

# **DIRECTORS' ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

**Monday, July 12, 2021**

**555 S. 10<sup>th</sup> Street**

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

## **I. MINUTES**

1. Approval of Directors' Minutes from June 14, 2021
2. Approval of Directors' Minutes from June 21, 2021

## **II. ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA**

## **III. CITY CLERK**

## **IV. MAYOR'S OFFICE**

## **V. DIRECTORS CORRESPONDENCE**

### **PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

1. Administrative Approvals from June 29, 2021 through July 5, 2021
2. Action dated July 7, 2021
3. Final Action dated July 7, 2021

## **VI. BOARDS/COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPORTS**

1. DLA – Ward, Meginnis (06.22.21)
2. PRT – Beckius (06.24.21)
3. PAC – Shobe, Beckius, Meginnis (06.29.21)
4. Parks and Recreation – Washington (07.08.21)

## **VII. CONSTITUENT CORRESPONDENCE**

1. New Chief of Police – Gina King  
Staff response provided by Councilman Shobe
2. Redistricting – Kristie Pfabe
3. Street Parking – Kelly Sneed
4. Pioneers Golf Course Historic Tree – Jessie Barth  
Staff response provided by Cheri Howard, Office Specialist, Mayor's Office  
Staff response provided by Wade Foreman, Golf Business Coordinator, Lincoln City Golf
5. Van Dorn Park restoration – Carol Van Dorn  
Staff response provided by Lynn Johnson, Director, Parks and Rec
6. Please protect Nine-Mile Prairie – Maribeth Milner
7. Protect Nine-Mile Prairie – Sylvia Bailey
8. Use of relief funds – Daryl Dickerson
9. Change of Zone 21020, south of downtown PUD clarification – Vish Reddi, President, NSNA
10. Resolution 704 of the Lincoln Airport Authority – Ramona Beck, Office Manager, Lincoln Airport Authority
11. Nine-Mile Prairie and the TIF Initiative – Joni Day  
Staff response provided by Cheri Howard, Office Specialist, Mayor's Office
12. Blight designation for Nine-Mile Prairie – Lorrie Benson
13. Development near Nine-Mile Prairie – Nancy Becker



# *Memorandum*

**Date:** ♦ July 6, 2021

**To:** ♦ City Clerk

**From:** ♦ Rhonda Haas, Planning Dept.

**Re:** ♦ Administrative Approvals

**cc:** ♦ Geri Rorabaugh, Planning Dept.

This is a list of City administrative approvals by the Planning Director from June 29, 2021 through July 5, 2021:

**Administrative Amendment 21030**, to Change of Zone 15016B, Wilderness Creek PUD, approved by the Planning Director on June 29, 2021, to update the site plan to show the layout and drainage information for the multi-family project with up to 480 units on Lot 1 Block 8, on property generally located at S. 33<sup>rd</sup> Street and Wilderness Hills Boulevard.

**Administrative Amendment 21034**, to Pre-Existing Use Permit 13D, Briarhurst Center, approved by the Planning Director on July 1, 2021, to allow tents, parking, and product display and sales in the 50-foot setback to the north property line, on property generally located at Highway 2 and S. 48<sup>th</sup> Street.

## **\*\*ACTION BY PLANNING COMMISSION\*\***

**NOTICE:** The Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, July 7, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. in Hearing Room 112 on the first floor of the County-City Building, 555 S. 10<sup>th</sup> St., Lincoln, Nebraska. For more information, call the Planning Department, (402) 441-7491.

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE:** The Planning Commission action is final action on any item with a notation of **\*FINAL ACTION\***. Any aggrieved person may appeal Final Action of the Planning Commission to the City Council or County Board by filing a Notice of Appeal with the City Clerk or County Clerk within 14 days following the action of the Planning Commission.

The Planning Commission action on all other items is a recommendation to the City Council or County Board.

