

# Community Conversations: Narrative Summaries

## Mason County

### Shelton Civic Center

People want a well-designed and well-managed community that is focused on diversity and openness with activities for all and an emphasis on fostering its youth. They're concerned that the current culture seems fear-based and that it creates an environment in which people avoid others that are not like them which results in a community in which members are not as involved as they should be. As people talk more about those concerns they talk specifically about community members "othering" or avoiding and fearing those that are different from them. They believe we need to focus on building a Together Campaign with bigger players in the community, creating an information clearinghouse to advertise/market events and opportunities together, and building an interactive and inclusive community calendar for discoverability of clubs and events. They feel that if the Shelton & North Mason Chambers of Commerce, Superintendents of the school districts, Shelton Timberland Library (the Library Manager and the staff there) Area Council on Aging (tri-county), DSHS, WorkSource, WIC, Transit Center, Kathy Geist, Taylor Shellfish, Credit Unions, Peninsula, Jim Morell, OCCU, Bert Fisher played a part in those actions that folks would be more likely trust the effort and step forward.

### Mason Benson Center

People want to have a robust, connected, empowered & transparent community in which engaged citizens are sharing their experience and skillsets to problem-solve while also assisting young people to become the next generation of leaders but they're concerned that there is a lack of willingness to accept and support newcomers and youth engagement by old-timers coupled with a lack of trust and respect for older generations. As people talk more about those concerns they talk specifically about the lack of intergenerational communication and communication between groups which leads to a lack of inclusivity and chances to connect. They believe we need to focus on holistically sharing life experiences, bring generations and genders together meaningfully, and organize advertisements for different groups in one place. If Community associations, Community newsletter aggregators, HUB/North Mason Resource Center, School districts & the library, Local social media groups (Belfair Network, Belfair Community Network, Belfair Talks, Uncensored, Friends of Mason County, Shelton Talks), Sheriff/Fire Dept./Search and Rescue played a part in those actions that folks would be more likely trust the effort and step forward.

## Lewis County

### Morton PUD

People want a well-read, open-minded community with opportunities for kids, and gathering places for community members but they're concerned about sustainable wages, keeping libraries in the communities, having safe spaces for kids, and the lack of rural broadband. As people talk more about those concerns they talk specifically about safe spaces and resources for children in their communities. They believe we need to focus on helping seniors mentor youth, building better partnerships with school libraries, partnering with local businesses to promote internships, and maintaining/improving library

spaces. If the MV Library Manager and Lewis County District Manager played a part in those actions that folks would be more likely trust the effort and step forward.

### Lewis County Fire District

People want a close-knit and inclusive community with diverse leadership and a progressive future vision with better paying jobs to support families and keep people out of poverty, but they're concerned about balancing safety with assisting those struggling with poverty, homelessness, and addiction in their communities as well as worrying that an inadequate education system is failing English language learners and low income families all of which is harming the investment of young people in their communities. As people talk more about those concerns they talk specifically about growth in the community, particularly the side effects of growth - education, demographic shifts, homelessness, losing previously held values. They believe we need to focus on communication between groups with common goals, be intentional about diversity (take the room to where they are), be clear about why you're bringing people together (identify purpose, combine efforts, devise a plan/vision to move forward and find solutions that are simple, cost effective and useful), and promote community stewardship. If people who show up (citing Community Conversation Group), people who listen, have passion, can see beyond their immediate community, local churches (Bethel, Gospel Outreach), Dr. Isaac Pope (pediatrician, Chehalis City Council, Pope's Kids Place), Dr. Robert Mohrbacher (President of Centralia College), Centralia College (as community institution), Susan Faubion, Lily Grant, and staff at the Chehalis/Centralia libraries played a part in those actions that folks would be more likely trust the effort and step forward.

## Thurston County

### Lacey Community Center

People want a safe, diverse, multi-generational community that focuses on equality in access to services and in participation in activities, but they're concerned about the lack of connection across generations, lack of access to free activities in community gathering spaces, and difficulty for low income folks to access transportation and services. As people talk more about those concerns they talk specifically about inclusive gathering spaces. They believe we need to focus on building a network of gathering spaces with the library playing a role of being the glue and if local government, libraries, the Dispute Resolution Center, school boards, community nonprofits (Hispanic Roundtable, etc.), service clubs (Rotary, Kiwanis, etc. League of Women Voters. Interfaith Works), Tribes, Chambers of Commerce, Business Roundtable, and the EDC played a part in those actions that folks would be more likely trust the effort and step forward.

### Steamboat Island Fire District

People want a safe community which values and supports education while respecting and advocating for those with different views and from minority and underrepresented communities, but they're concerned about the safety and security of their communities as well as the high rates of homelessness. As people talk more about those concerns they talk specifically about safety and homelessness. They believe we need to focus on creating and supporting dispersed affordable housing and creating safe spaces for kids to hang out. If Catholic Community Services (Selina), the Food Bank (Robert Coit), UGM-- Union Gospel Mission, the Salvation Army, the library, school district, the Downtown Business Association, Always Safe and Lock (Jeff Trinin), Wind Up Here (former toy store, Paul B. [last name?]),

Police Department (Chief (Roberts?)), the Fire Department, and the County Prosecutor [Prosecuting Attorney]. Jon Tunheim played a part in those actions that folks would be more likely trust the effort and step forward.

