



MEETING NOTES

Norwalk Hometown Pride Community Kick-off Meeting January 8, 2018 at 5:30 pm

20 residents from Norwalk and the surrounding area came together to kick-off the Norwalk Hometown Pride program. Warren County Hometown Pride coach, Lorin Ditzler, and Norwalk Hometown Pride chair, Deanna Schulz, provided an overview of the Hometown Pride program. Hollie Askey, the City of Norwalk's Economic Development Director, shared comments on how Hometown Pride relates to the city's current and future goals, and explained that the program is supported by the City and the City Council.

Schulz and Ditzler led a discussion about community strengths and opportunities for Norwalk. Comments from the attendees are summarized below:

What we like about Norwalk:

- Welcoming people
- Business loyalty (residents are loyal to Norwalk businesses)
- New welcome signs
- Golf courses
- Great school
- Clean
- Close to Des Moines/Downtown/Airport
- Lots of amazing local businesses
- Safe community
- Good balance of old and new
- Great EMS
- Great Senior Care facilities
- Nice, cared for homes

What could we improve or change in Norwalk?

- Improve Hwy 28 median (aesthetics)
- More activities for adults: like a pickle ball court
- Improvements to Main Street/North Avenue
- Add better connection to bike trail
- Senior center activities
- Public art

- Publicize farmers market more
- Add trees, especially by cemetery
- Little free libraries
- Add light poles or other improvements on Sunset Blvd
- New Welcome sign
- Slow traffic on Sunset off Hwy 5
- Expand aquatic center and/or add a YMCA
- Work with city on creation of new downtown/town-center

Volunteer Opportunities

Ditzler and Schulz shared information about the volunteer opportunities available for Norwalk Hometown Pride, and all attendees filled out a volunteer survey.

12 of the attendees volunteered to serve on the new Norwalk Hometown Pride committee, which will meet monthly to plan and implement community improvement projects for Norwalk. The February meeting date will be announced by e-mail, based on the results of the meeting time survey that committee members completed.