**The Planning Commission will be allowing testimony on agenda items by videoconferencing. For those who wish to testify by video, you must register with the Planning Department Office to participate by calling 402-441-7491 or emailing [Plan@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:Plan@lincoln.ne.gov) by 10:00 a.m. the day of the meeting. You will be asked to provide your name, address, phone number and the agenda item(s) you wish to speak on, and your position on this item. On the day of the hearing, you will receive a link via email, which will be needed to join the hearing to provide your testimony.**

### **AGENDA**

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 7, 2021**

**[Commissioner Ryman Yost absent; Commissioner Scheer arrived at 1:02 p.m.]**

Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held June 23, 2021. **\*\*APPROVED: 5-0; (Scheer absent; 2 vacant seats)\*\***

Resolutions of Appreciation presented to Tom Beckius and Deane Finnegan. **\*\*Tom Beckius – ADOPTED; 6-0; Resolution PC-01762; and Deane Finnegan – ADOPTED; 6-0; Resolution PC-01763 (Ryman Yost absent; 2 vacant seats)\*\***

- 1. CONSENT AGENDA:**  
**(Public Hearing and Administrative Action);**

**ANNEXATION AND RELATED ITEMS:**

- 1.1a ANNEXATION 21003, to annex approximately 48.06 acres, more or less, including the adjacent right-of-way in South 70th Street, on property generally located at South 70th Street and Rokeby Road.  
**Staff recommendation: Approval**  
**Staff Planner: Brian Will, 402-441-6362, [bwill@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:bwill@lincoln.ne.gov)**  
**Planning Commission recommendation: APPROVAL: 6-0 (Ryman Yost absent; 2 vacant seats). Public hearing before the City Council is tentatively scheduled for Monday, July 26, 2021, 5:30 p.m.**
- 1.1b CHANGE OF ZONE 21022, from AG (Agricultural District) and R-3 (Residential District) to R-5 PUD (Residential District Planned Unit Development), with associated waivers and adjustments to Title 26 Land Subdivision and Title 27 Zoning, on property generally located at South 70th Street and Rokeby Road.  
**Staff recommendation: Approval**  
**Staff Planner: Brian Will, 402-441-6362, [bwill@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:bwill@lincoln.ne.gov)**  
**Planning Commission recommendation: APPROVAL: 6-0 (Ryman Yost absent; 2 vacant seats). Public hearing before the City Council is tentatively scheduled for Monday, July 26, 2021, 5:30 p.m.**
- 1.1c CHANGE OF ZONE 21023, from AG (Agricultural District) to R-3 (Residential District) for approximately 6.7 acres, on property generally located at South 70th Street and Rokeby Road.  
**Staff recommendation: Conditional Approval**  
**Staff Planner: Brian Will, 402-441-6362, [bwill@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:bwill@lincoln.ne.gov)**  
**Planning Commission recommendation: CONDITIONAL APPROVAL, as set forth in the staff report dated June 23, 2021: 6-0 (Ryman Yost absent; 2 vacant seats). Public hearing before the City Council is tentatively scheduled for Monday, July 26, 2021, 5:30 p.m.**

#### **SPECIAL PERMITS:**

- 1.2 SPECIAL PERMIT 1194B, to allow five dwelling units in the R-4 Residential District in a local landmark building, with waivers, on generally located at 745 D Street. \*\*\*  
**FINAL ACTION \*\*\***  
**Staff recommendation: Conditional Approval**  
**Staff Planner: Stephanie Rouse, 402-441-6373, [srouse@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:srouse@lincoln.ne.gov)**  
**This application was removed from the Consent Agenda for public hearing. Planning Commission 'final action': CONDITIONAL APPROVAL, as set forth in the staff report dated June 29, 2021: 6-0 (Ryman Yost absent; 2 vacant seats). Resolution No. PC-01764.**

