

Well-Done, Good and Faithful Servant....

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by Carol Bower Foote

Well-done, Mayor Norman Richardson. Thank you.



This week RioVision joins our community in mourning the unexpected passing of a good and faithful servant to this town, Mayor Norman Richardson, and in celebrating the precious cargo he delivered while he was with us. I was struck by the number of NextDoor posts that recognized his love and care for Rio Vista and its people, how he kept the city’s best interests forefront in his intentions and was willing to listen to its citizens. Many mentioned how they enjoyed simple conversations with him, especially about visions for our town. He was the kind of guy you would stop and talk with at the city booth at the Saturday Farmers’ Market. His graciousness, gentle kindness, and good humor came through to his neighbors and those with whom he worked. (The

Mayor’s Facebook profile photo, photographer unknown).

In his press release, City Manager, Rob Hickey, mentioned the Mayor’s involvement and dedication to moving this city forward and how being mayor of this town was Norman Richardson’s greatest joy. In addition to driving city projects, he represented Rio Vista on regional boards such as the Solano County Water Agency and Water Authority boards, the Solano City and County Coordinating Council, and the League of Cities North Bay.

RioVision President MaryEllen Lamothe shares this about Mayor Richardson:

“Mayor Norman Richardson was a great friend and supporter of the RioVision movement from its very inception. I first became acquainted with Norman when he joined the Planning Commission in January 2010. Leveraging his experience in city government in the Bay Area town of Corte Madera, he was confident about working with municipal policies and brought strong insight to the Commission. He served as president of the Commission until he was elected Mayor in 2012. He considered his tenure of Mayor a full time job for the close to 5 years he served, working daily at his office in City Hall, representing Rio Vista at meetings in Sacramento and serving as President of Solano Transportation Authority to keep the needs of Rio Vista on the front burner .

Having worked with several city managers during his tenure, he was most proud of hiring Rob Hickey – someone with the background and personality to work well in a small city, and he moved to Rio Vista as well. Additionally, he mentioned how much he admired Ron Kott and his dedication to his role as Vice Mayor.

We were fortunate to have Norman Richardson as a benevolent and effective mayor for Rio Vista. He supported RioVision’s goals and projects, seeing the organization as a sound and compatible adjunct of city government. He and his leadership will be greatly missed.”

Prior to the November 2016 elections, Mayor Richardson posted this on the Mayor’s Corner of NextDoor: *“We know the City is growing. It is absolutely essential that we take aggressive steps to make our City a desirable place to live, not only for our current residents, but for newcomers.”* City Manager Rob Hickey said *“Mayor Richardson will be greatly missed, but his legacy will live on through his actions and deeds that have made Rio Vista all the better because of his leadership and guidance.”* We can all honor Mayor Richardson and his love for Rio Vista by continuing to care for this town and its people, and by actively working toward its betterment. RioVision rededicates itself to our mission to bring people of all ages together to build, revitalize, energize, and beautify the Rio Vista community.

Plans for a memorial celebration are still being decided, but a tentative Memorial for Norman Richardson is being planned for November 3 at 11 am. Further details will be published as soon as possible.

