

DIRECTORS' MEETING
JUNE 11, 2012
555 S. 10TH STREET, ROOM 113
2:00 P.M.

I. CITY CLERK

II. MAYOR

1. NEWS RELEASE. Open House set for South 56th Street design.
2. NEWS RELEASE. Library trustees seek candidates for Board
3. NEWS RELEASE. Lincoln City Libraries to offer Spanish language group.
4. NEWS RELEASE. Reading activities scheduled across City and County.
5. NEWS RELEASE. Sculptor installing brick arch on North 27th Street.

III. DIRECTORS

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

1. Travelers advised to update immunizations.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

1. Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 12001 Downtown Master Plan Update.
2. Administrative Approvals that were approved by the Planning Director from May 29, 2012 through June 4, 2012.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

1. Director Dave Landis' reply to Shawn Koehler regarding a parking lot question.
 - a) Shawn Koehler's email of May 25, 2012, included in Director's Agenda on June 4, 2012.

IV. COUNCIL MEMBERS

GENE CARROLL

1. Letter from Shirley Knutson on denial of claim for damage caused by a City tree.

V. MISCELLANEOUS

VI. CORRESPONDENCE FROM CITIZENS

VII. ADJOURNMENT

PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES DEPARTMENT
Engineering Services, 901 West Bond, Lincoln, NE 68521, 402-441-7711

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 4, 2012

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Kris Humphrey, Engineering Services, 402-441-7711
Fred Beck, E&A Consulting Group, 402-420-7217

OPEN HOUSE SET FOR SOUTH 56TH STREET DESIGN

The public is invited to an open house from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 6 to discuss the proposed reconstruction of South 56th Street from Shadow Pines Drive to Old Cheney Road. The meeting will take place in the multi-purpose room at Humann Elementary School, 6720 Rockwood Lane.

The project will include construction of two lanes of travel in each direction with a raised median and left- and right-turn lanes at major intersections. Other improvements include sidewalks, a trail along the west side of 56th Street, storm sewers, utilities, lighting, the reconstruction of the Beal Slough and a pedestrian undercrossing. The project is expected to begin in 2014, and federal funds are covering about 80 percent of the cost.

The open house will not include a formal presentation, but those attending will be able to review the proposed plans and discuss the project with representatives from the design team and City staff.

The meeting room is accessible for persons with disabilities. Those requiring additional special accommodations are asked to contact Kris Humphrey, City Engineering Services, at 402-326-1176. If you have questions regarding the open house, contact Humphrey or Fred Beck, E&A Consulting Group, 402-420-7217. More information can be found at lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: 56th Street).

LINCOLN CITY LIBRARIES
136 S. 14th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-441-8500

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 6, 2012

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Pat Leach, Library Director, 402-441-8510,
p.leach@lincolnlibraries.org

LIBRARY TRUSTEES SEEK CANDIDATES FOR BOARD

Residents of Lincoln are invited to apply for a vacancy on the Board of Trustees of Lincoln City Libraries. Those interested in the seven-year term have until Monday, July 2 to submit materials.

Applicants are asked to submit a letter of interest and a completed Board Appointment Information form. Materials can be e-mailed to library@lincolnlibraries.org or mailed to Candidate Search, Lincoln City Libraries, 136 S 14th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508. The Board Appointment Information form is available by calling 402-441-8512 or by printing a copy from the lincolnlibraries.org/board/boardappointmentinfo.

The Board of Trustees of Lincoln City Libraries is a seven-member administrative board appointed by the Lincoln City Council. It is the trustee's obligation to work toward improvement in library services through well-trained staff and efficient use of funds; to support adequate funding for library services; and to promote the best possible use of all library resources. The mission of Lincoln City Libraries is to foster the power of reading and provide open access to all forms of information to enrich people's lives every day.

After reviewing the applications, the Library Board will forward information from all interested individuals to the City Council along with any recommendations.

LINCOLN CITY LIBRARIES
136 S. 14th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-441-8500

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 6, 2012

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Vicki Wood, Youth Services Supervisor, 402-441-8565

LINCOLN CITY LIBRARIES TO OFFER SPANISH LANGUAGE GROUP

Lincoln City Libraries is hosting a book discussion group for Spanish-speaking parents and their elementary-age children Saturdays, June 9 through July 7. Programs are from 11 a.m. to noon at the Bennett Martin Public Library, 136 S. 14th Street. The Magic Tree House series of books will be read and discussed, and the programs include crafts and a light snack.

Literacy activities will be provided for preschool children as the parents and older children participate in the book group. Pre-registration is required. To register, call Lorena at 402-217-4918.

This program is made possible through funding from the Kevin Colleran Memorial Fund, established with the Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries. For more information, visit lincolnlibraries.org.

LINCOLN CITY LIBRARIES

136 S. 14th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-441-8500

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 6, 2012

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Vicki Wood, Youth Services Supervisor, 402-441-8565

READING ACTIVITIES SCHEDULED ACROSS CITY AND COUNTY

To encourage participation in the summer reading program, Lincoln City Libraries will provide outreach services during June and July. Programs include story time, a craft activity and, in county sites, books for children to check out. Summer reading materials will be available for all ages.

Lancaster County sites include:

- Bennet Community Church, Wednesdays, 1 to 2:30 p.m.
- Davey Community Center, Tuesdays, 10 to 11:30 a.m.
- Denton Community Center, Wednesdays, 1 to 2:30 p.m.
- Firth Village Hall, Thursdays, 1 to 2:30 p.m.
- Hallam Village Hall, Thursdays, 10 to 11:30 a.m.
- Hickman Haven Manor, Mondays, 10 to 11:30 a.m.
- Hickman Presbyterian Church, Thursdays, 1 to 2:30 p.m.
- Holland Reformed Church, Mondays, 1 to 2:30 p.m.
- Malcolm United Methodist Church, Wednesdays, 10 to 11:30 a.m.
- Panama Presbyterian Church, Wednesdays, 10 to 11:30 a.m.
- Raymond Woman's Club Building, Mondays, 10 to 11:30 a.m.
- Sprague Town Hall, Mondays, 1 to 2:30 p.m.
- Waverly Hamlow Elementary School, Tuesdays, 10 to 11 a.m.
- Waverly Foundation Building, Thursdays, 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Lincoln sites include:

- Air Park Recreation Center, Tuesdays, 1 to 2 p.m.
- Beattie School, Tuesdays, 9 to 9:30 a.m.
- Brownell/Norwood Park CLC, Thursdays, 1 to 2 p.m.
- Center for People in Need, Tuesdays, 3 to 4 p.m.
- Elliott School, Mondays, 9 to 10 a.m.
- Everett School, Mondays, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
- "F" Street Recreation Center, Wednesdays, 3 to 4 p.m.
- Indian Center, Wednesdays, 1 to 2 p.m.
- Lincoln Christian Fellowship Day Care, Thursdays, 10 to 11 a.m.
- Malone Center, Tuesdays, 10 to 11 a.m.
- Salvation Army, Wednesdays, 10 to 11 a.m.
- Willard Community Center, Mondays, 3 to 4 p.m.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
555 S. 10th St., Suite 205, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-441-7606

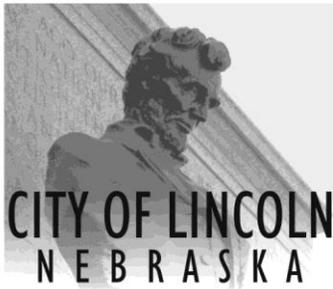
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 6, 2012

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Wynn Hjermstad, Urban Development, 402-441-8211

SCULPTOR INSTALLING BRICK ARCH ON NORTH 27TH STREET

The public is invited to view the construction and installation of a 14-foot brick arch by local sculptor Michael Morgan on the east side of N. 27th Street, just south of the Elaine Hammer Pedestrian Trail Bridge. The arch will be the focal point of an urban green space that will include landscaping, a drinking fountain, sitting boulders, a labyrinth and a bicycle tool station. Tax-increment financing funds generated by N. 27th Street improvements are paying for the project.