- 1.3 SPECIAL PERMIT 13050A, to expand an existing CUP (Community Unit Plan) boundary by adding Lot 15, generally located at South 115th Street and Panama Road. \*\*\* FINAL ACTION \*\*\*  
**Staff recommendation: Conditional Approval**  
**Staff Planner: Tom Cajka, 402-441-5662, [tcajka@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:tcajka@lincoln.ne.gov)**  
**Planning Commission 'final action': CONDITIONAL APPROVAL, as set forth in the staff report dated June 24, 2021: 6-0 (Ryman Yost absent; 2 vacant seats). Resolution No. PC-01765.**
- 1.4 SPECIAL PERMIT 21013, to allow for a new CUP (Community Unit Plan) for 5 lots, on property generally located at SW 84th St. and West "O" St. \*\*\* FINAL ACTION \*\*\*  
**Staff recommendation: Conditional Approval**  
**Staff Planner: Tom Cajka, 402-441-5662, [tcajka@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:tcajka@lincoln.ne.gov)**  
**Planning Commission 'final action': CONDITIONAL APPROVAL, as set forth in the staff report dated June 29, 2021: 6-0 (Ryman Yost absent; 2 vacant seats). Resolution No. PC-01766.**

**USE PERMIT:**

- 1.5 USE PERMIT 19003A, to allow for up to 200 multi-family units, 200 persons within a residential healthcare facility and/or up to 270,000 square feet of commercial floor area, with an additional waiver to reduce internal setbacks to zero, on property generally located at the SE Corner of North 27th Street and I-80.  
**Staff recommendation: Conditional Approval**  
**Staff Planner: Rachel Christopher, 402-441-7603, [rkchristopher@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:rkchristopher@lincoln.ne.gov)**  
**Planning Commission recommendation: CONDITIONAL APPROVAL, as set forth in the REVISED staff report dated June 28, 2021: 6-0 (Ryman Yost absent; 2 vacant seats). Public hearing before the City Council is tentatively scheduled for Monday, July 26, 2021, 5:30 p.m.**

**WAIVER:**

- 1.6 WAIVER 21004, to waive the paving and sidewalk for Pine Tree Lane, on property generally located at North 7th Street and Pine Tree Lane. \*\*\* FINAL ACTION \*\*\*  
**Staff recommendation: Conditional Approval**  
**Staff Planner: Rachel Christopher, 402-441-7603, [rkchristopher@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:rkchristopher@lincoln.ne.gov)**  
**Planning Commission 'final action': CONDITIONAL APPROVAL, as set forth in the staff report dated June 23, 2021: 6-0 (Ryman Yost absent; 2 vacant seats). Resolution No. PC-01767.**

2. **REQUESTS FOR DEFERRAL: NONE.**

3. **ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA: See Item 1.2.**

4. **PUBLIC HEARING AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION:**

**USE PERMIT:**

- 4.1 USE PERMIT 126G, to amend the existing use permit with associated waivers to building height and parking for residential uses on Lot 3, on property generally located at Wilderness Woods Place and Executive Woods Drive.

**Staff recommendation: Conditional Approval**

**Staff Planner: Rachel Christopher, 402-441-7603, [rkchristopher@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:rkchristopher@lincoln.ne.gov)**

**Planning Commission recommendation: CONDITIONAL APPROVAL, as set forth in the staff report dated June 14, 2021: 6-0 (Ryman Yost absent; 2 vacant seats). Public hearing before the City Council is tentatively scheduled for Monday, July 26, 2021, 5:30 p.m.**

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**AT THIS TIME, ANYONE WISHING TO SPEAK ON AN ITEM  
NOT ON THE AGENDA, MAY DO SO.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Adjournment      1:50 p.m.**

## PLANNING COMMISSION FINAL ACTION NOTIFICATION

**TO:** Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird  
Lincoln City Council

**FROM:** Geri Rorabaugh, Planning

**DATE:** July 7, 2021

**RE:** Notice of final action by Planning Commission: July 7, 2021

Please be advised that on June 23, 2021, the Lincoln City-Lancaster County Planning Commission adopted the following resolutions:

**Resolution PC-01762**, resolution of appreciation for Tom Beckius' 4+ years of service as a Planning Commission member;

**Resolution PC-01763**, resolution of appreciation for Deane Finnegan's 4+ years of service as a Planning Commission member;

**Resolution PC-01764**, approving SPECIAL PERMIT 1194B, to allow five dwelling units in the R-4 Residential District in a local landmark building, with waivers, on property legally described as Lincoln Original, Block 204, Lot 1, N54' & N54' E1/2 Lot 2, located in the SE 1/4 of Section 26-10-6, Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska, generally located at 745 D Street;

**Resolution PC-01766**, approving SPECIAL PERMIT 21013, to allow for a new CUP (Community Unit Plan) for 5 lots, on property legally described as the SW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 and Lot 16, located in the NE 1/4 of Section 27-10-5, Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska, generally located at SW 84th and West "O" Streets; and

**Resolution PC-01767**, approving WAIVER 21004, to waive the paving and sidewalk for Pine Tree Lane, on property legally described as Lots 1 and 2 and Outlot A, Grandview Heights 3rd Addition, located in the SE 1/4 of Section 2-10-6, Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska, generally located at North 7th Street and Pine Tree Lane.

The Planning Commission action on these applications is final, unless appealed to the City Council by filing a notice of appeal with the Planning Department within 14 days of the action by the Planning Commission

The Planning Commission Resolutions may be accessed on the internet at [www.lincoln.ne.gov](http://www.lincoln.ne.gov) (search for "PATS"). Click on "Planning Application Tracking Service (PATS)" at the top of the page, click "Selection Screen" under "PATS Tools" on the right side of the screen, type in the application number (i.e. SP1194, SP21013, WVR21004), click on "Search", then "Select", and go to "Related Documents".

## Angela M. Birkett

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**From:** Bennie R. Shobe  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 29, 2021 10:10 AM  
**To:** Angela M. Birkett  
**Subject:** Re: New Chief of Police

Good morning Ms. King,

Thank you for your email and your encouragement.

bennie

Bennie Shobe  
Lincoln City Council  
At Large Representative.  
bshobe@lincoln.ne.gov  
531-207-2926

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**From:** Rae King [mailto:rking529@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 28, 2021 6:28 PM  
**To:** Council Packet <CouncilPacket@lincoln.ne.gov>  
**Subject:** New Chief of Police

Council:

I encourage you to vote for approving the Mayor's recommendation of Teresa Ewins for Chief of Police.

The police union has gone on record as supporting this choice, and to me this is important.

As with many situations, there will be citizens not happy with the choice. I researched all the candidates, and listened to all of the candidate forums. As a community activist involved in addressing mental health and homeless issues, I support this nomination. And....look forward to visiting with Chief Ewins in the future as we address tough issues TOGETHER.

Thank you for your leadership. One only has to read all the comments on the LPD Facebook page today to know that we have much work to do in our community as many of the comments reflect bigotry, prejudice etc.

Thank you

Gina King  
2935 N. 53rd  
Lincoln, NE



## Angela M. Birkett

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**From:** Kristin Pfabe <kpfabe@nebrwesleyan.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 29, 2021 12:57 PM  
**To:** Council Packet  
**Subject:** redistricting

Hi Lincoln City Council,

Could you please let me know answers to these questions?

1. Who will be involved in redistricting process for new city council districts?
2. When will the redistricting take place?
3. Will there be opportunities for input from the community?

Thank you, Kristie Pfabe

## Angela M. Birkett

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**From:** Sneed, Kelly A <kelly.sneed@unmc.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 30, 2021 11:36 AM  
**To:** Council Packet  
**Subject:** street parking

I received a parking ticket, rightly so, as I was extended over a driveway about 12 inches and I'm sure the homeowner called due to loneliness, boredom and sadness and my other thought that it couldn't have been a random patrol because there were other cars parked rudely that were not given tickets.

