

# MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDTABLE SUMMARY

March 14, 2016

Tracy Corr opened the meeting on Monday, March 14, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room, City/County/Building, in Lincoln, NE.

## **Attendance**

Twenty-one residents and three City staff attended:

Tracy Corr – 40 <sup>th</sup> & A NA	Carl Tesch – Autumn Wood NA
Russ Irwin – Clinton NO	Rifka Keilson – Country Club
Paul Johnson – East Campus CO	Ray Crisp – Eden Park NA
Paula Rhian – Everett NA	Nick Hernandez – Havelock NA
Kurt Elder – Haymarket NA	Myrna Coleman – Highlands NA
Scott Richert – Indian Village NA	Amy Karabel – Irvingdale NA
Dennis Hecht – Meadowlane Area RA	Nate Blum – Prescott Area NA
Mike DeKalb – University Place CO	Bill Vocasek – West A NA
Jon Carlson – Mayor's Office	Wynn Hjermsstad – Urban Development Dept
Adam Rhoads – Health/KLLCB	Russell Miller – Lincoln Neigh Alliance
Mike Renken – NeighborhoodWorks-Lincoln	Amanda Huckins – Near South NA
Barb Bartle – Lincoln Community Foundation	Sarah Peetz – Lincoln Community Foundation

## **Welcome & Introductions**

Everyone introduced themselves. Paula Rhian volunteered to take notes.

## **Mayor's Comments**

Mayor Beutler was unable to attend. Jon Carlson, Mayor's Aide, reported that the next biennial budget discussions would be starting soon. The Taking Charge surveys will be used again.

## **Prosper Lincoln**

Barbara Bartle and Sarah Peetz of the Lincoln Community Foundation presented an update on the *Prosper Lincoln* campaign. The presentation covered the beginning of the project with the Lincoln Vital Signs to today's current three target areas of Nurturing Youth, Developing Employment Skills and Fostering Innovation. See **Attachments 1 and 2**. These links may also be helpful:

- Prosper Lincoln home page: <http://www.prosperlincoln.org/>
- Prosper Lincoln Slam Poets: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rxYbC-HLFV8&feature=youtu.be>

## **Announcements**

- University Place Community Organization will hold their 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Easter egg hunt on Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in UPCO Park at 40<sup>th</sup> and Adams.
- Dennis Hecht distributed the Meadowlane Area newsletter.

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Mayor's Neighborhood Roundtable will be April 11, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. The topic is to be determined.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:30 p.m.

*Submitted by Paula Rhian.*

# Attachment 1



## GET INVOLVED

Opportunity is about being at the right place at the right time, but it isn't luck, it is intention. Opportunity is about people, and their collective community, who purposely put it there.

Lincoln is fortunate to be full of people who, together with great intent, create opportunities for everyone so that our community can truly prosper.

Engaging people across all sectors to enhance what our community has to offer, especially in the areas of early childhood, employment skills and innovation, is what Prosper Lincoln aims to do.

Join us. Get involved.  
Lift Lincoln Higher.

 Prosper  
Lincoln



## MAKE POSITIVE CHANGE



Prosper Lincoln

Using the findings from **Lincoln Vital Signs** as a starting point, Prosper Lincoln brought people together from across our community to establish a shared agenda and set priorities for positive change that will make our city even better.

Prosper Lincoln invited representatives from all sectors of our city – **businesses, nonprofit organizations, neighborhoods, government, faith communities, education, philanthropies and individuals** – to answer, “What should our community do to ensure youth are successful, our economy grows and our community is strong and vibrant?”

More than **2,100 ideas** were gathered and used to create a Community Agenda with three priority areas. Now Prosper Lincoln is inviting YOU to Lift Lincoln Higher – be inspired to take action and move the agenda forward. **It is because of people like you**, that our community will truly prosper.

# COMMUNITY AGENDA

Create an environment of success for everyone through these focused efforts.

## NURTURE EARLY CHILDHOOD

Creating equal opportunities for all children in their early years is vital to Lincoln's prosperity. Access to quality early childhood development, including good nutrition, health care and strong family structure, enables children to go to school, ready to learn, and develop into successful community citizens.

**GOAL: Lift Lincoln Higher by nurturing every child on the path to success.**



## DEVELOP EMPLOYMENT SKILLS

Having a workforce with the talent to do well is vital to Lincoln's prosperity. The demand for increased knowledge and capabilities is at an all time high. Developing employment skills helps make sure careers with advancement opportunities, higher wages and good benefits are possible.

**GOAL: Lift Lincoln Higher by providing opportunities for people to realize career aspirations.**



## FOSTER INNOVATION

Being a city of innovation that consistently focuses on new ideas for our community is vital to Lincoln's prosperity. Building a culture of innovation that feeds the soul of the next generation of creative thinkers, and striving to be the most connected city, helps ensure our community will thrive.

**GOAL: Lift Lincoln Higher by creating a vibrant culture of innovation.**



Learn more and get involved  
at [ProsperLincoln.org](http://ProsperLincoln.org)

# LIFT LINCOLN HIGHER

What will you do?