Morgan has been working on the installation of the arch since May 9, and neighborhood middle- and high-school students helped score, texturize and shape about 300 of the thousands of bricks used in the structure. The arch is expected to be completed by mid-June, and additional enhancements will be added by September.



NEWS RELEASE

MAYOR CHRIS BEUTLER

lincoln.ne.gov

LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

3140 "N" St., Lincoln, NE 68510, 402-441-8000

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 6, 2012

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Judith Halstead, Health Director, 402-441-8001

Tim Timmons, Communicable Disease Program, 402-441-8056

TRAVELERS ADVISED TO UPDATE IMMUNIZATIONS

The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD) advises those traveling to Europe this summer to be immunized against measles. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), more than 37,000 measles cases were reported from Europe in 2011, and France, Italy and Spain were among those hardest hit. As of late April, 1,279 suspected measles cases have been reported in the United Kingdom, site of the 2012 Summer Olympics. That compares to 1,083 measles cases reported in the United Kingdom in all of 2011.

In 2000, measles was declared eliminated in the U.S. due to high vaccination coverage and effective public health response. But travelers who have not been vaccinated are at risk of getting the disease and spreading it to their friends and family members. Measles is one of the most contagious diseases, and even domestic travellers may be exposed on airplanes or in airports.

Because of the risk, those traveling should visit with a doctor to make sure their immunizations are up to date. Those who cannot show they were vaccinated as children and who have never had measles should probably be vaccinated.

The first dose of measles vaccine is routinely recommended at age 12- to 15- months in the U.S. However, it is recommended that children travelling outside the country get the vaccine starting at age six months.

The only vaccines against measles available in the U.S. are the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) and the measles-mumps-rubella-varicella (MMRV) vaccines. MMR has been used safely and effectively since the 1970s. A few people experience mild, temporary adverse reactions, such as joint pain, but serious side effects are extremely rare.

For more information:

<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/united-kingdom.htm>

MEMORANDUM

TO: Lancaster County Board

FROM: Marvin Krout, Director of Planning 

SUBJECT: ***Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 12001
Downtown Master Plan Update***

DATE: June 4, 2012

COPIES: City Council w/o attachment
Mayor Chris Beutler w/o attachment
Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer, County Board
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Aide, County Board
David Cary w/o attachment

Attached for your information is a copy of the Factsheet for Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 12001, which is scheduled for public hearing before the Lincoln City Council on Monday, June 18, 2012, at 3:00 p.m.

This proposed amendment is within the regulatory jurisdiction of the City Council and is being routed to the County Commissioners for information purposes only; no County Board hearing or action is required.

If you have questions on this amendment, please feel free to contact David Cary in the Planning Department at 402-441-6364 or dcary@lincoln.ne.gov.

q:\fs\cb\2012\CPA12001 Memo to County Board



Memorandum

Date: ♦ June 5, 2012
To: ♦ City Clerk
From: ♦ Teresa McKinstry, Planning Dept.
Re: ♦ Administrative Approvals
cc: ♦ Jean Preister

This is a list of the Administrative Approvals that were approved by the Planning Director from May 29, 2012 thru June 4, 2012

Administrative Amendment No. 12015 to Special Permit No. 1385, approved by the Planning Director on June 1, 2012, requested by USA Roller Sports, to install a three-sided sign on the southeast part of the property, generally located at S. 48th St. and South St.

Administrative Amendment No. 12021 to Use Permit No. 64, Kensington Plaza, to change Lot 3 from 7,000 square feet to 3,470 square feet; Lot 4 from 11,000 square feet to 5,400 square feet and Lot 5 from 11,000 square feet to 20,130 square feet and to include conceptual drive through lanes, on property generally located at S. 14th St. and Old Cheney Rd.

City/County Planning Department
555 S. 10th Street, Rm. 213
Lincoln NE 68508
(402) 441-7491



Mary M. Meyer

From: Kristi K. Nydahl
Sent: Wednesday, June 06, 2012 3:52 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: FW: Parking Ticket Question

Attached is Director Landis' response to Mr. Koehler regarding his parking ticket question. Thank you.

From: David Landis
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2012 4:32 PM
To: 'shawn.koehler@bayer.com'
Subject: FW: Parking Ticket Question

Dear Mr. Koehler,

Thank you for your recent thoughtful e-mail about parking ticket costs in Lincoln. Your message established that your company does almost \$40,000 in hospitality business in Lincoln and your company has a number of options in deciding where to conduct business. The part of our parking system that particularly rankles is the quickness with which the City goes from a \$10 ticket to a \$25 cost, which is 7 days. The rapidity of that jump as well as the size of the increase are indicators of a city that is not friendly to business. Your message was more involved but I hope that is a fair characterization of your basic thoughts.

You are right when you point out that our methods differ from other cities. That is true in several ways. My own experience confirms with yours that a 7 day period is shorter than the norm. Sometimes it's two weeks, more often 30 days. The 8 day rule in Fort Collins is an anomaly as is Lincoln.

Why did we change our ticket system a year ago? Because 30% of tickets were never paid. The cost of the tickets never went up from \$10. Repeated letters and notices increased our costs but the penalty was frozen at \$10. In fact the backlog of unpaid tickets exceeded \$1 million. There was little chance of collecting a significant portion of that account receivable because the legal cost of chasing \$10 tickets was prohibitive. And businesses said that towing offenders was also perceived as not being business friendly.

There are a number of smaller Nebraska towns that do not have parking tickets altogether but cities of a quarter million people almost uniformly have tickets. Omaha is a good measuring stick I think. Our parking meter rate is half the cost of Omaha and if the February 17, 2012 article in the World Herald is accurate, the suggested rate of \$2.00/hour will be four times the Lincoln rate. Lincoln is an anomaly for having lowered the cost of a ticket from \$10 to \$9 for those who pay on-line. A \$9 Lincoln ticket is 40% cheaper than a \$16 ticket in Omaha. After the price increase for late payment, the Lincoln ticket of \$25 is, again, cheaper than the \$36 Omaha ticket. Unlike Omaha and many other cities, our City garages give parkers the first hour of their stay for free. The first hour free program has been aimed at making parking in garages cheaper and more attractive to shoppers. We are building 1,100 stalls of garage parking to add to building our downtown inventory in the next 18 months. This is aimed at making parking more available and at very competitive terms.

Mr. Koehler, you're right when you point out that we have an uncharacteristically short time line in moving to late payment rates. It is one aspect of a many sided program. Before you decide that Lincoln is indifferent or unfriendly to the interests of business please take into consideration:

- 1) \$9 is uncharacteristically low for a ticket
- 2) \$25 is uncharacteristically low once late payment status is achieved
- 3) Our on street meter rates are uncharacteristically cheap

4) Our garage rates are moderate and a first hour free parking program is unique

We are not perfect, but we are trying to make progress in the face of \$1 million of unpaid parking tickets. I appreciate that you would take the time to read this message. I assure you the seriousness your message and the care you took in framing the issues occasioned a response that hopes to exhibit the same thoughtfulness in return. My office number is 402-441-7126 and my cell is 402-817-8179 if you wish to share further thoughts on this or any other matter. I hope you will consider continuing to use Lincoln as a base for operations, we are most assuredly open for business.

