

MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDTABLE SUMMARY

July 10, 2017

Tracy Corr opened the meeting on Monday, July 10, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room, City/County/Building, in Lincoln, NE.

Attendance

Eleven residents and six City staff attended:

Tracy Corr – 40 th & A NA	Jennifer Powell – Country Club NA
Paul Johnson – East Campus CO	Karen Dienstbier – Eastridge NA
Curt Donaldson – Hartley NA	Scott Richert – Indian Village NA
Dennis Hecht -- Meadowlane Area RA	Mike DeKalb – University Place CO
Bill Vocasek – West A NA	Russell Miller – Witherbee NA
Bennie Shobe – City Council	Willa DiCostanzo – Health, KLLCB
Lin Quenzer – Mayor's Office	Jon Carlson – Mayor's Office
Frank Uhlarik – Mayor's Office	Wynn Hjermstad Urban Development Dept.
Mayor Beutler	

Welcome & Introductions

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

Mayor's Comments

Environmental Action Plan is developed for this & future years. The document will be released at a 7/11/17 press conference. He is looking for comments & priorities from public. The City administration feels that climate change is a problem & will work at the local level to develop a plan for the local community.

Environmental Action Plan

Presentation by Frank Uhlarik, Sustainability & Compliance Administrator, Mayor's Office: 402-441-7588, fuhrarik@lincoln.ne.gov.

An environmental action plan for Lincoln was originally envisioned in 2008. Conceptually, the plan seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase recycling, conserve water, encourage alternative transportation, and leave a cleaner city for future generations. Plan developers looked into efforts of a number of regional cities and then developed a unique plan for Lincoln – the Lincoln Environmental Action Plan (or LEAP). **To view the LEAP, go to www.lincoln.ne.gov, keyword: LEAP.**

The plan was formed from the work accomplished by the Mayor's Environmental Task Force. The Task Force had five subcommittees which addressed Energy, Land Use, Transportation, Waste, and Water. A total of 14 Action Strategies are outlined in those five categories. The Action Strategies are not only good for the community, but also are economically beneficial. In fact, the Plan highlights local businesses that are already making sustainability a priority. Grants are available for a number of programs.

The public is encouraged to review the draft LEAP (see link above) and share their comments and questions through Monday, August 7th. Comment online (www.lincoln.ne.gov, keyword: LEAP) or at the Open House being held at Gere Library on Wednesday, July 26, from 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm. Gere Library is at 2400 S. 56th Street. City officials will be available to discuss plan details and answer questions.

Comments and observations from Roundtable attendees:

- San Antonio has solar-powered bike sharing stations.

- Multiple waste haulers travel the neighborhoods multiple times per week. Hard on streets, inefficient fuel usage.
- Highlighted businesses are not the only companies doing the work, but are businesses that have been leaders in the programs in the past. Highlight/recognize businesses that do lead the community.
- Question to Mayor – will future budgets show funding for these projects?
- Energy efficiency – New homes & buildings are mentioned, but older properties should be encouraged to increase efficiency.
 - Lincoln codes have, for several years, been a leader in requiring more efficiency.
- Nissan Leaf offers buyouts of poor leases. Perhaps the City should buy several of these used vehicles for use by City departments.
- The reduced/limited mowing in public parks not only saves money, but is environmentally friendly while reducing storm water & increasing pollution control. The public needs to be educated about the benefits; perhaps educational signage should be used to explaining the reasons/benefits.
- Where possible, consider using under-maintained areas of parks for community/urban gardens on the forefront of environmental issues, such as Prairie Land composting, need more public recognition.
- Schools should teach environmental stewardship & social responsibility more.
- Community members should take more ownership & pride in their neighborhood & city.
- Additional points that could be included in the Action Plan:
 - Things that City has already done.
 - Other governmental agencies such as LES, LPS that have worked for many years to lead City where it is now.
- FAQ's are included with the Plan that is posted on the website highlighting questions that people may be asking about the Plan.

Announcements

- **Whitehall Treats & Tea:** Sunday, June 30th, 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm, 5903 Walker Avenue. The public is invited.
- **Assessment of Fair Housing survey is now available.** For more background information, see the "New!" box on UDD's home page (www.lincoln.ne.gov, keyword: urban). To go directly to the survey, go to www.lincoln.ne.gov, keyword: AFH.
- **1st annual UPCO Day:** August 5 & 6: Mark your calendars. There will be various neighborhood activities, including Whitehall and a car show.

Next Meeting/Agenda

The next meeting of the Mayor's Neighborhood Roundtable will be August 14, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. Efforts will be made to make Green Light Lincoln the topic.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Notes submitted by Paul Johnson.