First Impressions

Compiled Report Form

Community Visited: Lenora Date(s) Visited: July 1, 2015

Pre-visit web search: How easy was it to get information on the community you were visiting? Did it accurately reflect what you saw? Did you have difficulties obtaining information on the community through a web search?

*Easy access to website. Items seen were not all visible at this time.*

*(I think the team probably found the Lenora Jubilee website. From a search I did not find that the city of Lenora had their own website or facebook page.)*

1. The “Five-Minute” Impression: After taking a five-minute drive through the community without stopping, the following reactions were noted. The following observations were noted when entering the community from major entrances (signs, streetscapes, buildings, etc.)

*Very Impressed! Very nice name sign. Large wide streets. New brick buildings. Everything very neat. 5 city parks and all very nice.*

*(Lenora is a very clean looking community. When you first make the turn into town it looks pleasant, lawns are mowed and it appears very inviting. As you drive around town you can see folks take pride in their homes and the community.)*

2. Downtown Business Area

Describe the buildings, signs, infrastructure, etc. Explain what type of businesses you observed and give a description of the variety and quality of merchandise displayed. Describe the customer service received when you entered those retail businesses. (Were you greeted? Did you have to ask for assistance?)

 *Very nice brick buildings. All building had very attractive brick color – all about same size. Nex-Tech was the main business in town. Businesses observed included Nx-Tech, a gas station, repair shop, grocery store and antique store. Service could have been better in the grocery store. They seemed to have a lot of other things to do.*

What public amenities were available (drinking fountains, benches, public restrooms, etc.) Comment on appealing landscaping and streetscaping. Did you have difficulty finding parking? Could you access multiple services from where you parked?

*They had nice street benches and the rest room in the grocery store was ok. Parks and overall area were attractive and well kept up. No trash. Mowed. Even unlivable areas were clean and mowed. Easy parking, wide streets. Good signs.*

1. Other Retail Shopping Areas

Describe other retail shopping areas. Were the areas attractive and easy to access? *NA*

4. Industrial Parks/Commercial Areas

Is there a defined area where manufacturing industries could easily locate/expand? If so, describe.

*Good exchange of use of old buildings and all were kept up and mowed.*

*(The ag commercial areas are along the North edge of town on the highway. This is nice as it keeps the truck traffic off of the streets and minimizes the wear and tear on the streets.)*

5. Health Care Services

Comment on the availability and apparent quality of hospitals and emergency medical services. *NA*

Comment on the availability and condition of facilities for physicians, dentists, optometrists, public health and other healthcare providers. *NA*

What long-term care services, assisted living or nursing facilities exist in the community?

 *NA*

6. Housing

Give a brief description of the existing mix of housing stock. Does the local market have housing that would appeal to all income wages? What challenges do you see in regards to finding acceptable housing? (Neighborhoods, size, properties for sale, etc.)

*Not sure – most housing nice. Well cared for. There was room for building or homes to be brought in. It seemed like younger families than what you would normally find in a small town.*

*(Nice mix of housing, a lot of smaller homes. I really don’t remember seeing much for sale. It’s like any small town, if you look close enough you do find homes that need some work and possibly demo’ed.)*

What kind of rental properties did you observe for persons interested in building or simply living in the community prior to buying housing?

7. Schools

Do the following schools appear to be adequate in size or do you see the use of temporary classrooms? Are the buildings and grounds well-maintained?

*Not sure if they still have school yet or if the school is used for other purposes.*

Were you able to find print information in the community that helped assess the quality of the educational system? *NA*

1. Childcare

Were you able to determine if childcare was affordable and available?

*Don’t know*

1. Faith/Religion

Comment on the number of denominations and the physical appearances of the churches represented in the community. Did you observe any evidence of church-sponsored community services?

*Several churches were found*

1. Civic

Tell about the variety of nonprofit organizations and clubs within the community.

*Some, they have a PRIDE program*

1. Public Infrastructure

Comment in general on the streets, street signage, sidewalks, parking, lighting, restrooms, landscaping, and streetscapes in areas other than downtown. Did you observe land-use planning?

*Nice streets though out town – wide. Trees all trimmed and neat. Rest room in business. Good use of landscaping and park areas.*

Comment on city/town hall (How were you received? Was there information about the town available?)

*Yes – seen a lot of action of either volunteer or city employees – cleaning and mowing – a very unusual large number for a town that size. There seems to be a lot of youth and people employed throughout the town.*

Police/fire protection: *yes*

Library: *very nice*

City parks (walking tracks, ballparks, playgrounds, sportsplex): *nice parks – playgrounds – signs – displays – lawns mowed – very attractive*

1. Recreation/Tourism

Is the community well-known for any particular attraction or event? Do they have a community slogan that capitalizes on that asset?

*Lenora Jubilee – very nice, fun, active, concerts, music*

Did you see any indication of significant events taking place in the community that would be of interest to both visitors and residents?

*PRIDE!! Caring for all areas of town and surrounding area.*

Elaborate on any significant natural or manmade features that have the potential of drawing people to the community.

*Youth – jobs – pride – eye appeal. Nice homes for a small town. The way into town is nice and neat.*

Is there an obvious visitor’s center, chamber of commerce office, main street office, or other facility that serves the needs of visitors? Comment on the staff, facilities, signage, visibility, etc.

*Very good first impression! A very special little town in rural Kansas. A place that would be a nice town to live in.*

Are there any restaurants, specialty shops or attractions that would bring you back to this community in the near future?

*Would stop by to check things out again.*

1. Wrap-up

What are the most positive things you observed about the community?

*Wide streets, new business buildings, a lot of parks for a small town.*

What are the biggest obstacles/challenges facing this community?

*They are very lucky. It’s hard to see what problems they have. They have really worked hard to provide jobs and pride.*

What will you remember most about this community six month from now (positive or negative)?

*We can do better in our town, but they have a lot of what we don’t. Tax dollars and business to support the livelihood of the town. Money, Nex-Tech and oil.*

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