

MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDTABLE SUMMARY

May 8, 2017

Tracy Corr opened the meeting on Monday, May 8, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room, City/County/Building, in Lincoln, NE.

Attendance

Fifteen residents and six City staff attended:

Tracy Corr – 40 th & A NA	Russ Irwin – Clinton NA
Paul Johnson – East Campus CO	Pat Anderson-Sifuentez – Everett NA & NWL
Curt Donaldson – Hartley NA	Myrna Coleman – Highlands NA
Scott Richert – Indian Village NA	Dennis Hecht -- Meadowlane Area RA
Rich Furasek – Meadowlane Area RA	Russ Meyer – Taylor Park NA
Mike DeKalb – University Place CO	Bill Vocasek – West A NA
Russell Miller – Witherbee NA	Randy Smith – Woods Park NA
Shawn Ryba – South Downtown	Willa DiCostanzo – Health, KLLCB
Lin Quenzer – Mayor's Office	Jon Carlson – Mayor's Office
Andrew Thierolf – Planning Dept	Wynn Hjermsstad – Urban Development Dept
Mayor Beutler	

Welcome & Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves. Paul Johnson agreed to take meeting notes.

Mayor's Comments

- Discussed City Council election. He feels that the elected candidates will support neighborhoods.
- Near South neighborhood voted not to support the Accessory Building proposal. Other neighborhoods expressed concerns about enforcement and lack of maintenance.

Neighborhood Mini-Grants: *Christie Dionisopoulos, Director, Lincoln Parks Foundation, 402-441-8258; director@lincolnparks.org*, Lincoln Parks Foundation – 25th year of the Foundation. Offices are with the Parks & Recreation department. [See Attachment 1.](#)

- \$5,000 per year available for mini-grants to be split between projects
- Have been involved in large & small projects
 - Small projects include tree planting, park renovations
- Can take ideas from the community & then combine different funding sources to apply to projects. Usually want matching funds or equivalent support from the neighborhoods
- The Foundation allows tax-deductible donations from community to be channeled back to the neighborhoods. Example is street trees replacement.
- Can also connect project to vendors used by the Parks Department for better priced equipment & supplies
- Current Year's Funding
 - Stransky Park Concerts & Pioneer Park project funds have been allocated
 - Approximately \$3,000 left to distribute
- Foundation & Parks Department have contacts with many outside organizations that may be interested in supporting projects. Resources from the outside groups could be combined to make a project work. In 2016 there were approximately 1200 donors for 55 projects.

Neighborhood park projects require a bond to the Parks Department in case the project is not maintained in the future. The bond provides funds to revert the park back to its pre-project condition.

Proposed Zoning Text Amendment: Solar Facilities - Steve Henrichsen, AICP, Development Review Manager, Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Department, 402-441-6374; shenrichsen@lincoln.ne.gov.

Solar Facilities text amendment that would allow limited size solar facilities in residential districts. See **Attachment 2**.

- Large commercial projects have special permits.
- Proposed change would allow for special permits for small neighborhood projects.
- No changes to current solar on individual houses.
- Residential project would sell power to LES; limited to 100 KW projects.
- Does not apply to wind projects that have separate permit process.
- Came about by Capital Beach neighborhood forming an L.L.C. with two other neighborhoods. They hope proceeds will help finance future neighborhood projects.

Proposed Zoning Text Amendments: Steve Henrichsen, AICP, Development Review Manager, Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Department, 402-441-6374; shenrichsen@lincoln.ne.gov.

Steve highlighted some of the proposed text amendments to the Zoning Ordinance. See **Attachment 3**.

- Amending the amount of advance time required for public meeting notice in the Lincoln Journal Star. The goal is to continue to advertise eight days in advance although the City Charter and State Law require five. Errors at LJS led to this consideration.
- Removing the density “penalties” for community unit plans between 1 and 10 acres. This will be advantageous for small projects.
- Amending parking requirements for restaurants in B-1 and B-3 zoning districts for consistency with restaurants serving wine and beer.
- Allowing community gardens in front yards.
- Other revisions have been collected by City staff over the past several years, and range from correction of minor errors, to deletion of obsolete provisions, to more substantive changes that streamline approval processes for City staff and the public and eliminate burdensome requirements.

Comments should be directed to George Wesselhoft, AICP, Planner, Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Department: 402-441-6366; gwesselhoft@lincoln.ne.gov. The Planning Commission public hearing is May 24th with City Council public hearing June 12th.

Announcements

- Mike DeKalb announced the Uni-Place market will begin May 14th from 3:00-7:00 p.m. and will continue throughout the summer. It is located at 48th & Leighton.
- Tracy Corr reported the College View neighborhood has also started a market to be held at the College View Church, at 4801 Prescott Avenue, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. beginning the first Wednesday in June.
- A walking tour with Ed Zimmer will take place in Woods Park on May 13th beginning in the east parking lot at Woods Park.
- Jon Carlson reported that the Near South Tour of Homes will be held on Mother’s Day, May 14th. Tickets can be purchased through Nearsouth.org and at Russ’s Markets.

- Willa DiCostanzo with Keep Lincoln and Lancaster County Beautiful announced a Household Hazardous Waste Collection on May 20th at Zoetis, 601 W Cornhusker. Call her for more information at 402-441-8035.
- Shawn Ryba, Executive Director of South Downtown CBO, announced the receipt of a \$75,000 matching grant to be used to replace trees lost to the emerald ash borer, painting bike lanes, expanding community gardens and LED street lights.

Next Meeting/Agenda

The next meeting of the Mayor's Neighborhood Roundtable will be June 12, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. The topics will be the affects of food deserts, and the implications for Lincoln.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Notes submitted by Paul Johnson.