Sincerely,
David Landis
Director
Urban Development Department
City of Lincoln

Mary M. Meyer

From: Shawn Koehler [shawn.koehler@bayer.com]
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 11:33 AM
To: Ken D. Smith
Cc: Carl B. Eskridge; Jonathan A. Cook; Jon Camp; DiAnna R. Schimek; DiAnna R. Schimek;
DiAnna R. Schimek; Council Packet; Mayor
Subject: Parking Ticket Question - Larger impact

Mr. Smith,

I am the manager for Bayer CropScience for Nebraska and South Dakota. I am writing to express my displeasure of how your department has handled my payment of citation number 53035558 issued 5/9 at meter #1214.

I am writing this letter in fairness for you, the City of Lincoln, and its business owners. I wasn't going to send anything, but its not fair to you if I do not.

I spent the day of May 9 meeting with a customer in the Haymarket area, and due to inadequate parking in the area; I couldn't leave the meeting to pay the meter again and thus received a \$10 ticket. Which – I understand and I knew that was what would happen. I got home, placed the ticket on my desk with intentions to pay upon getting home from my next business trip when I can take care of my expenses accordingly.

The payment was submitted on May 16, after the ticket was received on May 9. Today my payment was returned saying that I now owe \$25 because I didn't pay the ticket within 7 days.

A 7 day turnaround is absolutely unreasonable and I have never seen that quick of a requirement. I've seen payment terms of net 30,45,60 day terms, but never 7.

Thus – This is an indicator that Lincoln, NE is not a business friendly city. It appears that the City of Lincoln does not appreciate patronage and this truly gives Lincoln a black eye. It makes me wonder – 'What else are they going to hit me with down the road?'

So I now have to decide if I continue to do business in the City of Lincoln. I'm sure that the businesses in Lincoln would enjoy knowing that simple parking meter terms could cost them revenue. Norfolk, Columbus, Ashland, LaVista, Omaha, Grand Island and Nebraska City are all other options for me. So it may be time to test the waters.

To help you quantify what this patronage is worth:

I hold 7-15 meetings in Lincoln per year with an average spend of \$2700 per meeting with hotel and room, plus evening dinners that average \$1100 over the course of our meetings. We also hold other farmer/ag retailer events and frequently decide between many towns which meeting those will be held in.

A good estimate is \$38,000 of business done by me in Lincoln, NE.

So my question for you, the mayor, and the city council –

- Is a 7 day payment requirement something that you feel is the best for your city?
- Do you feel that a 7 day turnaround with a 250% increase is reasonable?
- Do either of these 1) improve city parking issues, 2) truly improve your cash flow, 3) make Lincoln, NE a better/safer place to be?

It may be that I do not understand the value of this requirement, and if so – please help me understand how this improves Lincoln, NE and makes me a better patron / citizen.

I have some decisions to make –and a response would be quite helpful.

(By the way – why is a \$25 ticket such a big deal of \$3X,XXX spent in the city? Answer: I cannot expense tickets to my company. It is a cost to me. Room taxes – yes, parking fees – yes, tickets – no. Plus, as I mentioned above – its an indicator that there may be other unreasonable hits will I take that are patron abuses down the road.)

Sincerely,

Shawn Koehler
District Sales Manager - Plains District
Bayer CropScience

Mobile: (515) 468-7011
Office: (712) 527-2840
Fax: (888) 586-5718

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For alternate languages please go to <http://bayerdisclaimer.bayerweb.com>

RECEIVED

JUN 04 REC'D May 30, 2012

Dear City Council

CITY COUNCIL
OFFICE

This is in response to a letter received from the city law department in regard to some damages to my property at 3435 S. 48th St...

I had requested that if at all possible, the \$75.00 I paid for gutter repair, which was the result of a limb from a city tree hitting the corner of the house.

Marceel A Brownlee stated in the letter that she was recommending that the claim be denied. She stated that the Forestry Department confirmed that the tree in question was a healthy one. I wouldn't know about the trees' health, but I do know since I bought the property seven years ago that either me or the forestry service have been cleaning up fallen branches from these two trees.

On August 06, 2011 during a storm again limbs came down, a visiting nurse stated, had she been 15 seconds sooner, the limbs would have been on her car with her in it.

After the snow storm on Feb. 04, 2012, and another call, to the Forestry Service, after limbs had come down on a car, plus the corner of the house, I made another call to Forestry Service as I spotted weakened limbs. I found a card that the trees would be removed,

I am someone who loves trees and plants; and am not making an issue about \$75.00, but I do know those two trees posed a danger to people and property. Healthy or not, I am glad they were removed.

Sincerely,
Shirley Knutson



MS. SHIRLEY KNUTSON
3001 S. 57th St.
Lincoln, NE 68506

**DIRECTORS' AGENDA
ADDENDUM
MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2012**

I. CITY CLERK

1. Correspondence from Norma E. Olston opposing creating Paving District No. 2631 in Gladstone from 35th to 36th Street, and 36th Street from Gladstone to Hartley.
2. Correspondence from Herb Lavigne, Lavigne Enterprises, in favor of the City Council passing ordinance on paving district in Gladstone from 35th to 36th Street, and 36th Street from Gladstone to Hartley.

II. MAYOR & DIRECTORS CORRESPONDENCE

MAYOR

1. NEWS RELEASE. Mayor Beutler's public schedule for week of June 9th through June 15, 2012.
2. NEWS RELEASE. Tickets remain for Mayor's Arts Awards.
3. NEWS RELEASE. Additional block closed downtown. Celebrate Lincoln and water main project creating congestion.

III. DIRECTORS

PARKS AND RECREATION

1. Meeting agenda for Thursday, June 14, 2012.
 - a) Minutes of Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting of Thursday, May 10, 2012.

WEED CONTROL

1. Weed Abatement Program, Lancaster County/City of Lincoln, May 2012.

IV. COUNCIL MEMBERS

V. CORRESPONDENCE FROM CITIZENS

1. LES Administrative Board meeting agenda for Friday, June 15, 2012. Support materials can be found at www.les.com.

June 5, 2012

City Council
c/o City Clerk
555 S. 10th Street
Lincoln, Ne 68508

RE: Paving District: in Gladstone from 35th to 36th Street, and 36th Street from Gladstone to Hartley.

Ladies and Gentlemen of the City Council,

As owner of the property of Olston's Condominium Regime, Unit 3 (44%) and Cresnet Glen Industrial Park Lot 10, I strongly object to this proposed ordinance. I do not believe it will benefit our business, Olston's Auto Recyclers, and in this time of poor economy this would a needless expense.

Thank You,



Norma E. Olston
Property Owner

FILED
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
2012 JUN 7 PM 3 22
CITY OF LINCOLN
NEBRASKA

Item # 12)

12-54

Lavigne Enterprises

BUILDER-DEVELOPER

Warehouse, Office, Industrial Leasing

14803 Frontier Rd.

Omaha, NE 68138-3835

(402) 896-6722
(800) 242-6040

June 8, 2012

City Council
% City Clerk
555 South 10th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508

FILED
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
2012 JUN 11 AM 10 39
CITY OF LINCOLN
NEBRASKA

RE: Paving District: in Gladstone from 35th to 36th Street, and 36th Street from Gladstone to Hartley

Dear City Council:

As property owner of 3300 North 35th Street, LLC we are in favor of the City Council passing this ordinance.