What I am talking about is the lack of street parking for students, faculty and staff that is compounded by drivers who take up 1 ½ to 2 parking spaces due to the way they park. Along many stretches of streets in this immediate area, 8 cars should be able to park adequately but only 3 are able to due to the crappy parking. As I, many times, walk to and from my car, ciatic nerve acting up, pass many a spots that could accommodate more vehicles had appropriate parking been done. Was wondering if the idea of marking side streets where parking is allowed with lane lines as they do downtown with meters. Same premise, but just because there are no meters doesn't mean they couldn't be marked. Should they have to be?...no, but because people don't think of others, they need to be.

Thank you for your consideration. It also would be worth looking into tickets to see how many are for over the driveway.

*Kelly Sneed*

Radiology Technician  
UNMC College of Dentistry  
40<sup>th</sup> & Holdrege St  
Box 830740  
Lincoln, NE 68583-0740  
402-472-1369

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**Angela M. Birkett**

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**From:** jessie barth <jessicabarth7@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 30, 2021 12:31 PM  
**To:** Cheri L. Howard  
**Cc:** Parks Counter Registrations; Council Packet; Mayor  
**Subject:** Re: Pioneers Golf Course Historic Tree Removal - Please Reconsider!

Cheri, thank you for the prompt update. This is incredible news, and I appreciate you sharing the plan with me. I know many others will be overjoyed as well!

Thanks,  
Jessie Barth

On Wed, Jun 30, 2021 at 12:05 PM Cheri L. Howard <[CLHoward@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:CLHoward@lincoln.ne.gov)> wrote:

