

Interview Guide

Interviewer:

Name:

Organization/Community:

Phone number:

Email:

Interviewee:

Name:

Organization/Community:

Phone number:

Email:

Note to Interviewer: Space is provided for you to take notes on the interview. Please note ideas, thoughts, words and phrases that are memorable, inspiring, creative and help us focus on the future of a balanced Longmont.

Opening

1. First, tell me about yourself. Where do you live? How long have you lived, worked or been involved in Longmont? What are you most passionate about, in your work or your life?

Topic A: One Giant Front Porch

Imagine that all of us here in Longmont are sitting together on one giant front porch. It's comfortable, inviting and welcoming with room for all. It's a place to visit, and to make new friends. We can share ideas here, chew on our challenges, celebrate community accomplishments, and plan new activities to make Longmont even better. We can consider our City services, and how they nurture the community and lifestyle that we value.

2. Think of a time when you participated in an inviting community project or activity here in Longmont. Consider the following:
 - What was the activity?
 - What was it about the activity that made you and others feel welcomed and valued? Be specific.
 - Which city services helped make those experiences possible (i.e., parks and recreation, police, traffic control, community services, etc.)?

3. Suppose there was a single, brand new activity or project that would make our "front porch" even cozier and more enriching. The activity would attract and draw together people who don't normally connect with one another.
 - What would the activity be?
 - What city services are needed to make it possible?

Topic B: Enhancing our Environmental Legacy

For decades in Longmont, we have recognized the importance of environmental quality to the health and welfare of our community. We have City power, water and waste management departments that help promote conservation and recycling. We appreciate how clean air and water and beautiful natural places are essential to our wellbeing. When Longmont is at its best, we work to balance what we need today with what's necessary to ensure a bright future for future generations.

4. Tell me about a time when you noticed and appreciated a community's commitment to a quality natural environment. The community may have been Longmont – or it may have been another city that does an even *better* job than we do here. Consider the following:
 - What was the situation?
 - What were the issues and results?
 - What role did government play (City or other)?
 - If the city partnered with outside providers, who were they?

Topic C: Exciting Living and Business Personality

When a community has an exciting personality, it has a unique and distinct character. People want to live and visit there. Businesses want to locate there. It has an inviting downtown. There are good jobs to match the workforce. People live and work right in the community. Housing is affordable and there are options to driving one's car. In short, the community's living and business personality is magnetic: it draws people in and makes them want to be a part of it.

5. Tell me about the most exciting community that you know: either Longmont, or elsewhere.
 - What makes it special? Why?
 - If this is a community other than Longmont, how is *our* community similar to the one you've just described?

6. Think about Longmont today and the places where you "hang out." Perhaps there is a particular *place with personality* that you find comforting, interesting, or enriching. It may be a business, a public gathering place, a natural area, or a small space in a large facility.
 - What is the place?
 - Why do you love it?
 - What role do you imagine the City has played in creating or maintaining these special places or facilities?

Topic D: Prospering Together in Longmont

When Longmont is at its best, it is a community that supports its people in reaching their full potential. Young children have a healthy start; and when they enter school they are ready to learn and ready for life. The community champions lifelong learning. People are supported by strong family and community connections. Our economy flourishes. With our basic needs met and access to opportunities, all of us are capable of making our unique contributions. When we prosper together in Longmont, everyone benefits.

7. Think of a time since you've lived in Longmont when you had what you needed to thrive as a person – and as a result, you were able to give to those around you. Describe this experience.
 - What did various people and organizations do to enhance your wellbeing or prosperity? For example, what educational, financial or social support have you received? What specific role did City services play?
 - How did the larger community of Longmont benefit from your wellbeing – your good feelings, faith, financial stability or knowledge?

8. If you could have any three wishes granted to help the people in the entire *greater Longmont community* reach their full potential, what would they be? Consider changes that would help all of us to prosper even more than we do today.
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Closing

9. Reflecting on all that we've just discussed, what do you most appreciate about the community of Longmont?
- In what ways do City government and services foster those qualities that you most appreciate?
 - How can Longmont create *more* of what you most appreciate?

10. It's ten years from now. Longmont is everything you ever wanted it to be, and more.

- What kinds of businesses call Longmont home?
- What kinds of jobs are now available? For whom (i.e., "locals," or "out-of-towners," skills, education, etc.)?
- What shopping, entertainment and cultural opportunities are available in the city – and how are they different from those available in other Front Range communities? In other words, what is Longmont's special *niche*?
- What services does the City provide? How are they paid for?
- How does the City partner with local, regional or national organizations supporting the community? How does it partner with businesses? What services do citizen volunteers provide in the community?
- How is life in Longmont better than it was ten years ago, in 2005?

11. It's been said that most great things begin with but a single step.

- What one small step might *you take* to help create the community of Longmont in the image of your dreams?
- In that same light, what one small step might the *city government* take? What small shift in or addition to services might Longmont's city government implement to *radically enhance* the quality of life of the Longmont community?