Sincerely,



Herb Lavigne

President

402-502-8020



Date: June 8, 2012

Contact: Diane Gonzolas, Citizen Information Center, 402-441-7831

Mayor Beutler's Public Schedule
Week of June 9 through 15, 2012
Schedule subject to change

NO PUBLIC EVENTS SCHEDULED

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

555 South 10th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-441-7511

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 8, 2012

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Diane Gonzolas, Citizen Information Center, 402-441-7831
Deb Weber, Lincoln Arts Council, 402-434-2787

TICKETS REMAIN FOR MAYOR'S ARTS AWARDS

A limited number of tickets is still available for the 2012 Mayor's Arts Awards, which will be presented the evening of Monday, June 18 at the Lied Center for Performing Arts. **Reservations will be accepted until 5 p.m. Monday, June 11.** Tickets are \$50 each, and they are available at artscene.org or at the Lincoln Arts Council, 1701 S. 17th St. The theme for the event is "Destination: ARTS." It begins at 5:30 p.m. and includes a reception, dinner and awards ceremony.

The 2012 award winners are:

- Mayor's Choice Award - Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center
- Arts Organization Award - Friends of the Robert Hillestad Textiles Gallery
- Outstanding Event Award - Flatwater Shakespeare Company's production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream"
- Artistic Achievement Award - Visual Arts - Janice Stauffer
- Artistic Achievement Award - Performing Arts - Stephen Gaines
- Artistic Achievement Award - Youth - Rebecca DeNell
- Gladys Lux Education Award - Christin Mamiya
- Heart of the Arts Award - the late Claire Hoppe
- Halcyon Allsman Benefactor of the Arts Award - Robert and Vicki Northrup
- Oliva Family "Arts for Kids" Award - the late Sarah Lahr
- ArtScene Backstage Award - Nancy Dawson
- Literary Heritage Award - Joe Starita
- Kimmel Foundation Emerging Artist Award - Trudie Tejjink
- Kimmel Foundation Emerging Writer Award - Marie Thurmer

PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES DEPARTMENT
555 S. 10th St., Suite 208, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-441-7548

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 8, 2012

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Steve Owen, Lincoln Water System, 402-499-4058

ADDITIONAL BLOCK CLOSED DOWNTOWN
Celebrate Lincoln and water main project creating congestion

City officials have closed an additional block of “N” Street due to congestion at 14th and “N.” The Celebrate Lincoln festival has already closed “N” from 12th to 14th streets. “N” Street is now closed from just east of 14th to just west of Centennial Mall. The intersection of 14th and “N” will remain open. Traffic signal timing in the area also is being adjusted.

Traffic on 14th between “N” and “P” is down to one lane due to a water main project, contributing to the congestion at 14th and “N.”

Other closures are 13th Street from “M” to “O” for Celebrate Lincoln and Centennial Mall from “M” to “N” for the mall improvement project. Work on other downtown street resurfacing projects has been temporarily suspended.

Those headed to Celebrate Lincoln from the east are advised to use “O” or “L” streets.

More information on downtown parking and City construction projects is available at lincoln.ne.gov. More information on Celebrate Lincoln is available at celebratelincoln.org.

NOTICE OF ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

TO: Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Mayor, City Council, City Clerk, Media
FROM: Lynn Johnson, Director, Lincoln Parks & Recreation Department
MEETING DATE: June 14, 2012
LOCATION: **Parks & Recreation Dept. (Large Conference Room)**
TIME: 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.
CHAIR: Anne Pagel

A G E N D A

- 1. Call to Order and Recognition of 'Open Meetings Act'**
- 2. Approval of Minutes:** * May 10, 2012, meeting
- 3. Comments from the Public for Items not Listed on the Agenda**
- 4. Recommendation regarding Policy re: Tobacco Use in Outdoor Parks & Recreation Department Facilities**
- 5. Committee Reports**
 - A. Fees & Facilities Committee - Susan Deitchler (Chair) - 488-4224**
 - No report
 - B. Futures Committee - Bob Ripley (Chair) 471-0419 or 488-5131**
 - No report
 - C. Golf Report**
 - No report
 - D. Executive Committee - Anne Pagel (Chair) - 402-570-9194**
 - No report
- 7. Staff Report:**
 - No report
- 8. Announcements:**
 - 20th Anniversray Luncheon for the Lincoln Parks Foundation, Wednesday, July 11, 2012.
 - Joint Parks & Recreation Advisory Board / Lincoln Parks Foundation Board of Directors tour and meeting, Thursday, July 12, 2012, 4:30 p.m.
 - **'Save the Date'**: Union Plaza Dedication / Antelope Valley Project Celebration, Thursday, September 13th evening with a rain date of Friday evening, September 14, 2012.

* **Denotes Action Items**

MINUTES

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Parks & Recreation Conference Room Thursday, May 10, 2012

Members Present:

Andrew Barry	Molly Brummond	Justin Carlson	Keelan Chapman
Jonathan Cook	Jim Crook	Susan Deitchler	Todd Fitzgerald
Karen Hand	Anne Pagel	Bob Ripley	Susan Rodenburg
Dennis Scheer	Jeff Schwebke	Joe Tidball	

Members Absent:

Jane Raybould

Introduction of new member Peter Levitov: Mr. Levitov has lived in Lincoln for 40 years and is currently employed at the University of Nebraska in charge of International Programming and will be retiring next month. Peter also served on the Library Board for several years.

Recognition of service for outgoing member Susan Larson Rodenburg: Anne Pagel thanked Susan for serving 12 years on the Board. Lynn Johnson presented Susan with a tile to the Rose Garden that will have a plaque, with her years of service, placed on the back of the tile.

Recognition of 'Open Meetings Act': As per law, Chairperson Anne Pagel announced that the Board follows the regulations of this Act, as posted.

*** APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** *It was moved (Ripley) and seconded (Carlson) to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2012, meeting as mailed. Motion carried by majority vote of members present with Levitov abstaining.*

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS (other than those listed on the current Agenda): None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fees & Facilities Committee - Susan Deitchler, Chair - 488-4224

- *** Recommendation re: updating guidance statement for renovation of Woods Park Tennis Center:** Susan Deitchler reported that the Woods Tennis Corp. is hoping to replace the tennis bubbles with hard-sided structures. Capital improvements in Woods Park are guided by a master plan adopted by resolution of the Lincoln City Council. The initial master plan was adopted in 1991, and updated in 2005. The current Woods Park Master Plan anticipates replacement of the air structures with hard-sided structures and includes the following statement:

"At such time as funding is available to replace the "bubbles" with permanent structures, community meetings should be conducted to discuss architectural building form, materials and details to be compatible with the character of surrounding residential neighborhoods. In addition, cost should be a consideration".

The Friends of Woods Tennis (FOWT) took over operation of the Tennis Center in 2011. The FOWT recognize the aged and deteriorating condition of the current air structures, and also added utility costs of operating the structures during winter months. The FOWT are proposing a renovation project that is anticipated to include replacement of the air structures with hard-sided

structures and would also like to explore opportunities to expand the number of indoor courts from six to ten. The renovation project is anticipated to occur generally within the footprint of the existing tennis center facility.

The cost estimate for future capital improvements to the Tennis Center should be accompanied by an endowment sufficient to provide for future capital repairs and replacements. A fundraising feasibility study should be conducted to explore the potential of securing private, foundation and grant funds for capital improvements and related endowment. It may be necessary to phase implementation of capital improvements over time. If additional courts are added to the complex, an analysis of parking demand for the shared parking lots in Woods Park should be completed. If it is determined that additional parking is needed, options should be evaluated with the first priority to extend pedestrian access to other existing parking lots in Woods Park, and then as a second priority to expand the eastern parking lot.