**Good news, Mr. Barth – and I apologize for the informality but wanted to share with you right away.**

~~~~~  
**From:** Wade E. Foreman <[WForeman@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:WForeman@lincoln.ne.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 30, 2021 11:16 AM  
**Subject:** Pioneers Hole #5 update

Good Morning Golf Advisory Committee,

A quick update for the Golf Advisory Committee. From the initial “look” at grading with moving the fairway #5 we had anticipated that the root system of the large cottonwood would likely be impacted and might necessitate removal of the tree. As part of the process we asked a civil engineering firm to develop a detailed grading plan for the new #5 fairway. We received the engineered grading plan for review earlier this week and after staff meetings plus onsite discussions with a grading company we are able to confirm that the grading to create the new fairway will not impact the large cottonwood as much as originally thought. This is certainly good news from our perspective, and I anticipate it will also be good news to those who have an appreciation for the tree to stay. **The large cottonwood tree will not be removed as part of the new fairway renovation to the east.**

Thank you

**Wade Foreman**  
**Golf Business Coordinator**  
**Lincoln City Golf**  
**3761 Normal Boulevard**  
**Lincoln, NE 68506**

(402) 441-3862

**Thank you so much for your thoughtful correspondence. Please feel free to reach out anytime!**

*Cheri*

**Cheri Howard**

Office Specialist / Constituent Services

Office of the Mayor

O: 402-441-7511 | Direct Ext. 7512

555 South 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 301  
Lincoln, NE 68508

[lincoln.ne.gov](http://lincoln.ne.gov)

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**From:** jessie barth <[jessicabarth7@gmail.com](mailto:jessicabarth7@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 30, 2021 11:58 AM

**To:** Parks Counter Registrations <[Parks@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:Parks@lincoln.ne.gov)>; Council Packet <[CouncilPacket@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:CouncilPacket@lincoln.ne.gov)>; Mayor <[mayor@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:mayor@lincoln.ne.gov)>

**Subject:** Pioneers Golf Course Historic Tree Removal - Please Reconsider!

Hello,

I've lived in Lincoln nearly my whole life, and one of my continued loves of our city is it's commitment to our green spaces and our trees. Some of my most poignant childhood memories are the tree-lined streets and parks of our city, and I feel privileged to share the same wealth with my two young boys. We are always on the lookout for the "elder trees" around town and often visit the aged Cottonwood on East Campus with a sense of reverence and awe.

I was made aware today that there are plans in the works to remove this historic wonder of nature on the fifth green of Pioneers golf course. I can't help but wonder, is there a more forward-thinking way to preserve this wonderful old tree and adjust planning for one of the many, many golf courses in our city?

Please, for the sake of the wildlife surrounding it, the ecosystem and birds, insects, and more that this tree supports. Or just for my kids, grown-ups' inner children, and Lincoln kids of the future, I hope that the powers that be can understand the critical importance of keeping the Pioneers golf course lush and filled with aged trees like this one. Fairways can be retooled, plans can adjust, and historic trees can be preserved. They are so intrinsically valuable to our existence and our community.

Thank you for your consideration, and I hope a better plan is in the works.

Jessie Barth

402-613-9324



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## Angela M. Birkett

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**From:** Lynn Johnson  
**Sent:** Friday, July 02, 2021 9:05 AM  
**To:** Carol Van Dorn  
**Cc:** Council Packet; Maggie Stuckey  
**Subject:** RE: Van Dorn Park restoration,  
**Attachments:** VanDornParkarticle 11-14-21.tif

Good morning Ms. Van Dorn. My name is Lynn Johnson and I serve as the Parks and Recreation Director in Lincoln, Nebraska. Thank you for contacting me out about Van Dorn Park. The purpose for my message is to share some information about the history of park, temporary use of an area in the western portion of the park for material storage, and the continuing evolution of use of the park.

In the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Van Dorn Park was a very active community park that was easily accessible from residential neighborhoods to the north and east. A major arterial street was extended through the eastern portion of the park in the 1940's over the objections of the Parks and Recreation Director at that time. This street was expanded in the 1950's, and in the 1990's a four-lane bypass was constructed along the northern border of Van Dorn Park. An average of 55,000 vehicles per day, many of them semi-trucks, currently travel the roads that abut Van Dorn Park according to recent traffic counts.

The heavily trafficked roads largely cutting Van Dorn Park off from pedestrian traffic from residential neighborhoods to the north and east has resulted in a dramatic decline in park use. An electronic copy of an article about Van Dorn Park that was included in our local newspaper in November 2020 is attached.

