

Diane Becker
Communications Director

dbecker@ci.norfolk.ne.us

For Immediate Release: February 3, 2017

“New Comprehensive Plan on Norfolk City Council agenda”



One of the focus groups for the comprehensive plan discuss housing in May 2016.

The new comprehensive plan for the City of Norfolk will be reviewed by the council members Monday night at their regular bi-monthly meeting.

The plan was approved unanimously by the Planning Commission January 18 and now it goes before the council for consideration. Dave Knopick of dPlanit and Avery Oltmans of Olsson Associates will present the final draft of the plan they have been working on with City of Norfolk staff, elected officials and citizens

for the last 11 months.

Meetings to gather citizen input were held in March, May, August and November of 2016. Over 200 people contributed information to the Olsson Associates planning team with an online discussion group also set up to garner citizen comments at norfolk.mysidewalk.com. The August open house was live streamed on the City’s Facebook page.

Focus groups were held at the City Administration Building on the topics of: Infrastructure/Government; Neighborhood Development/Housing; Community Visioning; Health/Recreation Opportunities/Culture/Entertainment; and Economic Development/Commerce/Downtown.

“Norfolk’s quality of place is dependent upon the involvement and commitment of its citizenry in setting the course for future development. We are thankful for the large number of participants who took their time to contribute to this important process,” said Val Grimes, City of Norfolk planner.

Nebraska state statute requires that a city have a comprehensive plan in place. The city's current comprehensive plan was completed in 2001. The proposed plan includes elements required by the state outlined in chapters entitled: Introduction; History of Norfolk; Community Demographics; Existing Conditions; Facilities and Services in the Area; Plan Goals and Objectives; Energy Element; Transportation; Future Land Use; and Implementation Guide.

“Many decisions related to housing, commercial development, industrial and employment opportunity, roads and utilities are based on the vision, goals and strategy set by the comprehensive plan. It's vital that we have an up-to-date comprehensive plan that provides assistance when making decisions about physical and economic growth in the city,” Grimes said.

The final draft of the comprehensive plan can be found at norfolkne.gov/planningzoning/Norfolk_Comp_Plan.htm. For more information email Grimes at vgrimes@ci.norfolk.ne.us or call 402-844-2280.