

Citizen planners ready to shape future

By Tom Lindfors, February 15, 2018



New Richmond City Council members recognized the outstanding work done by citizen members of the Comprehensive Planning Committee Monday, Feb. 12. (Back row, from left): Jim Zajkowski, Ron Volkert, Tanya Batchelor, Mike Montello, Jim Jackson, Scottie Ard, Craig Kittel; (front row): Kevin Morris, Karen Smallidge, Blair Williams, Michelle Scanlan, Katie Wendt, Anna Knutson, Jeremy Poole, Mark Evans, Amber Bulman, Jenny Larson, Rosemary Kosin, Michelle Carlson, and Todd Streeter.

Members of the New Richmond City Council joined Community Development Director Beth Thompson and City Administrator Mike Darrow Monday night in recognizing the outstanding work done by citizen members of the Comprehensive Planning Committee.

"We have a number of people here in the audience this evening who have worked really, really hard over the last eight months on our comprehensive plan which we have dubbed, 'Forward New Richmond.' This group of people, along with others who couldn't be here, have spent about 860 hours between meetings and making different presentations, thinking about what New Richmond could be and how we can move forward. This group has been amazing and is really creating our path over the next 10-15 years," said Thompson.

"We had so many new people put the extra time in. When we had that Saturday meeting, I was amazed at how you put it (the presentation) together and how it was presented to everybody who was there that day. You guys put your hearts and souls into it. I was just so proud of you people. I don't think I could have done what you did. It was just a great, great job. Thank you for doing it," said Alderman Jim Zajkowski.

"It's just amazing what you've accomplished and it really shows through that you really care about the city and where we're going. That's huge for all of us and all the residents of the city. I really respect all of you," said Alderman Craig Kittel.

"You have laid such a strong foundation in your research, in your time and in your thoughtfulness. This is a comprehensive plan base that will be built upon for generations," said Alderperson Scottie Ard.

"I'm incredibly impressed with Beth Thompson for taking a leap in this, realizing that we could do better during this first phase of this and sticking with it. Lead by her due diligence and hard work, this is a group that really has exceeded expectations, beyond anything we could have imagined. On behalf of staff, I thank you so much for what you've done. We appreciate it," said Darrow.

The committee has about a month of work left to do including a number public presentations before organizations including the Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs, and Friday, Feb. 23, at the State of the City event at WITC.