

FORT WORTH PUBLIC LIBRARY FRIENDS

Tuesday, September 24, 2002

1. WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT FORT WORTH?

Not complicated

- No traffic jams
- Easy lifestyle
- It's NOT Dallas
- Low-key lifestyle

More family-oriented

Rich mix of cultural resources/diversity

Friendly people

Very altruistic community

- People support causes here (example: Amon Carter, Sid Richardson decided Fort Worth would have the best of the best and they convinced their wealthy friends to do the same; Bass Performance Hall is privately funded)
- Small contributors are also welcomed and encouraged

Lots of trees

Climate--four definite seasons.

Cultural district is just wonderful.

Whether it's cultural medical, educational--it's all here.

2. WHAT DON'T YOU LIKE ABOUT FORT WORTH?

Heat

Tornado Alley

We do have some traffic jams

Greater Fort Worth is made up of confusing mix of overlapping government agencies (example: school districts)

We need better long-range planning for capital construction

We are becoming over-retailed.

Not planning enough for green-belts in the area

Need a stronger landscape ordinance

Have tendency to think of city as patchwork

It's a city of neighborhoods

- Sometimes some of the neighborhoods get ignored (SE)
- Also some are exclusive (those that have get)
- Resources don't always go to the neighborhood that needs them most

We're growing too fast

City is projected to grow a lot in next 10 years – we'll be bigger than Dallas

- Fort Worth is one of the few city's that's advocated for % of landscaping on new buildings
- Would like that to be even stronger
- Would like them to just leave a block where they don't put anything; in this part of the country we've always had so much land and we're starting to miss it

3. WHAT NEW OR EXPANDED CITY SERVICES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE?

Greenbelt ordinances and better planning

- Fort Worth has a pretty good planning process but it hasn't always been sensitive to the user
- Pouring concrete faster than any other city in the world

Better public transportation system

- Convince people to use public transportation

More equitable disbursement of funds

Planning for historic preservation

4. WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR INFORMATION?

Internet

Newspaper

TV/radio

Library (books and computers)

Conversation--talking to friends and family.

Organizations

5. HOW DOES THE LIBRARY FIT INTO THE CITY AND THE SERVICES IT OFFERS?

Providing civic education

- Risk-free environment
- Sponsor forums for enrichment or sensitive topics
- Neutrality at the library

Children's programs

- Summer reading for children
- Story hours for pre-schoolers
- Getting kids to love books is their (kids') key to success in school and rest of life

Getting adults to love books.

- Define love as enjoy, use, value
- Question becomes are books an end in themselves, or is the content the issue

Library should help bridge the digital divide

- Provide technology for people who can't afford a computer
- Provide training in information access skills
- Library is the best bridge we have for print to digital.

Provide less expensive cultural events for all residents

- Many cultural events are priced out of the reach of the average consumer
- Library can do it more cost-effectively, in partnership with other agencies

6. DO YOU USE THE LIBRARY; IF SO, HOW?

For most everything – from fun stuff to biographies to information

I buy my own materials (6)

I purchase my own books but use library's books on tape

Check out items to see if I want to buy them (Examples: Like Clancy, King, other new stuff)

Access information electronically

- There is some information you can't get unless you get into a library database

I read very quickly, so I couldn't afford to buy all the things I read--mysteries, bios, history, etc.

Tapes of movies

Books for information purposes generally, as well as tapes and videos

I use the library to educate my daughter about the beauty of reading

I use it for business purposes – I am a faculty member

For those who buy and use the library rarely, why are you on the Friends?
Why do nonusers support library services?

- Want to be sure that the resources I have access to are available to others.
- Would hate to think that this information would not be here for every community.

7. WHAT DOES THE LIBRARY DO WELL NOW? WHAT ARE THE LIBRARY'S STRENGTHS?

The library is great!

This particular branch does well is incredibly helpful people--good people

Some of the facilities are very nice. This one's very nice

Welcoming attitude

Students feel they can come and work here--there are lots of carrels for people

There is an accepting atmosphere

Warm place

We can get the materials we want; if they don't have it in my branch they can get it from another branch or another library

- They suggest it

Children's programs are excellent

Location and hours

Branch parking is generally good

When you walk through our downtown central library, there are always people there

Genealogy department is very helpful

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

Parking downtown

More materials: fiction, nonfiction in just about every subject

- People want the new stuff.
- When I go for a particular thing, it's already checked out; need more copies of popular materials

Spread collection out from central to branches

Be sure that librarians have the skills they need to meet the new service priorities

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

Would like to see Friends have closer relationship with branch managers.

- Friends need to make the links
- It all comes back to communication connections