

## Advisory Team on Government Policies and Practices

Meeting #11: June 9, 2021

### Summary Results

Advisory Team members asked people in the community survey questions they put together in an earlier meeting. See the survey here: <http://www.red-wing.org/DocumentCenter/View/4915/Advisory-Team-Survey---Spring-2021-PDF>.

#### **Summary Basics:**

- The survey was conducted mostly (but not all) with people team members knew.
- Survey was conducted in paper form and in person—not online.
- The survey was conducted between mid-April and mid-June, 2021.
- This is not a scientific survey.
- The purpose of the survey was to gather input from other people, including BI-POC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) residents, about their insights into Red Wing.
- The goal of this activity was to learn more about the life experiences of BI-POC residents in Red Wing and use that data, along with input from Advisory Team members, to put together recommendations that would help Red Wing become a more open and welcoming community.
- The number of years that respondents have lived in Red Wing varied from two years to more than 20 years. During this meeting, the exact percentage of this answer by respondents was not counted.
- Who answered the survey?
  - 68 respondents total
  - Age of respondents:
    - 0-10 years: 0 people
    - 11-18 years: 15 people
    - 19-25 years: 4 people
    - 26-40 years: 32 people
    - 41-55: 12 people
    - 56-70 years: 4 people
    - 71-100 years: 1 person
  - How survey respondents identified themselves:
    - Black: 28 people
    - White: 27 people
    - Hispanic: 7 people
    - Asian: 3 people
    - Native American: 2 people
    - Other (Human): 1 person

Advisory Team members spent a portion of its June 2021 meeting reading the respondents' survey answers, paraphrasing the answers on sticky notes, then placing those sticky notes on large sheets around the room. After the sticky notes were placed, team members identified themes in each area and reported those out to the full group.

Here are the typed up the answers from each sticky note in each category of questions from the survey:

**HOW CONNECTED DO YOU FEEL TO THE OVERALL RED WING COMMUNITY? WHY DID YOU ANSWER THAT WAY? CAN YOU GIVE EXAMPLES OF WHAT MAKES YOU FEEL THAT WAY?**

- **Feel Very or Somewhat Connected** - Reasons/Examples:
  - I go to events, but no local government involvement.
  - Many events, lots of info being shared (happenings/updates).
  - Great neighbors (x2).
  - People from church.
  - Kids, friends, parents.
  - Work (x2).
  - Connected at work, but unsure how to get a social connection.
  
- **Feel Connected Not Very Often or Never** - Reasons/Examples:
  - COVID made it hard (x2).
  - Feels uncomfortable.
  - Nothing positive happening to connect us.
  - There isn't a lot for us to do.
  - Bullies at school, insults (x2).
  - Always expected to fail (x2).
  - Cliques
  - There's a big divide here.
  - People form closed circles.
  - Being judged.

**DO YOU FEEL RESPECTED AND VALUED? WHY OR WHY NOT?**

- **Always/Sometimes** - Reasons/Examples:
  - Listen to opinions.
  - Better than other cities.
  - Theft is not everywhere.
  - Feels this way at work.
  - I feel safe in Red Wing.
  - No experiences to the contrary.
  - No issues that have made me not feel respected and valued.
  - Grew up and worked in Red Wing.
  - Sometimes community doesn't understand poverty or oppression.
  - Often feel respected but noticed a general disrespect from some for educators and outsiders in Red Wing.
  - Valued and respected by like-minded people, feel disrespected by anti-maskers and folks who don't believe racism is here.

- **Not often/Never** - Reasons/Examples:
  - Being judged.
  - Don't put myself out there enough.
  - I wasn't given a homeowner's welcome basket because I had previously rented in town.
  - Personal experiences with schools, police, and business very rarely, if ever, have been positive ones.
  - Being young, our opinions don't seem to be valued as much.
  - POC are not [respected]
  - I am being told to go find a job.
  - [Being told I'm] a gold digger.
  - [Being told I'm] Too black/African to understand
  - People think I don't know things.
  - People think I cannot speak English.
  - Not often respected, I think because I am Asian.
  - People are not so nice because I'm from a different country.
  - Racism is imbedded into the "ways" of Red Wing.
  - Disrespect on social media.
  - Kido/words
  - More attitude than action.
  
- **What would help make you feel more respected and valued in Red Wing?**
  - Listening to the younger generation.
  - To be welcomed by "generational families."
  - Don't judge.
  - Give me a chance to prove myself.
  - See me as a human being.

**WHERE, OR IN WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES, DO YOU FEEL SAFE IN RED WING?**

- At Home, yes (x7).
- When police are always available.
- With peers, friends, and family (x5).
- In school.
- All over (x2).
- In social/community settings (x2).
- In culturally diverse places.
- At Job
- At church.
- I haven't not felt safe.
- Always feels safe, not because PD but because people stand up and speak out.

## **WHERE, OR IN WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES, DO YOU FEEL UNSAFE IN RED WING?**

- Not safe in isolated places.
- Anywhere that's not with friends, at my house, or in my car.
- Walking after dark (x3).
- Running in the evening.
- Driving in Red Wing (x2).
- Graffiti on fence.
- When I speak out against the norm.
- Being pulled over, often without a reason.
- When crimes are taking place.
- Alone after dark (x2).
- When I have my children in public (x2).
- Walking alone downtown.
- In public.
- East end.
- I feel like if I was in danger, no one would help.
- Feel safe but sometimes feel intimidated.
- Not safe overall.
- Shopping at stores.
- Everywhere I walk usually, being followed, and questioned about what I'm doing.
- Morning anywhere in the city alone.
- Not safe at parks during truck rallies.
- Don't feel safe protesting—people were yelling.
- When people demonstrate I get uneasy.
- Local protests and local park truck groups were present.
- Dealing with racist people.
- Not safe at parks during truck rallies or when groups of people with confederate stickers on car are at park with Trump paraphernalia.
- Being profiled by the RWPD.
- Many places.

