

COMMUNITY LISTENING TEAM  
MEETING  
October 3, 2016  
House of Prayer Lutheran Church

Present: Paula Kiehl, Jan Philbert, Tom Zarth, Dave Steenson, Wayne Swenson (Steering Committee Representative); Absent: Laural Johnson

The meeting focussed primarily on a debriefing and assessment of the Team's experience at PennFest on Sunday, September 18. Thanks to Team members Paula Kiehl, Jan Philbert, Laural Johnson, Tom Zarth plus other volunteers who staffed the Team's booth.

Comments included:

- Weather was great resulting in lots of attendees
- Bottles of water, power bars, and pens were distributed to visitors
- Water was a BIG draw
- The identifying poster was not particularly visible
- The canopy provided welcome protection from the sun
- Of the many attendees who stopped by to visit and ask questions about the Collaboration, more that 200 agreed to respond to a 4-item questionnaire in writing

Tom Zarth collated and summarized the responses, as follows:

### **Penn Fest Community Survey— Summary Results**

#### **1. What do you like about living in Richfield?**

#### **2. How connected do you feel to your neighborhood?**

People appreciate the small town feel, the friendliness/neighborliness of Richfield, location, accessibility, amenities, etc. There were some exceptions with people feeling not connected or less connected than they used to be, but most felt a good connection to their neighborhood and their neighbors.

#### **3. What's one thing you'd like to change to make living here better?**

Most responses fell into three categories:

##### ***Infrastructure and Planning***

More sidewalks, crosswalks, bike trails, street lights; more independent restaurants and coffee shops, a better community center, traffic issues and noise, develop empty properties

##### ***Attitudes and opportunities***

More community events and activities, less segregated housing, more acceptance of diversity and differences

***Quality of Life***

Crime and safety concerns, public health concerns, services for poor, work opportunities with better pay, better bus service, more affordability in housing

**4. Is there something you'd like our churches to work on or pray for?**

A few people shared personal prayer needs: older parents, illness, wisdom in voting

Many shared concerns for children and youth:

Schools and school children, children in need, children's safety, teens, hungry children

Many shared community needs:

Domestic violence prevention, equality/diversity/ mutual respect, positive community growth, needs for affordable housing and homeless, support for immigrants, quality day care, crime issues, mentoring for job success, prayers for community leaders, needs of the working poor, keeping young families in the community

Many, many people asked for prayers for peace in our world and our community

Team members are advised of Collaboration meeting at HOP on Monday, October 10, at 6:30 p.m.

dks

10/04/2016