AGENDA

JOINT LPS/CITY/COUNTY MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 2, 2004
7:30 A.M.
LPS ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE - 59TH & "O" STREETS

I. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - April 13th, 2004 Joint LPS/City/County Meeting

II. A. PLANNING/PW/LPS/PARKS & REC/YMCA - Joint Planning Efforts for Recreational Facilities among these Agencies (45 Min)

B. County Sheriff's Department/LPD/LPS - SRO Officers (15 Min)

III. **OLD BUSINESS**

IV. **NEW BUSINESS**

V. **FUTURE MEETING DATE** - To Be Determined at This Meeting

VI. **ADJOURNMENT**

080204LPS-Ci-Co

MINUTES

JOINT MEETING
LINCOLN BOARD OF EDUCATION
LINCOLN CITY COUNCIL
MAYOR
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD

August 2, 2004
Lincoln Public Schools District Offices

MEMBERS PRESENT: **Board of Education:** Ed Zimmer-President, Kathy Danek, Doug Evans, Lillie Larsen
City Council: Terry Werner-Chair, Jon Camp, Annette McRoy, Patte Newman
Mayor Coleen Seng
County Board: Ray Stevens-Chair, Bernie Heier, Deb Schorr

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Zimmer called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. He advised that the meeting was being taped for airing at a later time.

MINUTES

The minutes of the April 13, 2004, joint meeting of the Lincoln Board of Education, the Lincoln City Council, the Mayor, and the Lancaster County Board were approved as distributed.

CITY OF LINCOLN/LPS/YMCA – JOINT PLANNING EFFORTS FOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Scott Wieskamp, Director of Facilities for Lincoln Public Schools, introduced Lynn Johnson from Parks & Recreation, Barb Bettin from the YMCA, and noted that Steve Henrichsen from City/County Planning, another member of the SPARKS committee, was unable to attend. He also introduced additional members of the committee that were in the audience: Terry Genrich from Parks & Recreation and Shane Dostal from Public Works. Mr. Wieskamp explained that Eric Kinghorn and Duane Smid from Lincoln Public Schools participated and helped take notes and provided the packets

available at this meeting.

Mr. Wieskamp presented a study of the cooperative efforts of the City of Lincoln/LPS/YMCA joint planning. He explained they have been meeting regularly since January of this year and felt it was pertinent and relevant to meet on a regular basis once a month or sometimes twice a month to discuss many issues such as recreation, roads, utilities, schools, parks, etc.

There was a power point presentation along with a handout given on three different areas. Mr. Johnson presented on facilities and swimming pools. Ms. Bettin presented on fields, more specifically soccer, baseball and softball. Then Mr. Wieskamp explained how they all tie together with utilities, trails, and streets.

Mr. Johnson discussed the continuum of services provided within recreation centers with one end being human services and youth development type activities, and the other end being fitness. An example given was Auld Recreation Center primarily being therapeutic recreation. He noted there were many centers that offered a variety of recreational amenities such as Belmont Recreation Center, F Street Community Center, and Cooper Branch YMCA. Other centers with varying degrees of equipment, gyms, and exercise rooms are Air Park, Calvert and Irving Recreation Centers, and Easterday. He further explained that there were private centers that provided fitness such as Sports Courts, Racquet Club, and Prairie Life Center; however these are not affordable for many residents living in the surrounding neighborhoods.

Mr. Johnson noted the need for more centers and gave an example of a center that would include a potential joint partnership in developing facilities and shared programming that would reduce land acquisition costs, operating costs and site development costs. Recreation center sites identified for the future were in the northwest portion of Lincoln located at somewhere between 27th and 1st Streets, ideally co-located with a school in that area, and possibly being in the Fallbrook area. The YMCA is very interested in this site and it is their number one priority. The other is the Southeast portion of the community, south of Old Cheney Road and east of 70th Street. There are a couple of school sites in that area, again with the opportunity to integrate a community center with a school at that location.

Mr. Johnson explained there is intent to replace the Air Park Recreation Center with a new community center that would be integrated with the new Arnold Heights School. He felt this would be the first opportunity to do a community school model where the recreation center would be integrated within the building. There is also the intent to build a new community center in central Lincoln in conjunction with the Antelope Valley study. Another area of town identified that is not well served is the west Lincoln area. It could perhaps be a cooperative effort with the Willard Community Center or a complimentary effort, possibly located at Roper Elementary School.

