

MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDTABLE SUMMARY
March 12, 2012

Tracy Corr started the meeting at 5:31 P.M. Monday, March 12, 2012, in the Mayor's Conference Room, County/City Building, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Twenty-four citizens and five staff attended:

Tracy Corr	40 th & A St NA	Jeff Schwebke	Arnold Heights NA
Russ Irwin	Clinton NO	Sue VanHorn	Country Club NA
Kurt Elder	Downtown NA	Ann Bleed	East Campus CO
Lillie Larson	East Pioneers	Carolyn Brandle	Eastridge NA
Paula Rhian	Everett NA	Sharon Johnson	Everett NA
Myrna Coleman	Highlands NA	Scott Richert	Indian Village NA
Larry Evermann	Irvingdale NA	William Carver	Near South NA
Scott Zager	Southwood NA	Kent Prier	Taylor Park NA
Luci Prier	Taylor Park NA	Bill Vocasek	West A NA
Fred Freytag	Witherbee NA	Jayne Sebbby	Woods Park NA
Mike Renken	NeighborWorks - Lincoln	Shawn Ryba	NeighborWorks - Lincoln
Pat Anderson-Sifuentez	NeighborWorks - Lincoln	Jacob Grell	CLCs
Meghan Sullivan	Stronger, Safer	Wynn Hjermsstad	Urban Development
David Ensign	Urban Development	Lin Quenzer	Mayor's Office
Milo Mumgaard	Mayor's Office		

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Beutler did not attend.

COMMUNITY BUILDING – NEIGHBORWORKS@LINCOLN (NW-L)

Pat Anderson-Sifuentez, Community Builder, and Shawn Ryba, Director of Community Building, presented information on NW-L's community building programs.

Homeownership. Pat discussed the Homeownership program and the Homebuyer Training program. Each program is available to prospective home owners whose income is at, or below, 80% of Lincoln's median income as established by HUD. (See Attachment A.)

Shawn presented information on programs designed and developed based on neighborhood dialogue.

Partnership with University of Nebraska - Lincoln and Nebraska Wesleyan University.

- Cash Mob, March 14, 5:00 - 6:00 P.M., Northside Café, 48th & Saint Paul Avenue (2701 North 48th Street); bring \$5 to \$10 to support a local business. Students plan two more at other locations.
- Neighborhood Satisfaction Survey in Belmont, University Place, East Campus and Woods Park neighborhoods. Students design and conduct door-to-door and mail surveys. Students learn about surveys and tabulate the data for neighborhood analysis and use.
- SCAN Surveys. Eighty UN-L students will survey Woods Park neighborhood.

Lincoln Neighborhood SCAN (Attachment B) completed surveys in Clinton, Malone, University Place, Irvingdale and Everett neighborhoods. Trained neighborhood residents inventory their area and enter data in PDA's – housing stock, graffiti, junk cars, litter, *etc.* Woods Charitable Fund recently granted \$40,000.00 to fund this program. Contact Shawn to survey your neighborhood. Building and Safety Department will train Lincoln residents about codes and dangerous or unsafe conditions.

Community Engagement Initiative (CEI) (Attachment C) trains neighborhood leaders during thirteen sessions (one and one-half hour each) tailored to each neighborhood. Upon completion, the neighborhood leaders submit an application for a \$3,000.00 mini grant to fund their project. Interested neighborhoods contact Shawn. East Campus, University Place and Havelock neighborhoods may participate in the Spring CEI. Currently, NW-L offers this training free.

Shawn mentioned the Neighborhood Extra article about the most recent CEI (Attachment D).

Lincoln Policy Network meets monthly. Next meeting is Wednesday, March 21, 5:30 P.M., Realtors Association of Lincoln, 8231 Beechwood Drive. Speakers present ideas to improve Lincoln.

Shawn requested the Roundtable complete the Lincoln Policy Network Priority Ballot 2012 (Attachment E). Lincoln Policy Network successes and initiatives appear on the reverse of the ballot. Also, see the reverse of the Lincoln Neighborhood SCAN handout (Attachment B).