## TODAY

- Explore ProsperLincoln.org for a deeper look into the initiative
- Share your comments and thoughts on social media and use #prosperlincoln
- Tag 10 friends to get them involved
- Like our Facebook page and invite others to do so
- Sign up for updates on ProsperLincoln.org
- Upload your photo in the community section on ProsperLincoln.org
- Find every opportunity to start a dialogue about the effort

## TOMORROW

- Volunteer in one of the focus areas
- Mentor a young child or young adult
- Recruit coworkers to volunteer or donate
- Write a letter to the editor about the Agenda
- Continue to share our posts on your social channels
- Make a donation at ProsperLincoln.org
- Join events and activities in your area

## BEYOND

- Visit website periodically to read others' experiences and ideas
- Advocate for Prosper Lincoln Agenda items with policymakers
- Set and pursue an "innovation" goal for yourself
- Involve your current organizations to further the cause
- Initiate a reading or service club for the Agenda item that interests you
- Continue to volunteer your time
- Attend local activities to support the initiative
- Check ProsperLincoln.org for additional ideas and information

Get involved and share your  
commitment at **ProsperLincoln.org**



# Attachment 2



**Lincoln Vital Signs 2015.**  
**Be informed. Get involved.**

Lincoln Vital Signs 2015 is a continuation of the work begun more than a year ago. Commissioned by philanthropic organizations, the business community, City of Lincoln and Lancaster County, this report builds on Lincoln Vital Signs 2014 which was introduced in January 2014. For much of our updated report, we have two additional years of accumulated data to draw from as we provide a shared understanding of our city—both its strengths and challenges.

During the coming year, this report will become the centerpiece of a community-wide process to set priorities and action to make Lincoln even stronger.

**WHAT'S NEW?**  
Vital Signs 2015 finds that Lincoln remains the envy of many cities across the country. The strength of our economy continues to draw people here while helping to maintain a positive quality of life, good schools, livable neighborhoods and arts and cultural activities.

In addition, this year's report discovered several trends indicating that many sectors of our economy are rebounding from the recession.

- BUILDING PERMIT VALUES ARE UP DRAMATICALLY
- JOBS ARE AVAILABLE
- HOMELESSNESS IS DRIPPING
- LOW UNEMPLOYMENT RATE CONTINUES TO DROP
- CRIME REMAINS LOW

The economic upturn is not the same for everyone. Several findings are of concern:

- THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN POVERTY REMAINS HIGH
- HOUSEHOLD INCOMES HAVE DECLINED WHEN ADJUSTED FOR INFLATION
- UNEMPLOYMENT REMAINS HIGH FOR RESIDENTS WITH LOWER LEVELS OF EDUCATION AND PERSONS FROM MINORITY POPULATIONS
- THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE IS HIGHER THAN THE NATIONAL AVERAGE

**OVERALL FINDINGS** Three overarching themes continue to emerge from the report:

- 1** Lincoln has exceptional strengths and these should be nurtured. More people choose to move here, drawn by our low unemployment and cost of living. We continue to maintain high graduation rates, low crime, good health outcomes and effective civic services.
- 2** A growing proportion of our population faces real need. Median household income has declined and the number of people living below the poverty line has increased. The increase is primarily due to families falling into poverty, not people in poverty moving here.
- 3** Some of our children are vulnerable and at risk. The face of poverty in our city is the face of a white child. More than 12,000 of our children, or 20% live in poverty—the largest percentage of any age group. That translates to 12,000 children. We have a higher rate of children in foster care than the national rate.

## Be Informed

Go to  
[www.LincolnVitalSigns.org](http://www.LincolnVitalSigns.org)

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## Community Agenda Narrowing Process

2,105 ideas generated by Lincoln community stakeholders.

Public Policy Center organized all ideas into 57 broad topic areas.

Sub-committee developed draft criteria for narrowing ideas.

Through several meetings and online surveys, Steering Committee narrowed down to 3 big ideas that became the shared community agenda.

Work Groups built an action plan around each idea of the shared agenda.

Shared plan publicly, celebrate, and begin to implement collectively.

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# Prosper Lincoln Community Agenda

Early Childhood  
Employment Skills  
Innovation

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## Prosper Lincoln Infrastructure

**Developers**

**Support Organizations**

**Oversight Committees**

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## Early Childhood Infrastructure

**Michelle Suarez**

Developer



Support Organization

**Dr. Marjorie Kostelnik  
John Neal**

Oversight Co-Chairs

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## Employment Skills Infrastructure

**Bryan Seck  
Mike Milbourn**

Developers



Support Organizations

**Dr. Dan Hohensee  
Kim Russel**

Oversight Co-Chairs

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# Innovation Infrastructure



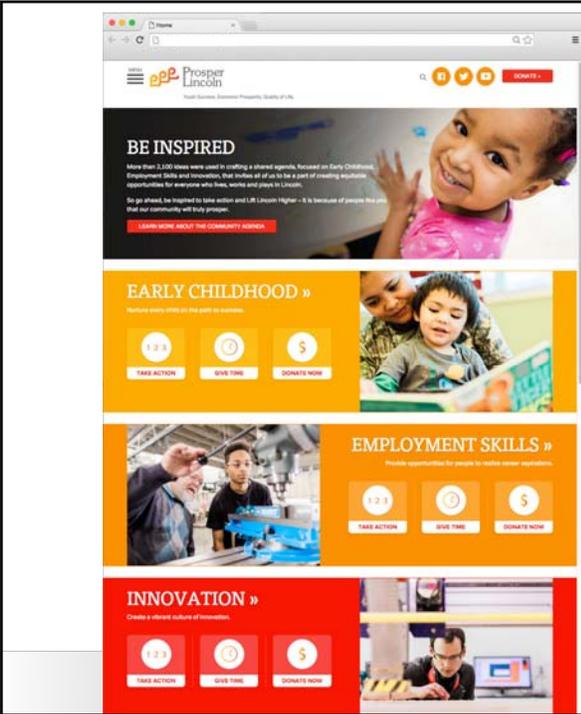
**Dan Duncan  
Jay Wilkinson**

*Support Organizations*

*Oversight Co-Chairs*

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# Get Involved

Go to [www.ProspersLincoln.org](http://www.ProspersLincoln.org) to find ways to get involved and take action.



**LIFT  
LINCOLN  
HIGHER**