NKAPC assists with highly successful NKY forum

NKAPC participated in the Place Matters forum on May 12 at Thomas More College to gain insights on how current economic, demographic and lifestyle trends affect future development for the area. Northern Kentucky Forum, a partnership of Legacy, Northern Kentucky University’s Scripps Howard Center for Civic Engagement and Vision 2015, sponsored the event as a catalyst to get community discussion started.

“Northern Kentucky Forum works to have events that are focused on either current event-type topics or public policy,” said Tara Ford, AICP, forum board chair. “When we were offered the chance to partner with the local planning organizations on a topic like how should our community develop, it was very timely and relevant.”

Over 125 area developers, community members, and representatives from NKAPC, the Boone County Planning Commission, and the Campbell County Municipal Planning and Zoning attended the forum. The audience participated in a 30-minute facilitated dialogue among small groups, following presentations by economic development professionals who shared trends on the topic. The forum concluded with a panel of local experts responding to the group discussions.

The common trends shared include a focus on urban and suburban redevelopment, creating more connected communities where residential, commercial and office space are more accessible and pedestrian friendly, and retaining and attracting more young professionals and businesses.

“The topic of conversation for the panelist and the audience was do they think these trends apply to our area and what would the benefits be,” Ford said.

The forum presented a robust dialogue of audience members interested in exploring the opportunities done in other communities such as Cincinnati’s Over-the-Rhine and what that looks like for Northern Kentucky. They also questioned if the demand for that lifestyle is present here.

“Most people who were at the meeting and the comments indicate we need to get ready for changes,” said Keith Logsdon, AICP, NKAPC’s deputy director for long range planning.

“We’re hoping to use this as a stepping off point for comprehensive plan discussions for Kenton County,” Logsdon said. “The input we got will help us begin further conversations and build upon what we heard.”

The notes from the Place Matters forum and other upcoming community discussions are available on the Northern Kentucky Forum’s website at www.nkyforum.org.