Lynn Johnson stated that the next steps for approval will be to bring forth proposed amendments to the Woods Park Master Plan that will go to the Fees & Facilities Committee and then to the full Board at the June meeting. They will then go to the City Council in July. Johnson also said that a fundraising feasibility study has been completed and a meeting will be scheduled between members of the FOWT, Lincoln Parks Foundation and Susan Larson Rodenburg to discuss organizing and initiating the fundraising effort.

Kevin Heim, from Woods Tennis Corp. was in attendance and went over the anticipated new plan and answered questions asked by the Board members. ***After further discussion, it was moved (Hand) and seconded (Carlson) to recommend approval of adoption of a 'Guidance Statement' for Woods Park Tennis center renovation project. Motion carried by unanimous vote of members present.***

* **Recommendation re: declaring the western portion of the Parks & Recreation Maintenance Facility, generally located at 21st & "M" Streets (Lot 2 and west portion of Outlot I) as surplus:** Lynn Johnson referred to a map of this area and stated that there are three parcels of land in question: 1) Lot 1 that's currently being used as the People's City Mission Distribution Center; 2) Lot 1 and west portion of Outlot I, east of 21st & "M" Streets, Parks & Recreation Maintenance Facility; and 3) a privately owned parcel northeast of So. 21st St. & Capitol Parkway which is the former LT&T Maintenance Facility and warehouse owned by Windstream. Johnson said that the Planning and Urban Development Departments have been working on putting together an Invitation For Redevelopment Proposal (IFRP) for this area that will be out very soon. Nicole Fleck-Tooze (Planning Dept.) is currently working with Windstream for the sale of their building.

Bob Ripley said he objected to this plan because he feels a critical Parks function (Maintenance and Forestry sections) are being moved from a very strategic location to an area that is very inefficient (the old Experian Bldg. located at NW 12th & West Bond Streets). He would like to see a portion of the land in question devoted to keeping Maintenance and Forestry at their current location. He is also concerned with how the Department will fund the additional cost that will be incurred with getting vehicles to and from the Experian facility several times a day. Lynn Johnson stated that it's his understanding that additional money will be built into the Department's budget to cover these costs. Ripley suggested that perhaps the old LT&T building could be used to house the Parks facilities that are scheduled to move to the Experian Building. Nicole also said that language will be built into the IFRP regarding the City's strong desire to see the LT&T Building maintained in any new redevelopment plans. ***After further discussion, it was moved (Fees & Facilities Committee) to recommend approval to declare the western portion of the Parks & Recreation Maintenance Facility at 21st & "M" Streets (Lot 2 and west portion of Outlot I) as surplus. Motion carried by majority vote of members present with Levitov abstaining.***

* **Recommendation re: declaring the former Muny Pool Bathhouse Bldg. and associated property, generally located east of 21st & "M" Streets (east portion of Outlot I), as surplus:** Lynn Johnson said the next step in this process will be for the issue to go to the Planning

Commission next week. The Planning Commission will be looking at Lot 2 and all of Outlot I. With this agenda item, the PRAB will be making a recommendation to the Mayor as well as the Planning Commission who will be looking at two different actions: 1) Comprehensive Plan Conformance with declaring Lot 2 and some or all of Outlot I as surplus; and 2) a change of zone associated with this parcel of land. Johnson said when he goes before the Planning Commission he will share the Board's recommendation that there were two different actions taken on this issue even though the Planning Commission will be looking at it as one action item. If approved by the Planning Commission this will go to the City Council for their approval for sale of the property and change of zoning. ***After further discussion, it was moved (Fees & Facilities Committee) that the Board recommend denial of declaring the former Muny Pool Bathhouse Bldg. and associated property (21st & "M" Streets / east portion of Outlot I), as surplus. Motion carried by unanimous vote of members present.***

Futures Committee - Bob Ripley (Chair) 471-0419 or 488-5131

- *** Recommendation re: naming of the bird garden at the Chet Ager Building at Pioneers Park Nature Center in tribute to Irene and George Alexander:** Bob Ripley reported that Irene and George Alexander have been actively involved in activities at the Nature Center and have devoted many hours of their time (over 30 years) doing bird banding and other activities at the park. The staff at the Nature Center made this strong recommendation to honor the Alexander's and it falls within the perimeters of the Parks & Recreation Department Naming Policy. ***It was moved (Futures Committee) to recommend naming the bird garden at the Pioneers Park Nature Center in honor of George and Irene Alexander. Motion carried by unanimous vote of members present.***

Golf Report:

- Steve Hiller distributed copies of the Golf Rounds and Revenue Report and stated that March was the greatest March ever recorded for number of rounds played. April has also been a good month - revenue is up 28.44% and rounds are 26% ahead of last year.

Executive Committee - Anne Pagel (Chair) - 570-9194

- *** Recommendation re: guidelines for planting of trees in parks by private parties:** Anne Pagel went over the guidelines that were included in members' packets: Current guidelines read: *"In order to achieve the desired benefits, public trees must be appropriately managed and located. Therefore, any trees proposed to (be) planted in park areas must be reviewed and approved by the Parks & Recreation Dept. Director or his/her designee. The Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to approve or reject any or all proposed tree plantings. Tree planting proposals should include the proposed location(s), the tree specie(s), the size of tree(s) at planting and a plan for establishment of the tree(s). The minimum size of the trees at planting will be 1-inch caliper, and approximately 6-feet in height. Tree specie(s) should be selected from the approved park tree list maintained by the Parks & Recreation Department. Plant locations should be verified by Parks & Recreation Dept. staff prior to planting of trees to avoid conflicts with or damage to underground utilities and infrastructure".* If trees proposed to be planted as a memorial or tribute, recognition will be in accordance with the Legacy Tree Grove Program jointly administered by the Parks & Recreation Department and the Lincoln Parks Foundation. These guidelines will be added to the Department's website under the Forestry Division.

Molly Brommond asked that language be added to the guidelines stating options whereby people can simply fund a tree and the City will plant it in a park, or citizens can actually purchase their tree and plant it themselves. Peter Levitov asked also that the language be added that the tree needs to be purchased from a licensed nursery. Bob Ripley would like to see language included that Parks staff be the ones who plant the trees to insure that they are planted properly. Jim Crook asked if perhaps Forestry could print up a one-page pamphlet with information on how to properly plant a tree to which Dennis Scheer said that a link is already available on-line that contains this technical information and people just need to know how to get to it.

After discussion it was moved (Executive Committee) to recommend adoption of guidelines for planting of trees in parks by private parties (adding clarification on who is planting the tree and to make sure the tree is purchased through a licensed nursery and that the Parks Director has the discretion to accept an alternative tree if it meets City standards). Motion carried by unanimous vote of members present.

