

Bookstore

University library

**5. DO YOU USE THE LIBRARY; IF YES FOR WHAT?**

Four of six are library users

Check out books

- Children's books
- Historical context for things I read

Book tapes - audiotapes

**6. WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPRINT SERVICES THE LIBRARY SHOULD PROVIDE?**

As a place or destination

Information services

Public meetings

Public service activities (Example: Health Fair)

Collection

- Current
- Good, solid
- Updated

Electronic information

Make service convenient

- Easy
- Fast
- Now

## **7. WHAT ARE THE STRENGTHS OF THE LIBRARY?**

Staff

- Friendly
- Interested in helping

Offers access to information to everyone and free

Offer a variety of different ways to find out about the library.

Real strength

- Children's programs are excellent
- Children's space's are well done

Paperback collection current

Interlibrary and interagency loan

## **8. WHAT ARE THE AREAS IN WHICH THE LIBRARY COULD IMPROVE?**

Collection

- Outdated
- Thin in some areas

Hours in the branches are not good enough

Library doesn't market itself well

- We talk to ourselves

What is the role of convenience?

- We need to make the library faster, easier, more attractive

Technology is a weakness

- They are not using technology effectively
- Web site is not always current
- Outdated circulation system

Library used to a place where we got entertainment

- Barnes & Noble has coffee shop.

Build libraries in proximity to other destinations - near retail/transportation

Make the library fun!

Libraries used to be cultural center of community

Library needs to reinvent/reinvigorate its place in the community

Library needs to be the happening place

Need better support for literacy services

Are we duplicating efforts with schools?

Don't work as much with schools as we should

**9. IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANT TO TELL US?**

We need a stronger professional library staff

Need to develop strong internal leaders

Need to think "outside the box"

We expect excellence

Not ever be comfortable lowering the bar