

Norfolk Insider

City of Norfolk, NE

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“Town Hall meeting for City Comprehensive Plan Held”

Over forty-five people from many different sectors of the community attended a town hall meeting Tuesday, March 8, at the City of Norfolk Council Chambers. The objective of the meeting was to get initial input from the community on the development of a new comprehensive plan for the City.

“It was a great opportunity for people to tell about what they see as the assets of Norfolk and also what they would like to have in Norfolk in the future,” said City Administrator Shane Weidner.

Topics discussed included the need for housing in Norfolk, the desire for more affordable entertainment and the possibility of having more trails for people to use to travel through town.

Dave Knopick, a city planner with Olsson Associates/dPlanit who was hired to develop the plan, led the meeting and started out by having staff present current facts about Norfolk that showed: it is growing steadily; the unemployment rate is low; the median income is \$43,266; and the median age of citizens is 34.8.

“This is a continual process. Who are we today? Who do we want to be in the future? How do we get there? The goal is to manage change and be proactive about the vision you want to achieve,” Knopick said.

A steering committee made up of 16 members of the community met before the town hall meeting. They will be reaching out to individual citizens encouraging input and participation through the planning process. Information about the formation of focus groups and future meetings will be given out to the community in the next few weeks.

“In order to have a successful plan we need to have strong citizen participation. If people weren’t able to make the first town hall meeting there will be more opportunities for participation in the future,” said Norfolk City Planner Valerie Grimes.

For more information about the comprehensive plan, contact Grimes at 402-844-2280.