

**MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDTABLE SUMMARY**  
**February 14, 2011**

Tracy Corr started the meeting at 5:29 P.M. Monday, February 14, 2011, in the Mayor's Conference Room, County/City Building, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Nineteen citizens and eleven staff attended:

Tracy Corr	40 <sup>th</sup> & A St NA	Jeff Schwebke	Arnold Heights NA
Sue VanHorn	Country Club NA	Elizabeth Katt	East Campus CO
Carolyn Brandle	Eastridge NA	Paula Rhian	Everett NA
Myrna Coleman	Highlands NA	Larry Evermann	Irvingdale NA
Deanna Winter	Irvingdale NA	Dennis Hecht	Meadowlane RA
Scott Zager	Southwood NA	Bill Vocasek	West A NA
Fred Freytag	Witherbee NA	Mike Fitzgerald	Witherbee NA
Bryce Morgan	UN-L	Michele Kalal	UN-L
Russell Miller	Lincoln Neigh Alliance	Nancy Intermill	Midtown Village
Mike Renken	NeighborWorks- Lincoln	Laurel Erickson	Health Dept.
Jonathan Cook	City Council	Wynn Hjermstad	Urban Development
David Ensign	Urban Development	Travis Davis	Urban Development
Jim Peschong	LPD	Scott Opfer	Public Works
Ed Zimmer	Planning Dept.	John McQuinn	City Atty.'s Office
Lin Quenzer	Mayor's Office	Jon Carlson	Mayor's Office

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Tracy Corr opened the meeting and asked the participants to introduce themselves. Attendees checked in on the sign-in sheet.

Bryce Morgan and Michele Kalal announced UN-L's Big Event on April 9, 2011. Applications for job sites are due February 18, 2011. (See handout.)

**MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

Mayor Beutler was testifying at the Unicameral and could not attend this meeting. Mayoral Aide Jon Carlson filled in for the Mayor.

**INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY**

By verbal consensus, the Roundtable agreed to meet during inclement weather unless Urban Development Staff (Dave Ensign) sends an e-mail cancellation notice before

3:00 P.M. the afternoon of the meeting. The Roundtable Chairperson (Tracy Corr) and the Mayor's Aide (Jon Carlson) will collaborate to decide whether to cancel.

Tracy reminded the Roundtable about free off-street parking in the lot across K Street north of the City/County Building.

### **LOCAL LANDMARK DISTRICTS – ED ZIMMER**

Ed Zimmer, Historic Preservation Planner, Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department, presented a PowerPoint slide show on Local Landmark Districts and the National Register of Historic Places. The first of these two basic kinds of designations is the Local Landmark. Both districts and individual properties can be designated as Lincoln Landmarks under chapter 27.57 of the Lincoln zoning code. Unlike National Register listing, designation as a Landmark provides a degree of protection for (and restriction upon) individual property owners. When the City Council approves a Landmark, it also approves a set of preservation guidelines for exterior changes to the landmark. Before an owner can change their property, we must review their plans in light of those guidelines, especially if we require a building permit. The ordinance provides some regulatory effect to preserve historic sites. The local designation shows the public has an interest in historic property, but does not own it. It is a discussion ordinance – the ability to give some guidance through the consulting process. The maximum waiting period under the zoning code is six months. The Haymarket, Hawley, East Campus Neighborhood, Franklin Heights and Capitol Addition are Local Landmark Districts.

The other designation is the National Register of Historic Places. The National Park Service administers the National Register. It is the honor roll of historic properties throughout America. Either individual properties or districts can be listed on the National Register. The Register is more honorary than regulatory. It does not restrict private owners from changing or even demolishing their properties, but it does cause additional reviews, sometimes quite lengthy, of any actions affecting those properties that are federally funded or approved. Greek Row Historic District – the fraternity/sorority houses by UN-L – has individual National Register designation by their choice. Near South has a very large National Register district around First Plymouth Church – Mount Emerald District – and local districts underlay it. University Place has the Charles F. Creighton Landmark District or the University Place Neighborhood National Register District – same boundaries.

