First Impressions

Compiled Report Form

Community Visited: Quinter Date(s) Visited: 6/17/16 & 6/13/16

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?

*Lovesmalltownamerica.com had a lot of great information about Quinter and also had a link to cityofquinter.com. I liked the abundance of town history and facts that were present on the site.*

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.)

*This is a nice small town. It is well kept and a light up sign entering downtown informed me of local events. (Garage sale community wide.) Castle Rock and 4 local churches, as well as the Cobblestone Inn & Suites told me the town was a strong Christian community with a place to stay and sights to see. They also had a large motel.*

*Nice community; attractive downtown; had all amenities needed; business, industrial and housing was separated, good; recent updates on older homes; new housing development; 6 signs on interstate from east; Castle Rock sign – point of interest.*

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?)

*Mostly brick and metal buildings. Well maintained. Good street signage and store signage was clear as to products sold. Home building store carried Milwaukee tools (quality), tire shop carried brands of quality as did appliance store. Main street businesses were nice and there was a wide variety. I was greeted and immediately assisted. Although I was just browsing, they made me aware of their eagerness to help if need be.*

*Mixture of old and new building – well kept; Main Street pretty well set up with everything you would need; restaurant – greeted well, had a decent variety of food.*

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?

*There were several benches and many businesses had public restrooms. Yards were well maintained and parking was abundant.*

*Looked good and excellent shape on landscape and streetscaping.*

1. Other Retail Shopping Areas

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

*There was a Dollar General separate from Main Street business district. Everything was easy to access.*

*Dollar General*

4. Industrial Parks/Commercial Areas

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

*On the northern part of town there was a welding shop and elevator. For the layout, I’d say industry could easily expand North, West or East from existing industry.*

5. Health Care Services

Comment on the availability and apparent quality of hospitals and emergency medical services. Comment on the availability and condition of facilities for physicians, dentists, optometrists, public health and other healthcare providers.

*There was more available than I expected. Hospital, chiropractor, optometrist. All were easy to find and get to. They were all nice facilities and well maintained. I’d say that they exceed the availability for the town and draw patrons from outside the city as well.*

*Great availability – excellent condition.*

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

 *They had assisted living and long-term care. Both looked nice.*

 *All three are there – nursing home, assisted living, senior center.*

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.)

*There was a variety of homes. Looked like several new homes and I think a house could be found in Quinter for most income levels.*

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

 *There are apartments and homes for rent that I observed.*

 *2 to 3 and 3 to 5 bedroom houses for rent.*

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?

*Good sized brick school looked like K-8 and high school. Grounds looked nice and building appeared to be adequate in size.*

*Found head start, preschool, K-8, High School, excellent shape.*

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

*I was not able to find print information but the school was not open during my visit. The city office secretary did have information pertaining to the schools and child care which was very helpful.*

1. Childcare

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

*There are services at a church and the hospital as well as some in-home childcare. No major facility as cost is an issue from those I spoke to.*

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?

*Churches look nice and there were at least 4 denominations that I went by. Cinnamon roll sale hosted by Dunkard Brethren Church.*

*5 different denominations – physical appearance excellent*

1. Civic

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

*There looks to be a Masonic building. The churches appear to be active and I saw an ad for a Rods and Ribs car event. Citywide garage sale and businesses displaying products outside.*

*Working on baseball field getting ready for a game.*

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?

*Streets are kept up and signage is clear. Sidewalks are in good condition but not all corners are handicap accessible to sidewalks downtown. There looks to be a community garden and there is room for future projects.*

*Excellent shape, well throughout*

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

*I was greeted and a lot of pamphlets were available.*

Police/fire protection:

*They appear to have both. The fire house looks nice and I did see an officer on patrol and state troopers by the filling station. Ambulance service also.*

*Looks like new fire and EMS barn*

Library:

 *Nice library, Jay Johnson Library*

City parks (walking tracks, ballparks, playgrounds, sportsplex)

 *Nice park, nice equipment*

 *All in one area together – excellent shape*

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?

*Castle Rock tourist attraction promoted*

*Castle Rock – 10 miles south of Quinter*

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

*Citywide garage sales*

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

 *Castle Rock is a natural rock formation.*

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.

*City Office*

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

*There is a restaurant, the stores are nice and just about everything you could need for home and auto as well as ag is available.*

13. Wrap-up

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

 *The people are very friendly*

*Clean and well kept up; nice mix of homes – colonial to ranch style, with all price ranges on homes; well set-up infrastructure community*

What are the biggest obstacles/challenges facing this community?

 *I would say drawing attention to Quinter over bigger surrounding towns.*

 *Declining population*

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

*It is a very nice quiet town that I would consider to be a great community to raise a family in.*

*Medical services excellent; a lot of newer style homes – 1970’s on up.*

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