"Our Street" on KZUM 89.3 FM Radio, each Monday, 11:00 A.M. to Noon. (See reverse of Attachment B.) Neighborhoods could market themselves in a 10- to 20-minute feature. Call during the show: 402-474-5086 E-mail: ourstreet@kzum.org.

Pat circulated a KZUM sign-up sheet.

Contact Pat at 402-477-7181 Ext. 102 or panderson@nwlincoln.org
Contact Shawn at 402-477-7181 Ext 109 or sryba@nwlincoln.org

Website: <http://nwlincoln.org/>

Pat and Shawn fielded questions and comments.

SET APRIL AGENDA

The next meeting of the Mayor's Neighborhood Roundtable is Monday, April 9, 2012, 5:30 P.M., in the Mayor's Conference Room, County/City Building, 555 South 10th Street, **3rd floor**. Next month's agenda will include a presentation on Problem Properties by Jon Carlson and Chris Connolly.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 P.M.

Homeownership Program

Mortgage counseling and assistance is provided for income-eligible homebuyer education graduates who can secure 0% interest second mortgages to help with down payment, closing costs and repairs.

Homebuyer Training

The first step in buying a home is to become an informed consumer. Our Homebuyer Education classes will give you the knowledge and skills you need to make a wise home purchase decision.

Topics included in the classes are:

- Evaluating your finances
- Credibility and the need for positive credit
- Working with Realtors
- Understanding financial paperwork
- Selecting the appropriate loan packages
- Learning the responsibilities of homeownership



If you have adequate income and a positive credit history, NeighborWorks®Lincoln can help you make the best housing choice. We offer a certified home buyer training program and individualized assistance throughout the home buying process. Our program works anywhere within the City of Lincoln.



Want to participate in our program?

- 1) Complete an application online or contact the office
- 2) Attend the classes
- 3) Pre-approval process
- 4) Find your home
- 5) Successful closing

Classes:

Homebuyer Education Classes will be held monthly and are typically four 3-hour long evening classes. Invitations are mailed 10 days prior to the first class. All adult applicants must attend all 4 classes.

Financial Integrity Sessions will be offered to those clients who, based on the information provided to us in their applications, are determined not to be ready to purchase a home at this time.

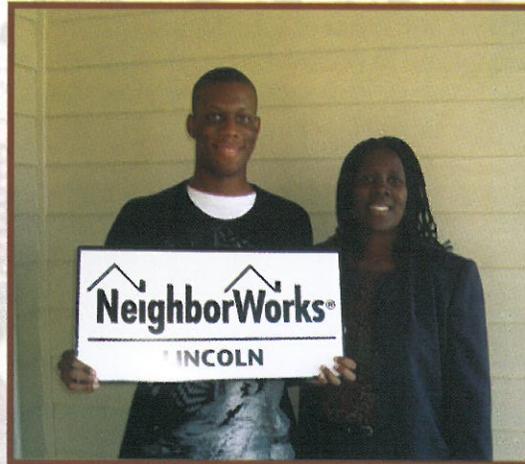


Unlocking the Door to Homeownership



Establishing Homeownership

Homeownership is essential in establishing and sustaining livable and safe neighborhoods. NeighborWorks Lincoln works with households to help them realize homeownership.



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402-477-7181

www.NWLincoln.org

Our Mission

To Keep Lincoln a safe and prosperous community by revitalizing neighborhoods and promoting home ownership.



EQUAL HOUSING
OPPORTUNITY

Unlocking the Door to Homeownership



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Lincoln Neighborhood Scan

Lincoln Neighborhood Scan will work with neighborhood volunteers to customize a scan to correctly evaluate and record code violations and a housing stock inventory. Lincoln Neighborhood Scan is an enforcement and education program that will provide proactive tools to residents concerned about deteriorating structures, graffiti, litter, weeds, junk cars, vacant properties—all sorts of safety and environmental issues in their neighborhood.