Staff Report:

- Status report on Holmes Golf Course Clubhouse replacement project: JJ Yost reported that all bids for the new Clubhouse came in above the estimate and available budget. The bids were all rejected and the City is working with the architect and engineers to modify the plans. JJ thought the new package would be put out to re-bid in about two weeks and about the only change that people will see is that the lower level (cart storage area) has been taken out of the new plans. He said the City should still be able to work within the current construction season so the project itself will not be delayed. The hope is to have it completed before the 2013 golf season.
- Status report on Nebraska's Centennial Mall Phase 1 construction: JJ Yost reported that the bids for Centennial Mall came in within the estimate and available budget, so the City is moving ahead with the contractor, Sampson Construction, to begin construction. This project is being timed very carefully with the current street resurfacing projects that are currently underway. The first phase of construction will be the middle three blocks of the mall and will begin in the next few weeks and be completed in November. The next phase will begin in the spring of 2013. Fundraising for Centennial Mall is at approximately \$6.6 million which leaves approximately \$2 million yet to raise.
- Union Plaza and Jayne Snyder Trails Center dedication: Lynn Johnson announced that the Community Health Endowment has moved into the second floor of the Jayne Snyder Trails Center. Construction for the rest of the project will continue into mid-July. The big sculpture Colossus will be installed in August, the Discover artwork will be installed in July and the tentative date for dedication will be September 13th. The Department will send out a 'save the date' when the dedication date has been confirmed.
- Letter sent to reps of the Lincoln Municipal Band regarding the proposed replacement of the band shell in Antelope Park: Lynn Johnson reported that he sent a letter to Dean Haist and the LMB Board, suggesting they set up a meeting to discuss the guidance statement, and how to now move forward. Anne Pagel also met with Mr. Haist and they both feel that the biggest concern still seems to be the issue of a fiscal agent. Hopefully a meeting can be scheduled in the near future.
- Status report on Taylor Park: Jerry Shorney said he met with a couple of the residents of the Taylor Park area who were at the last PRAB meeting and told them some modifications to the mowing plan have been made and copies were sent out to the neighborhood. The City is working with the arboretum committee of Taylor Park to review tree species and locations.

Announcements:

- 'Wake up the Bed' volunteer planting event will be held at the Sunken Gardens on May 12th at 8:30 a.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Action Item Fact Sheet

Meeting Date: June 12, 2012

Request: Recommend adoption of a Policy regarding Tobacco Use in Outdoor Parks and Recreation Facilities

Discussion: A joint working committee was formed of representatives of the Board of Health and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to discuss the possible development of a policy regarding smoking and/or tobacco use in outdoor parks and recreation facilities. The working committee met four times. An on-line community survey was developed and made available to community residents. The survey was completed by 2,522 respondents. A copy of the survey results is attached. The working committee subsequently reviewed and made a recommendations regarding a draft policy. Two copies of the draft policy are attached – one version includes discussion and recommendations by the working committee, the second version includes the staff recommendation.

Conformance with Adopted Plans and Guidelines: Section 12.08.330 of the Lincoln Municipal Code states that rules and regulations may be established regarding activities in parks and recreation facilities for the health, safety and welfare of the public. Such rules and regulations are to be approved by the Mayor and filed with the office of the City Clerk.

Staff Recommendation: Approval of the version of the policy that determines specified outdoor parks and recreation facilities to be “tobacco free”.

Committee Discussion and Recommendation: The working committee recommended designating all outdoor parks and recreation facilities as “tobacco free”. The working committee also recommended including electronic cigarettes in the definition of “use of tobacco products”. The City Law Department subsequently recommended removal of this provision because electronic cigarettes do not include tobacco products.

Date:

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Action:

PAGE: PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY ON 'TOBACCO USE' AT CITY-OWNED-AND-MANAGED PARKS AND RECREATION PROPERTIES.

1. Do you support restricting smoking/tobacco use at outdoor City-owned-and-managed Parks and Recreation properties?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	56.9%	1,420
No	43.1%	1,075
	answered question	2,495
	skipped question	27

2. I support NO SMOKING (cigarettes, cigars, pipes, electronic cigarettes) in the following places:

	5- Strongly Agree	4	3- Neutral	2	1- Strongly Disagree	Response Count
Playgrounds	67.5% (1,696)	7.6% (192)	6.4% (160)	2.7% (67)	15.8% (397)	2,512
Ball fields	54.5% (1,361)	9.1% (227)	8.8% (219)	5.7% (142)	21.9% (548)	2,497
Green spaces	41.6% (1,028)	6.6% (162)	12.7% (315)	6.7% (166)	32.4% (801)	2,472
Open shelters and picnic areas	47.5% (1,178)	6.5% (162)	8.9% (221)	6.3% (156)	30.8% (765)	2,482
Golf courses	37.5% (928)	5.5% (137)	13.0% (322)	6.0% (149)	37.9% (936)	2,472
Skateboard/bike parks	54.5% (1,352)	8.6% (213)	11.2% (277)	4.7% (117)	21.0% (522)	2,481
Pools	66.0% (1,646)	9.1% (226)	7.7% (193)	2.6% (65)	14.6% (365)	2,495
					answered question	2,521
					skipped question	1

2. I support NO SMOKING (cigarettes, cigars, pipes, electronic cigarettes) in the following places:

Trails	44.7% (1,105)	5.8% (144)	10.2% (253)	6.5% (160)	32.8% (810)	2,472
Dog runs	42.0% (1,032)	6.5% (159)	13.9% (342)	6.0% (147)	31.6% (777)	2,457
Other	34.6% (344)	2.5% (25)	20.1% (200)	3.7% (37)	39.0% (388)	994
Other (please specify) Show replies						283
answered question						2,521
skipped question						1

3. I support NO TOBACCO USE (No smoking/No spit tobacco) in the following places:

	5- Strongly Agree	4	3- Neutral	2	1- Strongly Disagree	Response Count
Playgrounds	64.8% (1,617)	6.5% (163)	7.5% (186)	2.8% (70)	18.4% (458)	2,494
Ball fields	51.6% (1,278)	6.4% (159)	10.1% (251)	6.1% (150)	25.9% (641)	2,479
Green spaces	42.3% (1,037)	5.7% (140)	12.7% (312)	6.1% (149)	33.2% (813)	2,451
Open shelters and picnic areas	48.3% (1,187)	5.5% (136)	9.2% (226)	6.2% (152)	30.9% (759)	2,460
Golf courses	40.4% (991)	5.1% (126)	12.0% (294)	5.9% (144)	36.6% (898)	2,453
Skateboard/bike parks	53.3% (1,314)	7.7% (190)	11.0% (270)	4.7% (116)	23.3% (573)	2,463
Pools	64.0% (1,587)	7.1% (175)	8.2% (203)	2.8% (70)	18.0% (446)	2,481
answered question						2,507
skipped question						15

3. I support NO TOBACCO USE (No smoking/No spit tobacco) in the following places:

Trails	44.0% (1,078)	5.1% (125)	12.1% (297)	5.8% (141)	33.0% (809)	2,450
Dog runs	42.2% (1,028)	5.5% (133)	14.1% (344)	5.8% (142)	32.4% (789)	2,436
Other	35.8% (356)	1.3% (13)	17.7% (176)	3.9% (39)	41.2% (410)	994
Other (please specify) Show replies						219
answered question						2,507
skipped question						15

4. Where do you live?

	Response Percent	Response Count
In Lincoln	89.5%	2,247
Within 3 miles of Lincoln	2.9%	72
Over 3 miles from Lincoln	7.6%	191
answered question		2,510
skipped question		12

5. What is your age?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Under 18	2.0%	49
18-24	6.0%	151
answered question		2,510
skipped question		12

5. What is your age?

25-39	30.0%	753
40-54	26.5%	664
55-64	23.4%	587
65+	12.2%	306
answered question		2,510
skipped question		12

6. Are you a (Check all that apply)

	Response Percent	Response Count
Youth	4.1%	102
Parent	62.5%	1,570
Grandparent	29.8%	747
Youth leader/coach	11.8%	296
Youth sports official	1.7%	42
Nonsmoker/Nontobacco user	63.0%	1,582
Smoker/Tobacco user	14.2%	357
Former smoker/Former Tobacco user	26.3%	661
answered question		2,510
skipped question		12

City of Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department

Policy Regarding Tobacco Use in Outdoor Parks and Recreation Department Facilities

*Discussion Draft. Version including recommendations from the working committee of Board of Health and Parks and Recreation Advisory Board representatives
June 7, 2012.*



Purpose and Intent

The City of Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department policy restricting use of tobacco products in certain outdoor facilities is intended to protect and promote the health, safety and welfare of community residents, particularly children and youth.

