

City completes “Fort Thomas Community Plan”what’s next.....CAO Ron Dill

On the heels of celebrating our city’s sesquicentennial, the city embarked on a process of defining our future through a community based review of our comprehensive plan. The city’s Comprehensive Plan was recently adopted through formal action of the Fort Thomas Planning Commission in December with presentation and acceptance by City Council in January of this year. The plan is a culmination of participation from elected officials, staff, consultant, civic groups and citizens who joined in six sub-committees to review and formulate the finished document. This process involved these committees dedicating their efforts to not only review existing conditions but also explore and create new findings that would be compiled into a working document. The work toward completion of this document extended beyond traditional statutory review of a comprehensive plan and lead to the creation of the 2019 “Fort Thomas Community Plan.”

Within the plan, we have explored all aspects of our community from public transportation to trails; parks & greenspace to programs; existing business/buildings to redevelopment; existing infrastructure to future technologies; city issues to regional collaboration and much more. The process for developing this plan is documented on the website www.ftcommunityplan.com where details of the planning process and the plan itself are available. We are very proud of the dedicated efforts from all those who participated in creating this lasting document that will guide our future but, it doesn’t stop there.....

City Council is now tasked with leading implementation of this plan and work has begun toward exploring all aspects of the plan, including prioritization and funding. The council will not act alone, as successful implementation of the *Community Plan* will require involvement from the entire community. Council is beginning discussion through their standing committees with periodic meetings being scheduled to initiate consideration of the array of topics, ideas, and projects included within the plan.

The progress and continued work toward implementation will transpire over the course of the next five years until the document is revisited and updated. During that time council will lead the community into the depths of the concepts contained therein. Again, the community will be the primary partner in making the plan work. In addition, other partners will be instrumental in the process. These partners could range from businesses, civic groups, developers, and other governmental agencies. Establishing these partners and exploring all resources available from grants to public (city) funds to private investment to public/private partnerships are essential to making progress.

We are in a great position to make progress toward the stated goals & objectives in our plan and to use the Fort Thomas Community Plan to serve as the guide for progress. This effort will pay great reward and benefit to all the citizens in our community!