Circles Big View Night
Imagine Dubuque Big Ideas
October 25, 2016

- **Taxes on the wealthy need to go up**
  o IA tax rate is higher than most
  o Tax reform is essential

- **More help to keep those that are on assistance from falling through the cracks**
  o A smarter and more dependable system
  o Can't continue to have 'breaks' in my childcare since it interferes with work and school

- **Transportation**
  o Route times do not align with work schedules
  o Need options for those that work second shift, a lot of good jobs are out of reach to those that do not have their own transportation and rely on public transit due to the limitation of hours that the busses run
  o We need more realistic availability of our public transit system so that it is more of a service to those that rely on it
  o Since we have jobs in the outer lying town such as Peosta, it would be nice to have a transit system that would reach those places. Especially since NICC has a branch out there
    ▪ Potential for possible partnership with Peosta and Dubuque to make transportation available to that the community can go to work and school and not be limited to just the options that are downtown, because there are not many.
    ▪ Several have had to drop out of college, and pass up good jobs due to the inability to get to Peosta.

- **Childcare**
  o It would be wise to make daycare available in the colleges
  o I can't take GED classes because my childcare assistance thru DHS has been cancelled
  o If daycare was made available I would not have to worry about testing, I could just take my child with me, do my school work and it would be so much easier!
  o There are other communities that offer this, in Chicago the colleges have day cares in them so that you can do this
  o Childcare availability for second shift workers
    ▪ Struggle with finding ANY daycare that is available to second shift

- Romper Stompers is the ONLY one that is open until ten, but if I work in Peosta and get off at 11p this still won't work
- Once we get past the availability, we get into quality
- I feel much more comfortable taking my children into a daycare center vs. an in home provider, but second shift work is the only thing that is available to me. I would then be forced to leave my children until late at night in someone's home due to lack of choices available to me and I am not comfortable with that.
- Childcare options are a big barrier in this town. There are choices but when you start to look at options available to those that are on childcare assistance, the options start to slim down, and then quality becomes an issue. These are our children, we should not be limited to low quality centers of care because of the parents inability to pay top dollar.

- **Revamp Central Ave**
  o Make this part of town look more attractive
  o More street lights
  o Back in the day, merchants that had their stores on central lived above them. This wouldn't be a bad idea to bring back if we had interest.
    - I.e.: woman that took industrial sewing through NICC pathway, can now start a business, buy a building where her store/shop is on the first floor and she lives in the upper part of the building.
    - Think this would instill more of a sense of pride in the community
    - We have the potential for all of these connections.

- **Parking Meters**
  o Possible for the city and business owners to partner up and get rid of them?
    - Maybe an agreement that would make up for the income lost by doing away with them
    - There has to be a way to come to an agreement

- **More focus on growing the LOCAL economy**
  o I get that the big businesses bring in revenue but we need to focus on what is here already and invest in our own
  o We need more people IN Dubuque working, not bring people in along with the big corporations
  o Bring in jobs that will employ the community that is already living here and calling this town home, and invest in us- pay us what we are worth, not part time minimum wage jobs. That just doesn't cut it.

- **Parking signs**
  - Make sure that they are visible to avoid the cost of getting a ticket.