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Bennet – Community Visioning
12/15/05

Senior Citizens
Q. #3

What is your vision of Bennet in 10-15 years?

1. Improvement of water quality
2. See 162nd Street paved within the next 15 years
3. Improved maintenance of the community
4. Gutter and pave all of the streets in the next 15 years
5. Housing improvements over the next 15 years (substandard housing, beautification, debris, etc)
6. Grocery store within the next 15 years
7. Community to stay consistent with its current atmosphere*
8. Stay residential, not business
9. Senior housing******
10. Improved street maintenance*
11. Continued growth*
12. Senior center ***
13. Sidewalks installed, improved, maintenance
14. Young people more involved in community, more of a leadership role*
15. Swimming pool, recreational opportunities for children
16. No small homes on small lots, no dense development
17. Retirement Home
18. Motel
19. Saltillo Road paved to Otoe County
20. More land for cemetery
21. Negotiating with developers to gain improvements in the community every time they start a new development
22. New cell phone tower for better reception
23. Maintaining current businesses and having current residents use local businesses
24. Home town theater
25. New Post Office
26. Complete the blacktopping of the Legion parking lot

Schools
1. Want to still have the small town feeling, keep Community’s identity, don’t become Lincoln******
2. See school system stay strong, high school do a better job of preparing students for college, higher expectations***
3. Have high school together on one campus for Bennet and Palmyra*****
4. Sidewalk improvement, creation**
5. Recreation, swimming pool, youth facilities**
6. Continually update technology in schools
7. Crosswalks on Highway, safety
8. Assisted living and nursing home care for residents needed now****
9. Low to moderate growth, maintaining separation from Lincoln
10. Representation from residents in the one-mile radius
11. Bennet should grow in size to 1,000 people in the next 10-15 years, which will allow Bennet to support its own businesses and infrastructure******
12. Need a new school located between Bennet and Palmyra to serve both communities***
13. The current school could be used as nursing or assisted living**
14. Lighted entryway into Bennet and out of Bennet on the Highway corridor**
15. More services can be created by planning for additional population****
16. Keep the school in the town to keep the town alive, children should be able to walk to school
17. Need a small to medium sized business that can employ 50-100 people
18. The large poles for electricity are ugly and should be buried, these poles caused many trees to be cut down
19. Need medical services, clinic, eye doctor, etc****
20. Sports complex, multiple ballfields, swimming pool, soccer fields, tennis court, basketball court – community recreation center**
21. Community library
22. Medical clinic, vet office at Highway 2 interchange
23. Cemetery needs expanded**

Public Open Meeting

1. Bennet develop into a pedestrian friendly community, desirable for people to live in and raise a family, Bennet needs a “face-lift” (beautification), while preserving the natural resources surrounding the community.**
2. Youth facilities, recreation, swimming pool
3. Land for school facilities at Bennet and Palmyra
4. Develop more of a downtown, revitalization, more services (grocery, antiques, unique stores)****
5. Preserve the rural feeling***
6. Identify areas that are better for urban growth and rural development, make these similar to the Lincoln and Lancaster County Comp Plans
7. Bennet should strive to continue to be a “bedroom community” since there is still a sizeable distance between Bennet and Lincoln.
8. Make policy decisions regarding what type of infrastructure improvements should be made, including growth management policies
9. Set aside wilderness park areas, trail areas, etc***
10. Development at Highway 2 needs to be beneficial to Bennet as it is an entrance to the Village, businesses that the Village takes pride in should be placed out there (Motels, anything that is a plus for the community)
11. Bennet could host a unique event to attract people from outlying areas to the community
12. New library/community building

Bennet Builders/Sons of American Legions

1. Stay small, keep identity, don’t grow anymore
2. Improved cell phone service for the residents of the community
3. Convenience store in the community
4. Café in the downtown
5. New park area, tennis court

Business Owners

1. Quality growth, building more 100-125 year buildings instead of 50-60 year buildings, plan for the buildings to last, as the community grows and people stay in the community, plan for the long-term
2. Community covenants, communities in other areas do use these (size of family dwellings, etc)
3. New industrial tract, more office space
4. Community planner/manager
5. Chamber of Commerce**
6. Church affiliate with national denomination
7. More pride in homes and lots around them
8. Need a town square and town center in Bennet
9. New infrastructure that can handle responsible growth
10. Need to expand faster than Lincoln is growing out
11. New residential options, townhouses, quality affordable living in the community
12. The people will need to drive the change, Bennet having control of its own destiny and not being swallowed up by Lincoln
13. Bennet needs to retain its identity, residents have to get involved and take charge of their own future, instead of letting Bennet become a suburb
14. Keep the high quality school system as the community grows
15. More recreation options for young and old, trails, parks,
16. Need a stronger town board and planning commission that will make responsible decisions regarding the future of Bennet
17. Potential for small businesses, niche markets, better service than those in Lincoln
18. Great potential for housing growth to continue
19. Bennet could develop all the way to Highway 2 with proper infrastructure, should look at expanding north
20. Need options for business expansion to the north of the community, no room for growth inside the community, place businesses on the west side of the highway and the houses
on the east side of the highway (comp plan needs to address this)
21. Thriving booming community, with a town square, clean up existing homes and buildings, need covenants and codes enforced regarding existing structures, make this town a jewel
22. Progressive, forward looking governing body which has taken the steps necessary to expand the utility systems, and support the growth of Bennet. Keep Bennet identity separate from Lincoln**
23. 20-story casino**
24. Bennet is a clean community compared to most small towns and it needs to stay that way. Growth will help the community improve and remain viable.
25. 1% sales tax can help to fund many good things, including infrastructure improvements***
26. Town square is important, make a classy place to live in Bennet. The placement of industrial uses is important, do not want them as an eyesore at the entrance to the community
27. Building on a Sanitary Improvement District (SID) to make improvements to the community, develop a plan whereby the SID has to answer to the Village

