

What We Believe About Downtown

Downtown Exploratory Committee, 4.21.15

After thinking through the perceptions they hear people having about downtown, the committee members each took a turn stating what they personally believe about downtown. As noted at the bottom, a strong theme out of this and other discussions this evening was the need for a vision that unifies the direction and sense of the downtown

- Can't live in the past.
- There are hidden gems and good coming in the future.
- There are beautiful facades, river. Needs a green space to gather.
- We need to fill up vacancies to change perceptions.
- There is a lot of potential. A community gathering place is needed.
- People avoid downtown, but there is less shopping there now. You have to drive to get what you want.
- There is a lot of potential and many current positives.
- It's like a blank slate right now. We can make it spectacular.
- It has "good bones." It's full of nostalgia – like an old Victorian that needs caring for.
- I love it, especially the architecture. Buildings are empty, so there is a need to change that and add green space.
- Historic and gorgeous, but can we overcome problems to get what we want? I'm not sure what the options are.
- Fond du Lac is average right now, and that is not a draw for tourists and new residents.
- There is an undertow of improvement with many challenges also. Right now, people need convincing to come and stay. Safety is a concern.
- "A downtown" has always been there for me. It needs us now. What I need from it changes over my life.
- There is a lot of good being done. People here are worst spokespeople for Fond du Lac. Potential destination points are old and need investment.
- There is a lot of potential. We need to stop being humble about it.
- It lacks vibrancy. It needs more events. We need more people living in the downtown 2nd floor. It's like we have no furniture in the living room of the City.

Potential Vision: Make it a destination with one unifying idea.