

Agenda/Minutes
City of Milton Strategic Planning
Seniors/Special Needs Focus Group
Wednesday, April 5th 6:30 pm

In attendance: Gary Albrecht, Facilitator, Alderperson Randy Randell, Carol Blomgren, Acting Chief Tom Gilland, Ellen Cummings, Betty Bingham, Ethel Himmel, Phyllis Bingham

1. Introductions
2. Questions to Consider
3. List of Strengths/Weaknesses
4. Next steps/action

(see attached notes)

Questions to Consider:

What is it like to live in Milton as a senior/special needs?

- Transportation needs
- Sidewalks needed in the St. Mary's area
- Special needs lacking transportation for medical appointments
- No handicapped parking in either Milton east or west

What is good about living here?

- Know neighbors
- Great EMS
- If you can walk, you can do lots of things!
- Safe
- People are welcoming
- Gathering Place is used a lot
- Parks are great and they are used!

Recreation

Do you have what you need?

- Parks need equipment (e.g., seat for handicapped)
- Organized re programs needed for special needs
- Pool should be more accessible for special needs

Is parking adequate?

- City hall parking is sometimes difficult
- School buildings lack adequate parking
- Pickup/drop off areas are not safe in school areas

Special needs accommodations benefit EVERYONE!

What city services are lacking?

- Summer rec for children
- There should be building requirements for housing beyond the normal codes to accommodate the handicapped (wheelchair access, lower counters)

Do you have access to transportation to get to where you want to go?

- There is not enough of a market/need for taxi service
- A metro-link with Janesville would be great with a set schedule and so that users could tap into the Janesville bus system.

List of Strengths

1. Gathering Place
2. Library
3. Food pantry
4. Safety
5. Public Services (police public works)
6. Schools
7. Parks
8. Feeling of Community
9. Churches
10. Small enough community – many things are within walking distance
11. Well-kept community (law enforcement is good!)
12. Medical clinics with hospitals relatively close
13. 100 miles from O'Hare and other great large “hub” access
14. Clubs, organizations and activities that actually meet!
15. Several campgrounds in the area

List of Weaknesses

1. Transportation
2. Anti-tax community
3. Accessibility to businesses (upgrades needed to older facilities)
4. Downtown parking
5. Balance between residential and industrial growth/taxing (need more industrial)
6. Communication of community-sponsored events/programs
There are many “silos” More interaction needs to take place between groups.

Recommended Actions to address areas of weakness:

1. Form a sub committee or group or have city staff work on transportation needs (e.g., contact Janesville busing) and Rock County Social Services to explore additional services
2. Prepare a publication/document, “This is what you get for your tax dollar” to positively show the cost of community programs and services so that citizens have an ongoing understanding.
3. Add a business person to the senior/special needs group
4. When revisiting the masterplan, the city and appropriate committees should address special needs accommodations (e.g., Perhaps one in every ten housing units built should have accommodations for the handicapped).
5. Continue the ongoing discussion of parking needs among city and law enforcement officials
6. The Community Development Authority and Smart Growth committees should continue to encourage more industrial growth so that there is a healthy balance between residential and commercial/industrial.
7. Encourage city representatives (staff and elected officials to be identified at community events so that they are visible and can be accessible to community). People are satisfied that city reps and staff are already doing this. The more that they can do to identify themselves at events without impinging on their personal time/space, the better.