Santa Meeting

1. Lots large enough to develop three+ bedroom homes with attached garages, mid- upper-income homes
2. Controlled growth, infrastructure improvements (paved streets, sidewalks, etc)**
3. Bennet should retain identity, stay small, don’t become a suburb of Lincoln, keep same spirit*****
4. More community involvement in community events (Community festivals, cleanup days, Holiday events, etc)******
5. As town grows, keep community involved, proper planning for infrastructure, schools and public facilities
6. Have developers pick up the costs of some of the improvements for the community
7. Huge growth in Bennet in the next 10-15 years, needs to be controlled
8. New, large, strong school system
9. Better communication from Planning Commission and Village Board
10. New community center/library**
11. Retirement complex for the community
12. Swimming pool/recreation complex**
13. Combination youth/senior community center w/ recreational activities
14. Pre-school or head-start program**
15. Daycare for young children, can’t find anything local
16. Need a crosswalk or stop light at highway 43 in town***
17. More police services in the community, extremely slow response time currently

Youth

1. My vision is to see a “downtown”…a swimming pool, a park, etc and I was here to help make the decisions to make it better…get rid of the old buildings. A pharmacy, grocery, etc
2. I don’t want Lincoln to be here….I like to keep Bennet small - different from Lincoln, and have our own name. I’d like to see a bigger downtown – like the early 1900’s - 1950’s and earlier with a hotel, drug store etc…Now everything is gone….people moved to the city (Lincoln) in the 1930’s.
3. We need to have attractions so people want to come here.
4. I think Bennet will not be Bennet in 10-15 years…Wal-Mart is near, so I think people will be coming here…..I want to have it stay small – small town atmosphere – stay small (grow a little bit) but not become Lincoln.
5. I’d like it to be like Syracuse –with a café but yet remain small…
6. Grow a little bigger to have more restaurants…a place to hang out. If I leave and come back in 15 years – I want it to keep Bennet identity…and not become Lincoln. We have a 2 mile limit and Lincoln can’t come in here…but I would like that restriction a little farther out
7. In 15 years, I would have my own family…I’d like them feel safe…The 6:00 whistle used to blow…I miss that. I don’t want Lincoln to have control over our whistle…our folks would say to come home when the whistle lew – I would like to have that again
8. I want to have the school name…the same…Keep the School name…we know it will be changed…we know that there are plans to make a new high school between Palmyra and Bennet. We don’t want it to be LPS – we want to keep our identity…not to grow to big and keep the school smaller….
9. There are too many housing developments going on….don’t build so many houses.
10. I disagree with #9 – we need to have it grow some .. but not too big. With Bush Pines – the main housing development – they don’t care about Bennet….we need to pull the housing developments to pull together and have them care about Bennet.
11. More jobs in Bennet
12. Want to see Bennet stay kind of like it is as a small community
13. Put in a movie theatre
14. Town pool
15. Arcade games
16. Keep community identity
17. Like it to stay like it is but have a place to hang out
18. Not have Bennet and Lincoln as one
19. Have a two mile divide, at least between us
20. I envision a mini Lincoln or small town with downtown having grocery store, restaurant, movie theatre, drug store, town pool, park, place for kids to go hang out
21. a little better cleaned up, houses
22. Lincoln will probably move out to Bennet in next 15 years but I’d rather it not
23. Like to see the size of Tecumseh or Syracuse. Don’t want to see Lincoln here
24. A little bigger some something to do
25. A better park
26. A pool
27. Safe place to hang out
28. More convenient like a grocery store
29. Roller skating, bowling alley, theatre
30. I don’t’ want Lincoln out here, better to be a small town
31. Grocery store
32. Small town, local convenient store
33. New park
34. New park
35. New baseball field like a miniature football field to play on
36. Sports/recreational park with pool, athletic field
37. Power store like ATV
38. Better car wash
39. Auto Dealership
40. A fast food restaurant
41. A drive in
42. Have fluoride in your water
43. No chlorine in water
44. Drive thru Restaurant
45. 1950’s style drive through like Sonic
46. A sports complex that has baseball, football, soccer fields
47. Putt putt golf course
48. Golf course
49. Place for teenagers to work
50. Street light on the highway
51. 43 needs a stop light badly for safety
52. should be youth on the village board