

Topic:

What must we do for our grandchildren to have quality of life?

Convener:

Joan Dickey

Room:

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Discussion Summary:

If we continue the way we're going now, what will 2038 look like?

Concerns:

- Where will our kids go to see an unpolluted night sky?
- Where is all of our trash going to go?
- Will they have a community? Or will they live in their little electronic pods?
- Will we have front porches?
- Will the air be good to breathe? Will kids be able to play out in the sunshine?
- Can we have a truly healthy environment for children?
- People have knowledge, but will they do anything about it?
- Will there be a different climate? Does anyone care? Will it be different in 2038 or really in 3038? Do people get it and do we have the imagination to make the changes?
- Aging? Are we going to get older? If we do, will we come up with solutions?
- Where are the trends headed?
- What will packaging look like? Will there be 100 percent recyclables? Will we be required to not throw away anything?
- Dysfunctional community planning
- Education problems.
- Isolation in suburbia as well as isolation in urban areas.
- We're segregated between haves and have-nots
- Losing green space

Opportunities:

- Things will change – we are optimistic about it because there is no choice
- 99 percent recyclable – “repurposing” all of our stuff
- Cities are working on recycling leaves/branches for peoples' gardens
- Push vs. pull. Pull means using incentives for doing the right thing. – recycling, etc. (Olathe South is selling compost to non-residents, free to residents).
- To get children outside: leave no child left inside
- We want to use technology to help solve problems.
- Change will have to happen. We don't have a choice.
- Attachment to automobiles won't be so strong – we're looking at transit alternatives.
- Will transit help with broadening culture of KC.
- Trails in KC will help with broadening culture
- If 250,000 people live between city center and plaza. This is an opportunity – we want to bring things into the city center rather than pushing it out.
- How do you un-do all the built infrastructure outside – suburbs. Will they become self-sufficient small towns? Back the way it was?
- Can we have a mix of density, urban villages? Varying densities throughout the cities.
- Super empowered regional planning group – will this be needed, acceptable?
- How do you undo sprawl? Do you put a greenbelt somewhere to stop the crazy building?
- Where are the incentives for developers? If there are incentives, we will do it.
- Change education – what is it that needs to change? Give all kids access to a good education.
- Change patterns of segregation – stop fleeing. Or make it unattractive to flee.
- Stop increasing our land footprint. Encourage density!
- We can re-invent ourselves. We've done it before.
- Start by concentrating on education and encouraging urban pioneering

Meeting time:

Session 2: 10:30 a.m.

Recorder:

John Staples