

MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDTABLE SUMMARY

May 14, 2018

Tracy Corr opened the meeting on Monday, May 14, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room, City/County/Building, in Lincoln, NE.

Attendance

Thirteen residents and five City staff attended:

Tracy Corr – 40 th & A NA	Jennifer Powell – Country Club NA
Paul Johnson – East Campus CO	Karen Dienstbier – Eastridge NA
Pat Anderson-Sifuentez – Everett NA & NWL	Jeremie Memming – Indian Village NA
Dennis Hecht -- Meadowlane Area RA	Mike DeKalb – University Place CO
Nic Vocasek – West A NA	Fred Freytag – Witherbee NA
Russell Miller – Witherbee NA	Randy Smith – Woods Park NA
Mark Koller – Community HOPE FCU	Lin Quenzer – Mayor's Office
Jon Carlson – Mayor's Office	Lynn Johnson – Parks & Recreation
Wynn Hjermstad – Urban Development	Chris Beutler -- Mayor

Welcome & Introductions

Tracy Corr, Chair, led the introductions. Paul Johnson volunteered to take notes.

Mayor's Comments

Community Learning Centers (CLC's) provide before and after school activities and programs for low-income students. Federal dollars comprise a small portion of CLC funding. The City of Lincoln, Lincoln Public Schools and several non-profits have formed a patchwork of partnerships to provide the rest of the funding. To give some specific programs a more consistent funding base and more certain future for the youth, the idea of a joint public agency (JPA) was suggested. After unfavorable reactions, an alternative idea of an inter-local agreement between the City and LPS has been suggested, with the funded programs unchanged. The programs being supported would still include School Resource Officers (SRO's) for middle schools, mental health treatment and learning programs — all to prevent criminal activity and provide treatment and out of school activities. The City Council will vote on the current proposal on 5/21/18. The proposed \$400,000 for mental health would fund additional LPS mental health professional to work with nonprofits.

Roundtable comments:

- The JPA seemed like a better long-term funding mechanism because it would not be part of the City and LPS general budgets.
- Low-income families often find it more difficult to speak up for themselves, so they depend on others to remember their needs and develop programs that address those needs.

Community HOPE Federal Credit Union – Mark Koller, CEO, 402-476-0376; mkoller@communityhopefcu.org.

In 2011, the Woods Foundation saw that payday loans were a problem. The Foundation decided to provide funding for a credit union with a somewhat different mission. The charter for the Community HOPE Federal Credit Union was finally granted in 2017 and it opened for business in September of that year.

Community HOPE is a nonprofit financial organization. It provides an alternative to payday or cash advance lenders for low-income Lincoln residents who are unserved or under served by mainstream banks or credit unions. **See Attachment 1.**

- Membership in Community HOPE is primarily from residents of Census Tracts that have a majority of households with less than 80% of Lincoln's median income. Persons who live, work, worship, attend school or seek relief from poverty in these Census Tracts can join.
- Voting members must have at least \$5 in a Community HOPE account.
- As a nonprofit, Community HOPE can accept donations.
- Community HOPE can do auto loans, debt consolidation loans, and Payday Advantage Loans (PALs)

Responses to Roundtable Comments:

- The National Credit Union Association (NCUA) sets the current boundaries. Eventually, Community HOPE would like to expand.
- A few University of Nebraska – Lincoln students are members.
- The availability of loan funding is based on credit union deposits – funds are never completely loaned out.
- Community HOPE has a very small advertising budget. In addition to using social media, they would like to promote through neighborhood association newsletters. Community HOPE staff are available to do presentations at neighborhood association meetings.
- Lincoln Literacy staff has done an excellent job of promoting Community HOPE to their clients. Promotion by other nonprofits would also be appreciated.

2018 Taking Charge Budget Survey – Lynn Johnson, Director, Parks & Recreation, 402-441-8265; ljohnson@lincoln.ne.gov.

To prepare for the upcoming bi-annual budget process, the City will use both a statistically valid survey and opinion-type surveys to evaluate public perceptions and preferences. The surveys, available soon, will seek input on street maintenance, parks maintenance, and City services in general.

The Mayor is asking Neighborhood Roundtable attendees to encourage their neighborhood residents to complete the survey.

Responses to Roundtable comments:

- The citizen satisfaction survey will be given to a randomly selected group through UNL’s Public Policy Center.
- Surveys are due by June 1st and the budget needs to be completed and approved by City Council and the Mayor by September 1st. This year there is a compressed time period so that Council members receive it earlier and have more time for review.

Announcements

- An Open Studio and an Open House on the Downtown Master Plan are scheduled for Tuesday, May 22 and Wednesday, May 23, respectively. Both are open to the public and will be held in the Telegraph District, at 330 N. 21st Street, near the coffee shop.
 - *There was a question about the status of the Telephone Museum. It is closing due to lack of public support for moving and maintaining the museum.*
- Public input on the City’s 5 Year Strategic Plan for HUD Entitlement Programs can be provided to the Urban Development Department until June 7th. An informational meeting will be held June 4th, noon to 1:00, at the Urban Development Department office. Comments and questions are welcome and encouraged. The Plan is available on the Urban Development Department website.
- The Hawley Home Tour, sponsored by NeighborWorks-Lincoln, will be Sunday June 10, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. The tour begins at NW-L’s historic offices at 2530 Q Street. **See Attachment 2.**
- Child Advocacy Center information flyer was distributed to meeting attendees. **See Attachment 3.**
- May 31 is “Give to Lincoln Day”. The 24-hour event encourages people to donate to local nonprofit organizations. The event is coordinated by the Lincoln Community Foundation in partnership with local nonprofits. The impact of donations are greater because recipient nonprofits receive a proportionate share of a \$400,000 matching fund made available by the Lincoln Community Foundation and generous sponsors. Please give generously!
- The Public Works & Utilities Department wants to meet with neighborhood associations to discuss on-going projects and get input on ways they can help with identified needs.
- University Place is sponsoring UPCO Days for a second year, starting June 3 and continuing for the next 10 days.

Next Meeting/Agenda

The next meeting of the Mayor's Neighborhood Roundtable will be June 11, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. The topic is TBD.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted, Paul Johnson.