About ten years ago, the City of Lincoln consolidated operations and maintenance vehicle parking in a former large industrial building in north Lincoln. The Parks and Recreation Department moved three of its maintenance sections from a location in central Lincoln to the new shared facility in north Lincoln. This move allowed the former City-owned land to be redeveloped as part of a new mixed-use district east of Lincoln's Downtown, but created the need for a material storage area in the southern area of Lincoln for efficiency of operations.

We have been using a large concrete parking lot in the western portion of Van Dorn Park that dates to an earlier era and adjoining area for material storage. I should note that this parking lot is not visible from roads around the perimeter of the park and was being used for undesirable activities prior to converting it to a material storage area. Our primary uses of the area include storage of soil for park construction projects, creating compost for public gardens, and occasionally for storage of tree trimmings and trunks from our community forestry program. The City Street Maintenance Section also uses the site for temporary storage of materials as part of cooperative relationships between City Departments.

Use of the area in the western portion of Van Dorn Park for material storage is a temporary activity. We have been working with our Transportation and Utilities Department to acquire and develop a shared location in the southern part of Lincoln for material storage and maintenance yard. (The Street Maintenance Section is part of the Transportation and Utilities Department.) A promising site located about a mile from Van Dorn Park had been identified, but we just learned that the site will not be available. We are continuing to look for a suitable location. It is likely that it may take a few years to secure funding, acquire land, and develop a new material storage/maintenance yard facility. In the interim we have placed earthen berms around the material storage area in Van Dorn Park to separate and screen the area from other areas in the park.

I am pleased to share that we have seen a resurgence of activity in Van Dorn Park over the past couple of years. A local mountain biking group has developed and assists in managing a popular and well-used single track mountain bike trail in the central portion park that takes advantage of the terrain and wooded character of the park. The mountain biking

group has interest in continuing to make improvements to this bike trail. We just completed construction of a new playground adjacent to a rental park shelter in the eastern area of the park. A new bronze marker recognizing William T. Van Dorn and gift of parkland in his honor will be placed in the park and dedicated in August. I should note that the temporary material storage area does not impact either the bike trail in the central area of the park or the day use area in the eastern area of the park.

When we are able to acquire a develop a permanent material storage area, we will move the existing materials out of Van Dorn Park. I anticipate that the area previously occupied by the temporary material storage area will be restored to native prairie grasses.

I have appreciated Diane Walkowiak's research into W.T Van Dorn's life and accomplishments and his family's generous donation of land in the northern portion of Van Dorn Park. Her enthusiasm for this research has led to finding and contacting descendants of William and Emma Van Dorn. If you have not had the opportunity to visit Lincoln, I hope that you may in the future and see the park, street and subdivision that bears the name of Van Dorn.

Thank you for your interest in making a donation to support Van Dorn Park. We work closely with the Lincoln Parks Foundation to receive and manage donations for parks and recreation facilities and programs. The Lincoln Parks Foundation website is [lincolnparks.org](http://lincolnparks.org). Maggie Stuckey is the Executive Director of the Foundation. I am including Maggie in this message. Maggie and I would be happy to work with you to determine how you would like your gift used.

Enjoy the upcoming July 4 holiday weekend. Please let me know if I can be of assistance.

Regards, Lynn Johnson

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**From:** Carol Van Dorn <[carolvandorn@gmail.com](mailto:carolvandorn@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Saturday, June 26, 2021 10:53 PM

**To:** Lynn Johnson <[ljohnson@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:ljohnson@lincoln.ne.gov)>; Council Packet <[CouncilPacket@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:CouncilPacket@lincoln.ne.gov)>

**Subject:** Van Dorn Park restoration,

Mr Lynn Johnson  
Parks and Recreation Director,

Ms. Jane Raybould, Counselor for the Park District,  
and other City Counselors as well,

I, Carol, am a direct descendent (great-granddaughter) of William Tolbert Van Dorn, the originator of donating land to your city as a park. Along with my cousins Christopher, Laurie and Katie Van Dorn and my sister CMDR Lisa Van Dorn Lamarre, we are concerned that this park has been left to decay via inattention for decades, not to mention the highway crossing and the city materials storage area that deface the original intent.

