



“What Do You Think” Tri-County Area Council on Aging? April 18, 2007

On April 18, [Theron Warlick](#) and [David Simmons](#) met with the TRI-COUNTY AREA COUNCIL ON AGING, the advisory board for the Tulsa Area Agency on Aging. The group makes and administers grants under the Older Americans Act program and serves Tulsa, Creek, and Osage counties. Services include information and assistance and case management. Funded programs include senior nutrition lunches, homemaker services, caregiver support, legal assistance, transportation, and the long-term care ombudsman program that serves residents in long-term care facilities.

Here’s what they had to say:

What does Tulsa most need to achieve?

1. Develop ENTIRE city
 - a. Lots of undeveloped land in north, east, and west Tulsa
 - b. Not putting money in core (everything is south)
 - i. Our core is our foundation
2. City that functions for seniors
 - a. Tremendous change is coming
 - b. Issues from public transportation to housing to public safety to even signage will need to be re-thought
3. People need to reinvest; government needs to do their part.
 - a. It’s a reinvestment for government, too. So, act accordingly, i.e., public/private partnerships
 - b. Recognize who is taking the risks (businessmen) and help them
 - c. Foster infill development
 - i. North and East
 - d. Eliminate substandard housing

4. Create affordable housing
 - a. Not everybody needs 5,000 sq. ft.
 - b. Smaller = Affordable
 - c. A lot of seniors would live in *very* small homes if they were available
 - i. They're *not* available. Need better housing choices
5. Support neighborhood revitalization
 - a. Concentrate on revitalization
 - i. Address parking issues
 - b. Make walking in neighborhoods:
 - i. Possible, i.e., not enough sidewalks to do that right now
 - ii. Safe. Traffic and public safety.
 - c. Support amenities to make neighborhoods better: parks, community centers, trails, etc.
6. Nutrition Sites
 - a. Many Tulsa seniors depend on this
7. Promote Different Modes of Transportation
 - a. Improve public transportation
 - i. Get rid of "Oh my, I've got to ride a bus" stigma
 - ii. Weekends, Evenings
 - iii. Look at Rail
 - b. More buses
 - i. Buses need to run to PLACES (ex. Gilcrease Museum)
 - ii. Should be easy
 - iii. Improve time schedule (too slow, needs to be timely); need weekend/evening service.
 - iv. Buses are a health-related NECESSITY. People aren't recognizing how much some segments of population depend on public transit. If a bus is not running at the right time, people are at risk.
 - v. Lift Program- Doesn't reach the whole region
8. Invest time, money and talent in our public schools
 - a. We must have great schools

What are Tulsa's most valuable or important assets?

9. Our library system
10. Our small business community
 - a. Support SMALL Businesses. Grow entrepreneurs
11. Our historic neighborhoods
 - a. Find balance between historic preservation and growth

- b. historical sites should be protected
 - c. They are the “heart” of our City
12. Beautiful rivers and hills
13. Our workforce
- a. Though it is not as high-tech as it should be

What are Tulsa's most critical issues, problems, or concerns?

14. Improve infrastructure
- a. Improve roads and bridges
 - b. Improve street lighting on highways and in downtown
15. Downtown
- a. Improve homeless situation for downtown
 - b. No shopping/stores downtown. Get retail downtown
 - c. Bricktown-type area
 - d. Train service to Dallas
16. City should acknowledge partnership with private sector
- a. Others do it better.
 - i. Owasso. They have everything they need. They worked on that together
 - ii. Develop character program like Owasso
17. Different neighborhoods have different character. We're not respecting that.
18. Downtown Tulsa is Base
- a. Keep base, don't lose it
 - b. But also acknowledge that we've already left it in some ways. Broken Arrow is closer to center
 - c. Some services/Facilities could be distributed around town
19. Crime Reduction
- a. More activities/programs needed at low/no cost for youth to become involved and keep them out of trouble.