Mr. Werner complimented the committee for the collaboration and the cooperation

because it is good for the entire community. He questioned if there have been efforts to bring the private sector into these projects. Ms. Bettin answered that there has been quite a bit of time spent talking with Madonna and Bryan. Although they have a focus in the direction they would like to go, and it probably is not to the extent as when they first started discussing it, that the committee hoped it might be.

Mr. Evans asked Dennis Van Horn, Associate Superintendent for Business Affairs, how much money has been saved by reducing heating and cooling in the buildings, because he has heard of a dramatic drop in participation because of it being too cold. Mr. Van Horn responded LPS and LES are still working on putting that number together, but reminded him the heat was run until 8:00 p.m. and the buildings do not cool down that fast; however, the set point will probably be put back up a couple of degrees. He noted that in December there was a comparison between two identical schools, and in that one month, the district saved about $3,000 on one school, but that number can not be multiplied by the number of schools, because of the differences in schools.

Mr. Evans questioned what was being done about parents not wanting their kids walking on trails because of safety issues, and not being able to keep their eyes on them like they can on the streets and sidewalks. Mr. Johnson responded that Lincoln has been trying to coordinate some type of supervision with adults walking with children, whether it is on trails or streets, to make parents feel safer about sending their kids off to school. He thinks they will have to do some community education and think of ways to encourage children to walk. He shared that obesity is the number one health issue in the nation and the more we can do to encourage our children to get out and walk and participate in a variety of recreation or fitness type activities the better. He thinks that's the reason for developing trails and walking route connections to our schools.

Mr. Werner commented he thinks it is the responsibility of the city to make certain that there are sidewalks that kids can walk on and that they don't allow waivers. He also feels that the school district should design schools and neighborhoods for the purpose of walking.

Mrs. Larsen reminded everyone that with the reduction in school bus service, the pile-up of cars at the buildings, especially elementary, was a big problem. She suggested finding more ways that children could safely walk to school, that would alleviate some of those problems, and parents would feel more comfortable going to work knowing their children were safe.

Ms. Bettin noted that it has been a pleasure working with Scott, Lynn, and Steve on this project, and assured the members that this group truly has the values of inclusiveness and affordable activities and the betterment of our community at heart. She discussed the amount of fields for soccer and the number of athletes needing to play, and how fields are being overused because of it. Both the YMCA and the schools have faced challenges in scheduling games. In order to meet the current demands, the committee feels the city needs eight to twelve new soccer game fields immediately, which is

conservative with the estimated growth of residents by the year 2025.

Ms. Bettin mentioned Spirit Park, because State Farm may expand out onto that site. The committee has talked about having to possibly replace it.

Ms. Bettin noted the committee knows more practice fields are needed throughout the community, but the way it stands right now, every park, every school, every open field is used, and perhaps, in the future, the city needs to look at working with corporations to possibly use their land, and encourage developers to include green space in housing developments in addition to the parks.

Ms. Bettin further stated that because you need a different type of field for game locations, the Southeast and Northwest areas of Lincoln are deficient in those areas. Currently Lincoln has about 52 softball and 16 baseball game fields, with some lighted, which helps extend the playing times. She feels in continuing to make Lincoln the community it is and can be that we don't duplicate services and use our resources to the best, and feels this pro-active committee will continue to provide services to the community at a higher level.

Ms. McRoy asked Ms. Bettin to expand a little more about the Fallbrook facility being integrated with the schools and the community. Ms. Bettin responded that there are several school sites have been looked at in the northwest part of town. It may be a park, a YMCA model, and a school. All where children can walk to it and share possibly gyms, pools, and fields, similar to what was done at Densmore Park.

Mr. Evans questioned how many of the fields had mounds, and how many do the Lincoln Public Schools get to use. Mr. Johnson named a few fields with mounds, and further explained that one thing that Parks & Recreation has found that they will no longer do is make another turf infield baseball field because of the exponential increase in the maintenance costs for those facilities. The need in the future is to develop facilities with skinned infields that would include adjusted baselines for both baseball and softball. A number of facilities are used by a variety of sources. Mr. Evans asked an estimate of how many more fields are needed. Mr. Johnson explained that the increased amount of select teams is creating the demand. He shared that Lincoln compares very well with national standards in fields per capita and the challenge is to continue that ratio into the future.

