

Topic:

Civic engagement for 50 and over population to improve and grow community

Convener:

Jo Ellen Wurth

Room:

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Discussion Summary:

- Discussion regarding underground tunnel under Case Park (Old 8th St. Tunnel). Original use for transit. Ozark Underground website (see for more information).
- KC for Aging Community is trying to raise awareness regarding aging as an asset. Mobility, housing, care giving, civic engagement, health services and technology.
- Story about his dad retiring – If he retired, he thought people would think he couldn't do job. However, he realized he could do other types of job as retiree, not the one he had done all his life.
- Has to convince himself young people will be prepared for future, but he thinks those over 50 will be the ones to prepare us for future.
- Having purpose in life – Retaining purpose in life. That's what civic engagement is about. Older people have experience. Sometimes with being older, pre-conditioned to say something isn't possible, instead of saying what are we trying to accomplish.
- Older generation will create ideas, but young generation will dream up ideas they didn't think of.
- He was baffled by how students were acting in Europe. Found book that is explanation for Millennium generation. Criticizing influence of media. To older folks, looks destructive, but could be preparation for generation.
- Young generation is not as well educated. Because they have access to so much information, they may not be as interested in things the older generation used to be interested in.
- ADHD generation.
- Hunchback of Notre Dame. "This will kill that". Turned out that movies didn't kill books, internet didn't kill movies.
- Analogy – 22-year-old thinks someone is going to do documentary on her and wants to make sure people have enough information. Every 15 minutes is new opportunity to document yourself. Facebook discussion. What kids use phones for (texting).
- Economics – Things that can be done. Not a lot of optimism in rebuilding economics if we don't focus on social structure.
- Young people – There is nucleus of understanding that we need from each other. They are interdependent, as long as they're not so distracted by superfluous things that they don't consider important issues.
- Story about student with project – She understood how this impacts things and wants to continue process. Need to be worried about more than themselves. As they become engaged, will be lifetime engagement, hopefully.
- Story about documentary with his students – Trying to put things out there, so that later in life they can recollect what they learned with him. Notion that they can't let on that they're affected by an issue like aging.
- Younger generations have felt they weren't empowered to accomplish much. Baby boomers got engaged and were empowered. This next generation feel empowered to make changes (election). Common vision of what community can be if you choose to make it that way. What choices can we make to impact community? Recognize that 50 and over population are important in population.
- Boomers will be effective when they engage Millennium generation. Have to find ways to make this part of the urban planning conversation.
- Will help connection to change perceptions of generations. Distrust of older generations came from boomers when they were young.
- Talked about how big their graduating classes were. Big change – Kids now from suburbs. Urban kids have very different perspective and open to interaction.
- Resiliency study – lowest resiliency were kids who grew up in homogeneous environment.
- No notable people were from suburbs – Suburbs haven't been around that long.
- Downtown lofts – Will be interesting to see what happens. Building small communities.
- Program – Students living with older generation.
- Nieces and nephews live with grandma – Help each other out. How to encourage more of this.
- Experience in Baltimore – Families didn't move far from each other.
- Need mix of housing and density to provide for networks of people (old and young). "Can't be neighbor sitting in your car."
- Detached garage, houses close together – A sense of people coming and going.
- Value of space – That's where suburbs came from.

Meeting time:

Session 3: 11:30 a.m.

Recorder:

Lisa Pool