Lincoln Neighborhood Scan consists of a partnership between the City of Lincoln's Urban Development Department, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, NeighborWorks Lincoln and residents from focus neighborhoods. The program is sponsored by the Woods Charitable Fund and NeighborWorks America.

The program will provide resident volunteers with:

- Personalized neighborhood training sessions;
- Hand-held PCs to help train residents to "rate" property conditions and violations;
- and volunteer stipends.

Initial Steps

- Identify volunteers from the neighborhood who are willing to be trained.
- Volunteers receive Pocket PCs and digital cameras.
- Volunteers will be trained to conduct "walking" surveys and to record violations, take stock of housing and environmental issues on easy, customized forms on Pocket PCs to create a data base.

Neighborhood Benefits

- The information will be used to help homeowners understand problems and identify resources to make repairs.
- City code enforcers can use the information in addressing dangerous or unsafe conditions.
- Will help the neighborhood define the breadth of problems; note problem types; decide which can be addressed.
- Will assist neighborhood in determining neighborhood improvement goals.
- Information can be used to funnel additional home improvement resources to the focus neighborhood.

Lincoln Policy Network

The Lincoln Policy Network (LPN) has been established to examine issues that are causing problems in older neighborhoods or limiting the implementation of effective solutions to those problems. LPN is comprised of neighborhood residents from numerous Lincoln neighborhoods, business owners, landlords, and representatives from the City that have an interest in preserving the core neighborhoods.

Current initiatives that LPN is working on to improve problems properties are:

1. Better contact information for property owners-particularly out of county/state
2. Shortening the time frame that a building can be red-tagged uninhabitable to two years and increasing the consequences for properties that stay out of code compliance for more than one year.
3. Improving on-line reporting potentially through the new Accela software.

We all have concerns about continuous problems in our neighborhoods. Please help find solutions by joining the Lincoln Policy Network. For more information, please contact Shawn Ryba at 477-7181 or sryba@nwlincoln.org.

Our Street KZUM 89.3

KZUM 89.3 has a radio show called Our Street that has been on air for over a year. The co-hosts Lynn Fisher, Great Place Properties and Shawn Ryba, NeighborWorks Lincoln discuss key challenges facing Lincoln's core neighborhoods every week on Mondays 11 AM-noon. Every week Lynn and Shawn will invite community guests/experts, highlight neighborhood associations, resources, programs and community activities.

The goal of the show is to help identify the many ways citizens can get involved and take an active role in the Lincoln community. Listeners are encouraged to call-in during the show with questions or comments pertinent to the current topic of discussion. The number to call during the show is 402-474-5086. Comments, questions and topic ideas can be shared by e-mailing ourstreet@kzum.org. Also, the show's schedule and other information can be found on Facebook by searching Our Street KZUM. Podcasts can be found by visiting www.KZUM.org.

Course Descriptions

Foundational Sessions

Session 1: A Leadership Orientation: Identify leadership goals and vision for your community

Session 2: We Got Skills: Mapping Community Assets

After this training, you will:

- Recognize the many types of assets – people, places and things - located in your neighborhoods.
- Be able to make a simple asset map and use it to move your work forward.
- Understand the difference between a needs assessment and an asset map, and how you can use them together.

Session 3: Building Winning Teams

After this training, you will:

- Know ten keys to effective team building
- Be better able to identify and address barriers to effective teams
- Know each other better as teammates



Attachment C



Group Dynamics Sessions

Session 4: Leadership in Real Life

After this training, you will:

- Recognize leadership skills in yourself and others
- Have ideas for how to grow leaders in your community
- Understand why it's important to apply your leadership skills to situations at work, home, school, etc

Session 5: Tips for Effective Communication

After this training, you will:

- Have concrete practice with communication skills one on one, in small groups and in front of large groups
- Have a strong understanding of verbal and nonverbal forms of communication
- Strengthen your listening skills as a way to support strong communication

Session 6: Keeping Cool in Conflict

After this training, you will:

- Have concrete strategies for de-escalating conflict in a group.
- Understand the positive impact that conflict can have on a group.
- Understand the stages of conflict and how to intervene in them.