Mr. Evans asked about the high school fields, if they had mounds on them, and if games could be played on them. Mr. Van Horn responded that LPS facilities are in very cramped spaces and are not quality competition fields. In fact, non-varsity level games are played there, but no varsity games.

Mr. Camp inquired if there has been consideration with any of the city's flood control projects for parking lots and fields where they would not be damaged. He felt working with new malls or churches with large parking lots to co-utilize would be helpful in

planning for parking. Ms. Bettin responded that, because of the parking issue, the committee has also considered looking into turning undeveloped school property into a practice site, before they are developed, for a safe playing area.

Mr. Johnson explained they hoped to come up with a master plan to develop Jensen Park in the southeastern part of the community and find a plan to pay for it. The city of Lincoln's standard is that no parking lots are created in neighborhood parks and this has created a problem. This creates a problem with parking and neighbors, so this co-location of neighborhood parks with school sites will be a benefit. He again reiterated that there is a need for a new community park in northwest Lincoln and Parks and Recreation is working with the YMCA and with Lincoln Public Schools for acquisition and development of that site.

Mr. Johnson shared there are seven neighborhood pools in Lincoln, two community pools, one regional facility, and one competition facility. With the 11 pools, Lincoln just meets the national standard with one pool for 20,000 people. The pools have about a 55-60% cost return, with neighborhood pools returning less than 50% of their operating costs all the way up to Star City Shores at a break even point, which tells the committee that in the future community size pools need to be built. He feels the community should be proud of the quality indoor competition pools located at the six high schools. He further explained that a test case, through the collaboration of Lincoln Public Schools and Parks and Recreation, had three of these pools open this last winter on some Sunday afternoons and charged $1.00 for admission with a maximum of $5.00 per family. This had very good attendance and would like to continue this because it is a very inexpensive way for this community to provide access to water recreation activities during the winter. The committee identified needs for future pools that correspond with the locations of the new community centers. There is also a need for a pool in the far south end of the community, in the west Lincoln area, and with intent for a major regional facility such as Star City Shores off of east "O" Street in the future.

Mrs. Larsen's concern was that with the intent to add new pools, that Woods Pool be maintained for competition since it is the only one that allows for competitive diving that attracts regional and national meets that are really good for the city.

Mrs. Danek asked if there was any sense of why the public uses the pools they choose. Mr. Johnson felt some was because of proximity. He does think that the zero depth entry plays a part. Mrs. Danek questioned if the new pools under consideration to be built will be with the intent to have zero depth entry. Mr. Johnson responded that it was the plan.

Mr. Johnson explained the intent is to make both parks and schools directly accessible from trails. Where sites are not directly adjacent to the trail, a neighborhood connecting six foot walkway that people could ideally walk or ride their bike to school is planned. The intent is to get the development community to pay for these walkways as part of our basic infrastructure. Hopefully the neighborhood associations will be responsible for

maintaining them.

Mr. Wieskamp gave an executive summary of the presentation. He shared that a question was asked by a consulting group on the east coast about how governmental agencies could work together to collaborate on joint facilities like Lincoln is doing. One question was why you are working together. The response was, "Why not?" Mr. Wieskamp expressed that he feels that's the one great thing about this group and working with boards such as this board, and appreciates their time.

Mr. Stevens asked if any of the 13 undeveloped sites for LPS were big enough to co-locate some of these facilities. Mr. Wieskamp responded yes. Mr. Stevens added that then some of these plans outlined could be accomplished. Mr. Wieskamp said that as LPS continues to look at future property purchases, they plan to collaborate with Parks and Recreation on future endeavors.

Ms. Seng thanked the committee and particularly liked the listings of the practice fields and actual fields where games are played. It will be helpful to use, and asked if a listing could be made for the pools for referral. She shared that there are a few areas in the community underserved for pools, such as southeast Lincoln. She requested a separate sheet with pool locations.