Property owners with these designations may receive two tax advantages under certain circumstances: Certified Historic Rehabilitation and Valuation Incentive Program. Certified Historic Rehabilitation can lead to a federal income tax credit. Nebraska added a constitutional amendment allowing Valuation Incentive Program (VIP) for a Nebraska tax credit. An owner can combine these two tax credits on a single project if they meet all guidelines, but cannot use them with Tax Increment Financing (TIF).

Additionally, broader benefits accrue through these two designations to the community and the city. We learn about those places that make our city unique and special. Through the process we learn and convey to a new owner that this is a special area because it has local designation or is on the National Register. With local designation comes the ability to intrude into your neighbors' affairs and they into your affairs, at least concerning exterior appearance of the property.

Woodsshire is in the process of National Register designation. The homeowners' association applied to be listed. Their application progressed through the local preservation commission, the Mayor endorsed it, the State board endorsed it, and Ed mailed it to the National Park Service. In about three months, the National Parks Service will send a letter to the City stating they have listed Woodsshire on the National Register of Historic Places. The area has about 140 houses on 40 acres. By contrast, the Boulevards District has 1,500 houses on 500 acres.

The application process starts with gathering any special information about the area before full development. Before development, Woodsshire area included the grass airstrip where Charles Lindbergh learned to fly. Aerial photographs of nearby Axtell Heights included the airfield. This feature is not significant for the National Register because the grass airstrip no longer exists. For the National Register, an area must have both significance and integrity. Significance tells the story – the history of the area – for example, architecture or association. Integrity identifies the remaining design, appearance, physical fabric that tells the story. Woodsshire lacks that integrity for the Lindbergh story because the airstrip is gone.

The plat of 1925 shows an unusual street pattern and layout. We have a booklet written by the landscape architect, Ernst Herminghaus, describing his notions and landscaping intentions. These features are evident in the current Woodsshire. Aerial photographs of the Lincoln Country Club captured the unique landscaping features during early development of Woodsshire.

An interesting feature of Woodsshire is the lot pricing – a \$5,000.00 house on 17<sup>th</sup> Street or High Street, but a \$7,500.00 house on the interior streets. Sheridan Boulevard had a broader economic mix of \$4,000.00 to \$10,000.00 houses. The principal element is the architecture. Woodsshire was built as a residential area and has a great collection of houses from 1928 through post-World War II before 1957. Woodsshire Homeowners' Association still maintains the traffic circles and the private parkland to the west. Ernst Herminghaus laid out the park to view the capitol tower, but before the tower existed.

Other sources of special information on an area are building permits (dating to 1904 in the city limits); newspapers; city directories (information about residents, *e.g.*, occupation); and obituaries on key individuals.

"Brown-Bilt" area, south of Randolph School (37<sup>th</sup> -40<sup>th</sup>, A-D Streets), is another area in the designation process. Immediately after World War II, Mr. Brown built many houses in the area. Research produced some old photographs and information on land subdivision and building permits. Some platting occurred early (1925), but development happened in the 1940s and 1950s. Interestingly, the area is not all post World War II; they platted small-scale lots at the end of the Great Depression. In 1941, Brown platted the largest portion and another developer opened Randolph Terrace beside. The architecture character is Period Revival – Tudors and Colonial. Brown had a flair for working in stone, brick and frame. The houses in this area possess very high integrity. Because the neighborhood has not chosen a particular designation, Ed will propose National Register because they are not facing a specific zoning threat. The National Register designation will recognize the special, strong character of the area and great neighborhood pride.