Community Challenge Sessions

Session 7: Using Community Building to Create Change

After this training, you will:

- Understand the four core elements of community organizing: Leadership Development/Political Education, Base Building/Member Recruitment & Retention, Organizational Development & Campaign Development
- Know concrete examples of community organizers who made a difference in their community and in the world
- Practice using each of the four core elements of community organizing

Session 8: Mapping Power for Community Change

After this training, you will:

- Understand what power is and how it works
- Know 8 steps to creating a power map
- Be able to create a power map that can be used to address a community problem

Session 9: Planning Campaigns that Work

After this training, you will:

- Understand that many community problems can be tackled with a collective plan of action
- Know what a campaign is and have some examples of campaigns that have improved the lives of residents
- Have concrete strategies and tools for planning an effective campaign

Session 10: Staying Strong through Recruitment and Retention

After this training, you will:

- Have developed an effective 'pitch' to engage new members
- Understand the importance of investing in members
- Have simple strategies for recruiting and engaging members

Community Leadership Skill Building Sessions

Session 11: Leading Great Meetings

After this training, you will:

- Know ten facilitation skills that help meetings go well
- Be able to make adjustments in challenging meeting situations
- Know ten strategies for helping to get meetings back on track
- Have experience using a meeting planning tool

Session 12: The Quick Dirt on Evaluation

After this training, you will:

- Have a basic understanding of different evaluation tools and how to use them
- Have an increased commitment to using evaluation to make your community work more effective
- Be able to create your own survey tools

Session 13: Using Planning to Create Action

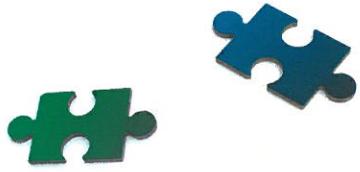
After this training, you will:

- Know 5 steps for creating a strong work or action plan
- Be able to use a work or action plan to organize the work of a group
- Understand the importance of having a shared work plan for community organizing

Sponsored by NeighborWorks® Lincoln, NeighborWorks® America

The generous support of the Cooper Foundation and State Farm Insurance makes this training series possible.

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Participant Outcomes

- Developing Agents of Change: Develop leadership capacity in residents so that they can continue to be agents of change in their communities
- Community Engagement & Leadership Development: Build community engagement through leadership development training
- Building An Empowered Community Base: Support resident leaders in building their skills and their confidence as leaders in their community

Training Methods

The training will consist of some classroom discussion/activities, Lincoln Community Scan (PDAs), project implementation, "Photo voice" and/or neighborhood block walks.



NeighborWorks® America

NeighborWorks® America is a national nonprofit organization created by congress to provide financial support, technical assistance and training for community-based revitalization efforts. Together with national and local partners, NeighborWorks® America creates new opportunities for residents while improving communities.

NeighborWorks® Lincoln

NeighborWorks® Lincoln is a local community-based housing organization working to revitalize Lincoln's neighborhoods. It is a nonprofit organization that operates as a voluntary partnership of neighborhood residents, local partners and city government.



For more information about the Community Engagement Initiative, call 402-477-7181.



Community Engagement Initiative (CEI):

Building Leaders, Building Communities



About NeighborWorks® Lincoln Community Engagement Initiative (CEI): Building Leaders, Building Communities

The Community Engagement Initiative (CEI) will provide tools and techniques to develop enhance the leadership skills of anyone interested in building a stronger neighborhood community. CEI will provide a framework for hands-on learning and a forum for discussing specific neighborhood issues. The CEI will also provide opportunities for the sharing of best practices and solutions to neighborhood problems. CEI will invite local leaders and facilitators to help identify effective, efficient strategies and tools to community challenges.