Mr. Werner inquired if the committee had talked about ice skating and football in their discussions. Ms. Bettin shared that they are aware that during outdoor play, there is football, rugby, and other non-traditional sports that all use the same practice sites and it does add to the need for more. Mr. Johnson shared that there is an increasing number of select football teams as well expressing an interest in using facilities. There is also a need for an indoor ice arena in this community and they have been working for over four years trying to address that. His opinion is that the greatest opportunity for doing an indoor ice center is with the Kroc Center. They have met with the ice sport interest group who is very interested. The University sees a need for an ice arena in terms of recruiting students here.

Ms. McRoy commented on the fee to play type activities in the high schools. She realizes LPS has not moved there yet, but knows it has been talked about. Would this lessen demand across the board for some of these facilities or would, for example, the YMCA or Salvation Army see an increase because of children not being able to afford these fees? Ms. Bettin feels the demand will still be there and the aggregate number of fields needed would be similar.

Mr. Evans shared that LPS lets private schools use our facilities. These schools are asking when another community facility will be built such as Seacrest. Private contributions paid for this artificial turf. He feels it would be useful as a group to create another Seacrest where soccer, football, rugby, etc., could be played and allow other schools to use it. He asked if anyone had done a cost figure for building another facility. Mr. Wieskamp responded they continue to look for potential sites for a facility, but have

not put a number together at this time.

Mr. Camp would caution and reinforce that whatever we do, we do it well. The children and participants will come if so.

Ms. Schorr inquired how large a facility the community is proposing for an ice arena, and how much space is available at Peter Pan Park. Mr. Johnson explained that the Salvation Army is approaching the Kroc Center in tiers with a three-tier facility. Federal money was used in developing Peter Pan Park, so land is being looked at in some industrial properties to the north and east.

Mrs. Larsen summarized that the field is one thing, but in conjunction with it, if any additional facilities are done, allow for parking, food service, restrooms, and sound systems. These are crucial to a quality field. And she reminded everyone not to forget tennis.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT ON MAY 22 STORM DAMAGE AND RESPONSE

Doug Ahlberg, Director of Emergency Management for Lancaster County, gave an update on the events in Lancaster County since the largest tornado was reported in the state of Nebraska in the southern part of the county. Norris School feels very comfortable they will be able to have classes beginning in September with the use of portable facilities that they will be bringing in there. The clean-up process in the village of Hallam has gone very well. In the past eight weeks there have been 20,602 hours of volunteer service in southern Lancaster County and Gage and Saline Counties. There has been over 4,000 additional hours from various groups around. The Federal Emergency Management Agency basically pays about 75% of the clean-up costs. Excluding the village of Hallam and Norris School, over 3,000 tons of debris was picked up in the southern part of the county in a matter of eight days, for a total cost of about $288,000. The federal government picked up the cost at the rate of $250,000. Volunteers donated time that can be utilized to offset the 12½% cost that the county would incur and we are well over that, and also the 12½% cost that the state of Nebraska would have to pick up. We have well exceeded the cost to cover these. This also includes donated pieces of equipment. The tornado was on the ground for 52 miles and affected the entire portion of southern Lancaster County to a width of 2¼ miles. The second time, an additional 600 tons of debris was picked up. The volunteer hours are quite a credit to the people who live in this city, this county, and this state. The federal government anticipated they would be here through the end of September. They are all gone except for three. He is meeting this afternoon with a representative to work on various project sheets to make sure state and county are reimbursed.

Mr. Stevens commented this would have been a tremendous dollar cost to Lincoln and Lancaster County if it had not been for all the volunteers who came forward to help.

There was almost $300,000 in donated services on the part of residents of Lancaster County that will not have to come out of the pockets of taxpayers.

Mr. Heier pointed out the importance of remembering there was just as much damage outside Hallam and Hickman as there was in the entire county. He talked about entire farms blowing away and volunteers helping pick up debris so the farmers can plant their crops. The farm economy is very important to the county and the state of Nebraska.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no old business items discussed at this portion of the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no new business items discussed at this portion of the meeting.

FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the Lincoln Board of Education, the Lincoln City Council, the Mayor, and the Lancaster County Board was scheduled for Monday, November 1, 2004, 7:30 a.m. The City will host the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT OF JOINT MEETING

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 a.m.