View the Woodsshire National Register nomination –  
<http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/plan/bdscom/hpc/reports/2010/decitem5a.pdf>

For more information see the website – <http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/plan/hist/index.htm>

Ed Zimmer, Historic Preservation Planner  
Lincoln City/Lancaster County Planning Department  
555 South 10th Street, Room 210  
Lincoln, NE 68516  
Phone: (402) 441-6360      Fax: (402) 441-6377      Email: [ezimmer@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:ezimmer@lincoln.ne.gov)

Ed fielded questions and comments from the Roundtable.

### **SET MARCH AGENDA**

The next meeting of the Mayor's Neighborhood Roundtable is Monday, March 14, 2011, 5:30 P.M., in the Mayor's Conference Room, County/City Building, 555 South 10th Street, **3<sup>rd</sup> floor**. Next month's agenda will include a presentation on long-grass policy in City parks by the Parks and Recreation Department and a presentation by the Public Works Department on a proposed access management policy.

### **ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 6:28 P.M.

February 9, 2011

Dear Neighborhood Association,

We are The Big Event and we want to help you. Our mission is to give back to local communities through one large day of service. At the University of Nebraska-Lincoln more than 2,100 students, faculty, and staff volunteered in April 2010. We are aiming for 2,500 volunteers and over 200 jobsites in 2011. We want to give thanks to Lincoln this spring as part of The Big Event. The organization is entirely student-run and funded by donations from the community.

This year we are pushing really hard to increase our jobsites at private residences. Last year we worked at a total of ten private residences. Some of the jobs we did were raking their yard, painting fences, and planting trees and flowers; we are looking to perform jobs similar to these. The Big Event is nondiscriminatory in that we are willing to help anyone regardless of need or socioeconomic status. It gives us opportunities to volunteer and thank you for allowing students to live in your town.

This year, The Big Event will be held on April 9, 2011. We know this is a few months away, but we need to start preparing now. We need time to match up all of our volunteers with the jobsites. Once we get the groups matched, individuals called Operation Staff members would come to your house and speak with you one on one to finalize details and address the safety concerns. Then on the day of The Big Event we will transport a group of college student to your home. If you supply the materials, we will get the job done.

If you are interested we can come talk to you personally, over the phone, or through e-mail. You can also look at our website [bigevent.unl.edu](http://bigevent.unl.edu) to get some more background information. To apply for a jobsite, click on the request volunteers link under the community tab. Applications are due **February 18, 2011**. We hope you consider participating and allowing all of us on The Big Event to show our appreciation of Lincoln.

Sincerely,

Bryce Morgan      morgan\_bryce45@hotmail.com  
Michele Kalal      mmkalal@huskers.unl.edu  
The Big Event Community Outreach

THE **BIG**  **EVENT** 2011  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

**ONE BIG DAY.**

**ONE BIG THANKS.**

**APRIL 9, 2011**  
**SIGN UP BEGINS**  
**JANUARY**  
**BIGEVENT.UNL.EDU**

THE **BIG EVENT**, IN ITS 6<sup>TH</sup> YEAR, AT UNL, AIMS TO GIVE BACK TO THE LINCOLN COMMUNITY DURING A ONE-DAY SERVICE EVENT. THIS YEAR'S EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE ON **SATURDAY, APRIL 9TH, 2011**

**JOIN OVER 2,500 STUDENTS, FACULTY, & STAFF TO VOLUNTEER AND GIVE THANKS TO LINCOLN**

**VOLUNTEERING IS EASY!** REGISTRATION WILL BEGIN IN **JANUARY!** ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS VISIT **BIGEVENT.UNL.EDU** AT THE START OF SECOND SEMESTER

**VOLUNTEERS CAN SIGN UP WITH A GROUP OR AS INDIVIDUALS. EITHER WAY, WE ARE ALL GIVING BACK TO THE LINCOLN COMMUNITY!**

**QUESTIONS?** CHECK THE WEBSITE **BIGEVENT.UNL.EDU** OR E-MAIL US AT **THEBIGEVENT@UNL.EDU!**

