

Forward New Richmond to host community open house

Feb 20, 2018



Forward New Richmond, the Community Action Plan (CAP) committee formed to assist the City of New Richmond with updating its comprehensive plan, will host a community open house 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 28 at Champs Sports Bar & Grill. The public is encouraged to attend and view and comment on more than 30 community improvement concepts the committee has created during the last six months.

A small sampling of Forward New Richmond concepts were presented to the City Council at a recent workshop.

"We were totally impressed with all the ideas and hard work the committee members put into this project. I wished it was videotaped so the whole community could see the concepts that we could consider doing for our city," said mayor Fred Horne.

At the open house, attendees will be able to view short presentations at each subcommittee area showing their ideas and concepts and where or how they may be incorporated into the community. Committee members from Downtown

Revitalization, Community Pride, Creating Community, Quality of Life, Economic Development, and Community Connectivity will be on hand to explain and discuss their recommendations. Committee members are seeking community input and additional ideas to incorporate into their final recommendations.

Each committee has also created project portfolios containing more research, details and insights not covered in their presentations. Open house attendees can view these portfolios and learn about a project of interest and opportunities they may have to support or contribute to a project of their choice.

"Creating Community committee presented a Cottage residential development concept that is very popular in other parts of the country. This idea could provide a wonderful life cycle housing option to our residents" said council member Scottie Ard.

Forward New Richmond will soon move onto the next phase of their work when a new Executive Committee is formed. This smaller committee of approximately 12 action-oriented individuals will be tasked with developing strategies for each of the CAP projects. The committee's other tasks include generating support and potential funding sources.

Below is a listing of the Committee's CAP projects available for viewing during the open house.

Community Pride ideas include: open space (eventually at current library location); disc golf course; Mary Park pedestrian bridge; skatepark (addition); sports complex; combined city offices; police garage; school SRO; safe places; prescription drug disposal sites; park and trail safety enhancements.

Creating Community ideas include: housing lifecycle options — cottage homes.

Community Connectivity ideas include: island refuge, pedestrian safety systems and great streets

Economic Development ideas include: economic development marketing; creating a business friendly environment; business incubators; labor force partnerships

Downtown Revitalization ideas include: paint the town (service learning day community project); create a welcoming open park space; walking path to connect downtown; establish downtown committee; create an overlay district for downtown core; art in downtown; encourage aesthetic integrity of downtown core; celebrations/events downtown; maintain visible downtown business occupancy through incentives.

Quality of Life ideas include: a riverwalk; Freedom Park beach; community plaza; playground upgrades; adopt-a-garden program; edible trails; ninja park; campground expansion; trail connectivity; river clean-up.

For additional information and potential Executive Committee involvement, interested individuals, businesses and organizations are encouraged to contact Beth Thompson, phone 715-243-0402, email bthompson@newrichmondwi.gov.