

The Friend's Dilemma

Our Neighborhood and The Waterfront: Clarifying What's Important

Imagine that you are home one night, watching Dancing with the Stars (admit it, you do), and the phone rings.

It's an old friend, seeking advice. Your friend is thinking about moving out of his/her current apartment and thinks your neighborhood might be a good place to live.

Your friend is married. One works in center city, the other works in the Navy Yard and have many of the same interests and hobbies as you; after all, that's how you became friends. They also have two children: a boy, 13, and a girl, 8

"I'm just not sure," your friend says over the phone. "I hear good things about your neighborhood, but I hear some not-so-good things, too. Can you help us sort things out and make a decision?"

That is our work for this session. We need to provide your friend and your friend's family with the best, most candid advice we can about your neighborhood. What would you tell your friend about what you value in your neighborhood? What do you like about living there and why? How does your proximity to the waterfront fit in? Does it contribute to those values, to your enjoyment of where you live?

Individually, then in groups, we will compile the most honest statement of what you value in your neighborhood.

NOTE: If adding a wrinkle to this portrait (e.g., access to public services or an elderly parent who may need to live with them) helps you make a point about what you value most in your neighborhood, feel free. Just don't completely change the core facts of the scenario.

Waterfront Friend's Dilemma

Individual Worksheet

Individual reflections:

What I value in and for my neighborhood:

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How does the waterfront fit with that value? Does it contribute to it or inhibit it? How? Why?

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