#### Meeting House

People want a safe and close-knit community with modern, ecologically sustainable gathering spaces in which they can connect socially in the evenings without drinking or drugs, but they're concerned about the struggle to access resources, as well as the difficulty in bridging the political, cultural, and generational, divide. As people talk more about those concerns they talk specifically about homelessness and lack of funding for resources. They believe we need to focus on mapping out a community network featuring connections between entities and stop duplicating and start partnering/co-sponsoring to save resources. If Kiwanis, Lions, North Thurston Public Schools Equity department, Cielo Group, School board, Senior Services, state agencies, the local Temple, and Grub played a part in those actions that folks would be more likely trust the effort and step forward.

#### Yelm Community Center

People want a diverse and inclusive community with adequate infrastructure and free public gathering spaces that allow generations to mingle and learn together, but they're concerned that the lack of organized communication, aging population will hinder progress. As people talk more about those concerns they talk specifically about public gathering spaces and lack of coordinated partnerships to allow for sharing of knowledge, planning, and resources. They believe we need to focus on coordinating organizations and resources using better communication tactics, identifying and promoting strong leaders, and creating a news/information source that can collect and disseminate community information. If Yelm Business Association, the Eagles, the Lions (Tom Dewell), the Yelm Triad, Kelly Peterson, and Chrissy Dehan played a part in those actions that folks would be more likely trust the effort and step forward.

### Grays Harbor County

#### North Beach Fire Hall

People want diverse community with better schools, jobs, services, and environments/spaces for youth, but they're concerned that the economic downturn is effecting the quality of schools and life in Grays Harbor County. As people talk more about those concerns they talk specifically about the loss of community services in rural areas (especially the library). They believe we need to focus on organizations reconnecting with rural areas through improved communication starting with open public meetings and that if the Quinault Nation (Fawn) played a part in those actions that folks would be more likely trust the effort and step forward.

#### McCleary Community Center

People want a thriving and sustainable community with ample services (including library services) for those in need but they're concerned that poverty, lack of services and resources, insufficient educational systems, lack of transportation, a flagging economy, and dwindling community is hindering progress. As people talk more about those concerns they talk specifically about public resources. They believe we need to focus on improving communicating, improving our funding, and collaborating with

stakeholders. If the tribes (specifically mentioned Squaxin), the Friends of the Library, Schools, McCleary Renewal Council, and Summit Pacific.

### Ocosta Recreation Center

People want a walkable and accessible community that supports local businesses and has a library, but they're concerned that the lack of employment is causing people to leave the community and businesses and resources to dry up. As people talk more about those concerns they talk specifically about employment resources. They believe we need to focus on better marketing of the Port Small Business Incubator, college resources, and library resources and if Will Russell (Main Street), Greater Grays Harbor (chamber of commerce, City of Aberdeen Mayor, Parks Director, the Museum Board, the AB Public Works Director, Randy Ross (GH County Commissioner), Hoquiam Mayor Brian Shay, Doug Orr (arts focuses), Greater Grays Harbor Director, Port of GH, Gary Nelson (Director), Tom Quigg (Port Commissioner), GH Community Hospital, Hospital District out of Elma, McCleary Hospital, GH College, President Jim Minkler, Small business center through WSU, Timberland Bank, Mike Sand, Bank of the Pacific, Grays Harbor Council of Governments, and Vicki Cummings played a part in those actions that folks would be more likely trust the effort and step forward.

## Pacific County

### Long Beach PUD

People want a dynamic and energetic community for all ages that encourages youth to stay and in which people are involved in the community, a community that people invest in with resources for its residents, but they're concerned that the lack of broadband access, adequate public transportation, and affordable housing will stifle progress. As people talk more about those concerns they talk specifically about lack of affordable housing. They believe we need to focus on improving resources and dynamic reinvestment. If the Ports (Ilwaco, Willapa Harbor), Behavioral Health, and Friends of the Library played a part in those actions that folks would be more likely trust the effort and step forward.

### Raymond PUD

People want a community with a sustainable environment and economy with intergenerational participation in community- building and activities for all, but they're concerned that environmental degradation, transportation, declining infrastructure, apathy, lack of leadership, lack of funding for public institutions, high taxes/utilities costs, and economic divide are hindering progress. As people talk more about those concerns they talk specifically about the lack of involvement in the community (specifically in planning for the future and for community events). They believe we need to focus on learning from other successful organizations, conducting focus groups, and providing leadership training for adults so they can mentor youth. If Toni Gwin, Emily Popovich, Kati & Howard Auble, Gail Friedlander & Paul Young, Quilters Group, Willapa Bay Resistance, and Sunny Bell/Bale played a part in those actions that folks would be more likely trust the effort and step forward.

## TRL Staff

### FLAG Meeting, SC

People want a truthful and responsive organization that values its employees and their growth and focuses on its patrons' needs, but they're concerned that lack of trust, thoughtful change, communication, prioritization, and funding is hindering progress. As people talk more about those

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concerns they talk specifically about the lack of trust in the organization, specifically between Administrative and non-Administrative staff. They believe we need to focus on high-quality, timely communication and collaborative work that includes input from and/or participation of all levels of staff. If Andrea Heisel, Holly Paxson, Kendra Jones, Michelle Larson, Council of Libraries, Kim Storbeck, Kandy Seldin, Union leadership (even those involved in the union but not in official union positions), and Collection Services played a part in those actions that folks would be more likely trust the effort and step forward.