## **IF YOU COULD CHANGE ONE OR TWO BIG THINGS ABOUT RED WING, WHAT WOULD IT BE?**

- Wish for more diversity and acceptance.
- Close the achievement gap.
- Change the "White is Right" view.
- #RedWingIsSoWhite, need more racial diversity.
- Increase racial diversity.
- Better public transportation.
- Affordable housing.

- Need people to acknowledge racism and how big an issue it is here.
- Equality overall.
- Revamp police department with a chief trained in racial justice.
- Need to be open minded and more accepting.
- Change the dynamic between police and the community.
- Do away with historic districts.
- More open businesses on Sundays.
- Bump-outs on Main Street by hotel make it unsafe and traffic backs up.
- Arts focus.
- More big draw events like Big Turn [Music Festival].
- More incentives for downtown businesses to keep storefronts full.
- Fast food choices.
- Change how [Red Wing] views people with mental health issues.
- More affordable housing.
- Have better public transportation within the city and the metro area.
- Get people to actually listen—not just stop talking while you are speaking.
- Help make it more appealing to youth.
- More options for youth, places for small children, and elders to hang out.
- Strong resistance to change in Red Wing—find a way to make more inclusive.
- More kids’ activities, like SkyZone.
- Make it a place of recreation for all ages.
- Lower taxes (x2).
- More responsible spending, taxes are higher than house payment.
- No truck meets.

**ARE THERE THINGS ABOUT RED WING THAT YOU LOVE OR THAT KEEP YOU HERE?  
IF SO, WHAT ARE THEY?**

- Sheldon Auditorium
- Boat Houses
- River Festivals
- Arts/Music
- Big Turn
- History
- Architecture
- Preservation of Downtown
- Sense of Community
- Performances
- Low Crime (x2)
- Small Town (x2)

- Quietness (x2)
- Good Outdoors/Nature (x4)
- Walkability
- Downtown/River
- Wonderful families.
- Family (x7)
- Location
- Neighbors
- Love
- Friends (x3)
- River (x4)
- Architecture
- Art
- Bluffs and Scenery (x3)
- Not sure if I will stay...
- Caring senior residents
- Geography
- Parks (x2)
- Jobs & Daycare.

**IF YOU COULD TALK TO YOUR CITY GOVERNMENT AND/OR ELECTED OFFICIALS, WHAT ARE ONE OR TWO THINGS YOU WOULD LIKE THEM TO CHANGE TO MAKE RED WING BETTER FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY?**

- Start caring more about community and people of color.
- Provide more factual and non-political awareness for real problems.
- Help better the schools.
- More culture and diversity.
- Have more open mindsets.
- I have tried and they have done nothing.
- More kid activities with police.
- More youth programs and activities.
- More affordable housing.
- Fix racial discrimination.
- Affordable day care access.
- More community space, indoor or outdoor. A beach.
- Create more opportunities for POC.
- Taxes are high, some wasteful. Lower taxes (x2)
- Need housing.
- Increase pay rate.

- Need day care.
- Open stores/business on Sunday for revenue.
- More people of color on city council.
- Lower taxes so more affordable for young families.
- Youth center.
- More funding for school system.
- Better programs for youth.
- We need more services for those in poverty, public transit, and affordable housing.
- I'm disappointed in my city government, my school district, and my community. They would rather ignore problems with bridges and tourism attractions than do hard work to make our community welcoming.
- Fix systematic racism.
- Change rental laws.
- Do something with the empty buildings downtown.
- Activities for less fortunate.
- Vehicle noise/speed are bad—motorcycles/trucks.
- Create more opportunity for POC.
- Research school to prison pipeline.
- Ensure school officers are not hurting our youth.
- Hiring practices to include hiring of POC in RWPd and whole city organization.
- More healthy fast food and activities.
- Seems like nothing to do but get in trouble.
- Having a police presence here like police on the beat.
- More places to wander in and explore.
- Find ways to make community more engaged.
- Would like to hear more from City Council in public.
- Do not make snap decisions based on the loudest couple of voices.

**WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE THE RESIDENTS OF RED WING ON HOW THEY CAN HELP MAKE THE COMMUNITY FEEL LIKE A PLACE YOU WANT TO BE – FOR YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN?**

- Care more about neighbors.
- Be neighborly, say hello to your neighbors.
- Talk to your neighbor even if they aren't "like you"
- Get to know your neighbors!
- Be a good neighbor.
- Be kind.
- Smile more and open up.
- Be friendly and say hi.
- Respect others.
- Lend a hand if possible, in any way possible.

- Volunteer opportunities.
- More neighborhood-based events throughout the year.
- More events that include Red Wing as a whole, not certain individuals.
- Engaging residents.
- More inclusive community events.
- Get involved in community activities, get out and meet your neighbors.
- Shop and explore local businesses.
- Be more welcoming. Bullying starts at home.
- Be welcoming and say hi when you meet (people).
- Learn about other cultures.
- Be more inclusive.
- Stop calling police on BIPOC.
- Mind your own business.
- Get to know people before you judge them.
- Stop being racist, learn to appreciate differences.
- I would tell a POC family not to move here. The city does not care about them and the community is worse.

#### **IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE?**

- Surveys/Projects aren't random or representative samples.
- Adopt a park or garden.
- Youth volunteers can win prizes by helping out.
- Talent Show
- Town Scavenger Hunt
- Incentives to clean up litter, keep public spaces clean.
- 40-year resident: In the last two years I've felt a change toward the negative.