There is documented evidence that use of tobacco products and secondhand exposure to tobacco smoke are related to adverse health risks.

Parents, coaches and officials serve as role models for youth and should model positive lifestyle choices, including not using tobacco products.

Use of tobacco products in public places can result in litter and debris that is unsightly and may pose a risk of ingestion by toddlers.

Smoking is prohibited in City-owned buildings and vehicles.

Definitions

[Omit this section. The City Law Department has recommended against including electronic cigarettes in the policy because they do not contain tobacco products. "Electronic cigarette" or "e-cigarette" is defined as an electronic device that creates a flavored vapor from a liquid solution with or without nicotine that simulates the act of cigarette smoking.]

"Tobacco product" is defined as any product manufactured wholly or in part from tobacco that is intended to be ingested by smoking, inhalation, chewing, sniffing, or sucking.

"Tobacco use" is defined as consumption of tobacco products by burning, inhalation, chewing, or other forms of ingestion. *[Omit this section as referenced above. The definition of tobacco use also includes the use of electronic cigarettes, or e-cigarettes, because their use emulates cigarette smoking and therefore models smoking behavior even though they do not include tobacco products.]*

Policy

Pursuant to Section 12.08.330 of the Lincoln Municipal Code, it is the policy of the City of Lincoln Parks and Recreation that the following facilities shall be designated as "tobacco-free" and tobacco use shall be prohibited.

Tobacco-free facilities are as follows:

1. Playgrounds located in areas defined as parkland
2. Skateparks located in areas defined as parkland
3. Picnic shelters located in areas defined as parkland
4. Outdoor swimming pools and aquatics facilities including bathhouses and parking areas
5. Jim Ager Golf Course
6. Ballfields and multi-use sports fields including concession buildings and surrounding areas
7. The fenced area of Pinewood Bowl, with the exception of a designated smoking area away from the amphitheater seating area for use during concerts and performances where the primary anticipated audience is adults. *[The working committee recommended restricting tobacco use entirely within the fenced area of Pinewood Bowl. SMG will have a restriction on re-entry of the facility during events that would not allow people to exit the fenced area to use tobacco products and then return. Therefore SMG has requested the ability to designate a smoking area within the fenced area of the venue.]*

8. Outdoor performance venues during community performances and events including the Sheldnik Bandshell and surrounding area in Antelope Park and the Dinsmore Graf Amphitheater in Union Plaza.
9. Pioneers Park Nature Center, including buildings and grounds.

[The working committee recommended designating all outdoor parks and recreation facilities as "tobacco free". The staff recommendation is to designate specific outdoor facilities as "tobacco free" as identified above in response to guidance from the community survey.]

Awareness and Enforcement

This policy is intended to be enforced through public information and awareness. Signage designating facilities as tobacco-free will be posted in prominent locations. The Parks and Recreation Department will identify tobacco-free facilities on its website, in printed brochures, in user guides and in rental forms. Parks and Recreation Department employees, parents, coaches, and park facility visitors are encouraged to assist in achieving compliance by bringing this policy to the attention of persons violating the policy. A person found to may be asked to cease tobacco use or to leave the facility premises.

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Weed Abatement Program

Lancaster County / City of Lincoln

May 2012

www.lancaster.ne.gov/weeds

The following is an article from the Lincoln JournalStar on May 18th.

Warm weather, weedy lawns keep inspectors busy

**By: Michael Bamesberger,
Lincoln JournalStar**

City ordinances governing weeds and hedges aren't well known among Lincoln residents, but they can cost those who don't abide.

One ordinance mandates property owners to cut and clear "weeds and worthless vegetation" that have grown more than 6 inches tall. Another governs landscaping in the "park space," the area between the street and sidewalk, and mandates that plants and hedges stay less than 30 inches tall and not grow onto sidewalks.



Musk thistle in a backyard in Lincoln

Failure to comply can result in a visit from a city-contracted mower -- and a bill after the work is done.

Brent Meyer, weed control superintendent, said thousands of complaints are filed every year with the Lancaster Weed Control Authority and Public Works.

This year, a warm spring pushed the growing season four weeks earlier than usual, Meyer said, causing an increase in weed growth as well as the number of inspections. So far, Weed Control has done 728 inspections.

Other than being unsightly, tall weeds can reduce property values, attract pests, exacerbate health problems and become fire hazards, he said.

A common problem is lack of awareness. For example, residents living along arterial streets often say they didn't know they were responsible for cutting grass and weeds along the street, even if the weeds are separated from their lawn by a fence, Meyer said.

Last year, the agency sent contractors to cut down weeds 269 times -- returning to some properties more than once.

The problem isn't isolated to one part of the city.

"With the foreclosure problem, it's everywhere," Meyer said. "There are some very nice properties that get out of control because all of a sudden, no one lives there."

When homeowners don't respond to violations or don't comply in time, the city is authorized to have the area mowed and send a bill for the work, plus a \$100 fee.

If the fees aren't paid, city law allows the cost to be assessed as a lien against property.

Meyer said most people are cooperative, but a few properties are repeat offenders.

"We already have one property we are mowing for the second time this year," he said. "It's going to be a long summer."

Inspection Activity

Weed Abatement Inspections

With the early spring weather in 2012, inspections on weed abatement are up 162.7% at the end of May. In 2011 we had a total of 587 weed abatement inspections completed. At the same time this year we have already completed 1,542 inspections.



Weed abatement violation

Complaints

Weed control has received 636 complaints already in 2012 compared to 327 at the end of May in 2011. This is 309 more complaints for an increase of 94.5%.

Notices & Force controls

As of the end of May we had sent 200 legal notices and performed 23 force cuttings.



Contractors hired to do force mowing

Noxious Weeds within City Limits Inspections

Noxious weed inspections are way ahead of a normal year as well. Our inspectors have completed 499 noxious weed inspections

compared to 308 last year. That is an increase of 191 inspections or 62%.

Infestations – May 31

Our first round of inspections are complete on musk thistle, Canada thistle and leafy spurge. The inspections are just beginning on the other listed noxious weeds.

May 31, 2012

Noxious weed	Sites
Musk thistle	169
Leafy spurge	61
Phragmites	18
Knotweed	5
Canada thistle	2
Saltcedar	1
Purple loosestrife	1

Japanese Knotweed at 56th & Holdrege



Japanese Knotweed prior to chemical application



Japanese Knotweed after chemical application

June Planned Activities

- 6 5 Rivers WMA
- 8 NE Invasive Species Council
- 14 Management Team Meeting
- 19 LPWMA Meeting
- 21 Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center – Weed Walk
- 28 Problem Resolution Team
- 29 Monthly activity report



1040 O Street, P.O. Box 80869
Lincoln, NE 68501-0869

AGENDA
LES ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD
Friday, June 15, 2012 – 9:30 A.M.
LES Board Room
1040 “O” Street

9:30 A.M.