At the conclusion of the CEI training, participants or neighborhood residents will create an action plan and will be tailored to meet the specific needs and interests of the participants. Participating neighborhood associations will receive a \$2,500-\$3,000 grant towards the implementation of the action plan, which they will begin to prepare through the CEI training. NeighborWorks® Lincoln staff will be available as a resource to assure projects reach completion.

Residents use training opportunity to strengthen Lincoln neighborhoods

Residents from the Irvingdale, Near South and Everett Neighborhoods participated over the last six months in a new resident leadership development training called Community Engagement Initiative (CEI).

The training offers tools and techniques to develop and enhance resident leadership skills.

CEI provides a framework for hands-on learning and a forum for discussing specific neighborhood issues, sharing

of best practices and identifying solutions to neighborhood problems. Guest speakers and NeighborWorks Lincoln staff facilitated a series of sessions, which included such topics as mapping community assets; building winning

teams; keeping cool in conflict; recruitment and retention; and using planning to create action.

Residents from the three neighborhoods completed over 18 hours of leadership development training on Feb. 18. Participants from each neighborhood have created their own respective action plans for a neighborhood improvement project that will be completed by the end of 2012. The three action plans will be submitted to NeighborWorks Lincoln in the form of a mini-grant and each project will receive up to \$3,000 to assist with the implementation and completion of the projects.

Some preliminary project ideas include setting up a new disc golf park, development of a healing garden, conducting

a neighborhood satisfaction survey and placement of neighborhood historic signage.

NeighborWorks Lincoln has worked to develop the training with the support of NeighborWorks America, the Cooper Foundation and the Lincoln Community Foundation.

Neighborhood groups are being recruited to participate in the training, which will be offered again in the spring and fall of this year.

If you or your neighborhood association would like more information about the Community Engagement Initiative, call 402-477-7181 or visit www.nwlincoln.org.



In back row, from left: Richard Haden, Mary Rachael, Bill Hunter, Alene Swinehart, Molly Phemister, Pam Dingman, Kevin Huff; middle row, from left: Meghan Sullivan, Jim Heydt, Pat Bracken, Bill Johnston, Shannon Johnson; front, from left: Ann Watt, Pat Anderson-Sifuentez, Kitty Fynbu, Rosina Paolini. Not pictured: Jon Carlson, John Atkeison, Shawn Ryba and Kim Higgins. See article above. COURTESY PHOTO

Lincoln Policy Network Priority Ballot 2012

Please mark your top two priorities with 'X'

____ Adopt dangerous dog ordinance

____ Restore sidewalk maintenance funding

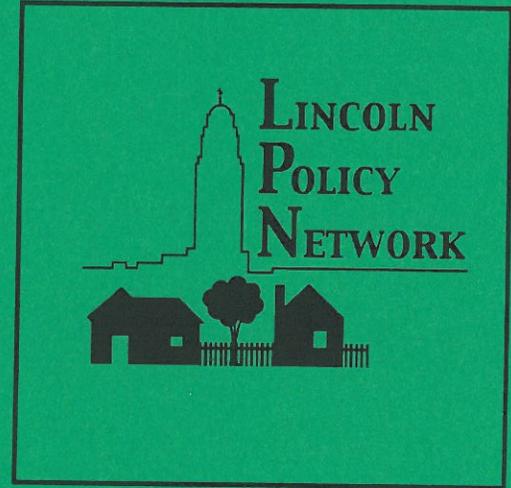
____ Adopt commercial property codes (currently no code)

____ Vacant, dilapidated properties

Pencil in other priorities not listed above:

____(1.)

____(2.)



Lincoln Policy Network Accomplishments

INITIATIVES IN PROGRESS:

- Neglected building ordinance
- Mandatory registered agent
- Improve City's on-line reporting system (Action Line)
- Rehab codes

SUCCESSSES:

- Maintained 6" weed ordinance
- Increase in code violation fines
- Adoption of updated international property maintenance code
- Adoption of performance-based inspection ordinance
- Adoption of a graffiti ordinance
- Adoption of a city-wide mandatory trash ordinance
- Adoption of an upholstered furniture ordinance