- 1. Call to Order**
 - 2. Approval of Minutes of the May 18, 2012 Regular Meeting of the LES Administrative Board**
 - 3. Comments from Customers**
 - 4. Committee Reports**
 - A. Operations & Power Supply Committee
 - B. Finance & Audit Committee
 - 5. Administrator & CEO Reports**
 - *A. Ratification of Six-Month Claims, LES Resolution 2012-10
 - *B. Tax-Exempt Financing Compliance Procedure, LES Resolution 2012-11
 - C. 2011 Annual Report
 - D. Report on Meetings with the Rating Agencies
 - 6. Chief Operating Officer’s Reports**
 - A. 2012 Construction Review and Outlook
 - B. Transmission Projects Update
 - C. DEC West Haymarket and County Detention Facilities Update
 - D. Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) Update
 - 7. Other Business**
 - A. Monthly Financial and Power Supply Reports
 - B. Miscellaneous Information
 - 8. Adjournment**
- * Denotes Action Items

Next Administrative Board meeting Friday, July 20, 2012.

**MINUTES
DIRECTORS' MEETING
JUNE 11, 2012**

Present: Carl Eskridge, Vice Chair; DiAnna Schimek; Jon Camp; Doug Emery; and Jonathan Cook

Absent: Adam Hornung, Chair

Others: Joan Ross, City Clerk; Rod Confer, City Attorney; Rick Hoppe, Chief of Staff; Steve Hubka, Finance Director; Jeff McReynolds, GIS Program Manager; and Miki Esposito, Public Works and Utilities Director

Vice Chair Eskridge opened the meeting at 2:04 p.m. and announced the location of the Open Meetings Act.

I. CITY CLERK

Ross stated with Eskridge acting chair will ask someone to make the motion on the items signed last week. On Public Liquor Hearing Resolutions, #9 carried over, #10 & #11 will be called together. Council received correspondence on Item #12, one for and one against. Items #15 & #16 will be called together. Items #21 & #22 will be called together since both are purchasing contracts. On #53, 11R-62, received correspondence from Urban Development to withdraw, and will need a motion. At the open microphone session have one item.

Cook questioned Camp's agenda item. Camp stated listed to change the sidewalk on the west side of 70th. Cook stated Council dealt with this last fall with an ordinance, and in 2006 with a resolution. The ordinance passed giving the City authority to install the sidewalk and assess property. Why is this back, and why have another public hearing on a decided item? Camp stated several Council Members received calls from concerned citizens questioning some of the process. Thought to put on as a revision, have a public hearing, and Council can decide. Cook stated Council created a sidewalk improvement district, which isn't changed by this resolution. Camp stated if this passes probably would have follow up on modifications. Rather than a lot of last minute amendments Public Works will consider holding the sidewalk pavement until this public hearing.

Carroll stated half of the property owners on the westside have put in sidewalks, spent the money, as Council voted to do twice. Public Works is in a holding pattern to complete the sidewalks, although it's costing people money to wait, and some have paid, so don't see why Council needs to vote for a third time. May make a motion to reject consideration of the resolution. This needs to go away, we voted twice. Don't think we need another public hearing as only a few property owners are left who haven't put in the sidewalks. They had public hearing times to come in and speak before Council with their case.

Esposito stated they granted a stay until we heard what the Council wants to do, but are ready to go and would like to complete the sidewalk.

II. MAYOR

1. NEWS RELEASE. Open House set for South 56th Street design.
2. NEWS RELEASE. Library trustees seek candidates for Board
3. NEWS RELEASE. Lincoln City Libraries to offer Spanish language group.
4. NEWS RELEASE. Reading activities scheduled across City and County.
5. NEWS RELEASE. Sculptor installing brick arch on North 27th Street.

III. DIRECTORS

FINANCE Steve Hubka, Director (Attachment A)

Hubka stated there has been bond ordinances before Council over the last few months. Previously reported the sale of a Waste Water Bond issue, which was successful. The last two weeks have had sales. One was the Highway Allocation Bonds, and the other, Water Refunding Bonds. A quick mention of the highlights: saved on the Highway Allocation Bonds 7.8%, lowered our interest rate from 4.44% to 1.80%. Now have a net present value with benefit of \$2,350,000, annual savings about \$220,000, the par amount of the bonds is reduced because they were sold at a significant premium. Buyers of these bonds are willing to pay a premium, they want a coupon rate, and a lot of times in the 4% to 5% range. Getting a very good premium on the sale of the bonds.

Hubka pointed out on the attachment also listed the results of the Water Bonds sold last week. The ones before were sold on May 22nd. We had a huge present value savings as a percentage, 15%. A re-offering premium of over a million dollars, again reduced the par amount of the bonds. Our average annual savings is about \$195,000 a year, and our interest costs went from 4.93% to 1.82%.

Hubka added these have been extremely successful, and we hit the absolute bottom of some rates. You hear of 30 and 15 year mortgages at their lowest rate ever and we happened to be in the market at the right time. Fortunately having the ordinances passed was very helpful. Council has another on Third Reading today for GO Bonds and looking to sell the week of June 22nd. It is a smaller issue so the dollar savings will not be as large. Started out with the ones having the most potential for savings. Thank you for getting those passed in a timely manner, as it has been very helpful.

Camp asked when we have a premium does it go to us? Hubka replied yes. Camp asked if the reason for a significant decrease in the present value? Hubka agreed, adding plus the interest rate. Camp asked with no pre-payment penalties and same maturity? Hubka stated the length and issues remain the same.

GIS Jeff McReynolds, GIS Program Manager

McReynolds stated he would present the GIS updates. He demonstrated how to pull up the GIS home page, bringing up GIS mapping capabilities, which we have had since approximately 1999. On line, up to date with the most current information. Property ownership is the typical look up. McReynolds pointed out how to progress through the GIS mapping application. McReynolds prompted through the GIS updates of interest. Some items illustrated were the search bar, and sub-sections; the map switcher; book marks; search tool; pictomary; draw and measure tools; Google street view; and the ability to print or create a pdf.

McReynolds also demonstrated how to search by owner name; address; the different options available. Showed access to County Treasurer's website for property information, sales, Assessor's Office. With the pictomary viewer, choosing size, and different views of property. All legal to view. He stated they have internal tools for staff on measurements of property.

Cook asked if the measurement tools are available to the public? McReynolds replied available internally to the City and County, not to the public. Cook thought measurements were previously available, with McReynolds showing which options were open to the public. He added there are separate resources used, although the same vendor.

Camp asked if internally can see the layout of rooms? McReynolds replied nothing is tied to the building footprint information. The Fire Department has some abilities for their pre-plans but nothing is publically available on that site.

Cook asked if this requires a flash player? McReynolds replied yes, and next will work on being available on all different device types. We can now go back several years, showing previous image data. Do have a map switcher capability in collaboration with different departments, delivering various pieces of information. Intent is to have all historic imagery, and data, as far back as possible.

Carroll stated there was talk of putting GIS links on our on line agenda. McReynolds replied still working on. Cook went back to some features only being internal, and questioned why. McReynolds answered as part of the license agreement with the vendor we're licensed for the use of the data and public display is the view of the information, the distance and measurement type capabilities are part of the user agreement. Cook commented we make available everything we can within the legal limitations. McReynolds added this is a collaborative effort between different departments, not just one. Eskridge thanked McReynolds.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

1. Travelers advised to update immunizations. - No comment

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

1. Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 12001 Downtown Master Plan Update.
2. Administrative Approvals that were approved by the Planning Director from May 29, 2012 through June 4, 2012.

No comment

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

1. Director Dave Landis' reply to Shawn Koehler regarding a parking lot question.
 - a) Shawn Koehler's email of May 25, 2012, included in Director's Agenda on June 4, 2012.

No comment

IV. COUNCIL MEMBERS - No comments

GENE CARROLL

1. Letter from Shirley Knutson on denial of claim for damage caused by a City tree.

No comment

V. MISCELLANEOUS - No comment

VI. CORRESPONDENCE FROM CITIZENS - No comment

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Eskridge adjourned the meeting at 2:37 p.m.