I am donating funds to the Indian Village Neighborhood Association in order to assist with the 100th Anniversary re-dedication of the park. I have also written an appropriate comment to the Lincoln Journal Star. My interest is to preserve and enhance this place as it was intended for resident tranquility, instead of its apparent current condition of neglect and potential crime. My financial contribution will be sent with the suggestion of, not only to clean and maintain the park, but perhaps to hire a security patrol to intercept crime, trash dumping or any inappropriate behavior. In my mind, such proactive action not only honors the past, but provides a haven for well-being and inspiration for any who choose to visit. It will also provide a safe location for neighborhood children to play!

Respectfully,  
Carol L. Van Dorn

[https://journalstar.com/news/local/the-rise-fall-and-resurgence-of-one-of-lincoln-s-oldest-parks/article\\_8cacc3d5-777e-5d6f-95c7-dbeaa76cd43a.html](https://journalstar.com/news/local/the-rise-fall-and-resurgence-of-one-of-lincoln-s-oldest-parks/article_8cacc3d5-777e-5d6f-95c7-dbeaa76cd43a.html)

EDITOR'S PICK ALERT TOP STORY

## The rise, fall and resurgence of one of Lincoln's oldest parks

Peter Salter  
Nov 14, 2020



A daily average of more than 55,000 vehicles travel Van Dorn Street at Ninth and 10th streets daily, according to the city, effectively choking Van Dorn Park of pedestrian traffic.

FRANCIS GARDLER, Journal Star

Peter Salter



**T**he city parks director saw it coming, more than 60 years ago.

The state was pushing plans to reroute Ninth Street through Van Dorn Park, and Jim Ager worried about what that would do to Lincoln's second-most popular park.

It had taken some time to become No. 2 to Pioneers Park. Early on, the overgrown expanse on the southwest edge of town made headlines when nearby landowners got caught grazing their cows inside its fence, or when cops roused a sleeping chicken thief, finding nine birds inside his sacks.

But by the 1930s, Van Dorn Park was the place to picnic and play. Day after day, year after year, its tables were booked by groups that still exist, like the VFW, Kiwanis and Trinity Methodist, and by those that don't — the Fleur de Lis Club, Vagabonds, Babich Boys Band.

The city added horseshoe pits and tennis courts, shelters and swing sets. Parents loved sending their kids to the park because of the lack of traffic, the newspaper reported in 1940. "This due largely to the fact that the abutting streets are not paved."

The park lost land that year when road builders ran South 10th Street through it. And in the late 1950s, they wanted even more for South Ninth Street, to connect the one-ways to the new interstate north of downtown.

Ager warned the move would "just about ruin" Van Dorn Park.

"You can't have kids running across the highway," he said.

### Mountain bike trail to give new life to one of Lincoln's older parks

The city kept improving the park — adding a rink, even a mini library branch — but the traffic kept coming. A project in the early 1990s didn't take more land, but it dropped a four-lane bypass between Nebraska 2 and U.S. 77 across its northern border.

Now all the abutting roads weren't just paved, they were almost impossible for pedestrians to cross safely. An average of more than 55,000 vehicles, many of them semis, travel Van Dorn at Ninth and 10th daily, according to the city's latest traffic

counts.

“This is a really busy area,” said Diane Walkowiak, treasurer of the Indian Village Neighborhood Association. “The intersection made it much more difficult to get to the park.”

The park was a priority when the neighborhood group formed in 1994. “We need to get some kind of access and get it cleaned up,” an organizer said at the time. “It’s not safe.”

The park’s decline was gradual. A piece of playground equipment would fail and not be replaced. More and more of it went unmowed, and weeds and volunteer trees took over. The city converted a parking lot into an open-air storehouse, piling up mountains of dirt, mulch and other materials for use across the city.

What was once the city’s second-most popular park was turning into a ghost town.

“Everything became neglected and went downhill,” Walkowiak said.

**📖 Next chapter for Lincoln's Robber's Cave building? Weddings, parties, gatherings and continued tours**

But this year, on the eve of Van Dorn Park’s 100th anniversary, that started to change, with several simultaneous projects — all of them spurred by volunteers — bringing new life to its 28 acres.

“All of sudden, there’s been a wave of energy at that park we haven’t seen for a while,” said J.J. Yost of the city’s Parks and Recreation Department.

And it started with the neighborhood association, which never forgot one of its original platforms.

Late last year, Walkowiak approached the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, which was reviewing the department’s 10-year plan for parks.

She urged it to make the park, and what was left of its playground, a higher priority.

Over the summer, dozens of volunteers charted a course, pulled weeds and cut trees, scraped and smoothed the ground. In August, they unveiled about 1 1/2 miles of permanent trail.

It was an instant hit, said James Krist, the volunteer who led the effort.

“Every time I go there, I see someone else. I’ve seen all age groups, little kids, families, experienced mountain bikers.”

When he sensed cyclists were getting bored, he and others built technical features, such as jumps and berms. They’re working with the city to add more, including a rock garden and wooden platforms.

Krist has no way of tracking use, but he estimated 150 cyclists ride Van Dorn Park every month.

And in the spring, because of another volunteer project, they’ll be riding through the early stages of a restored landscape.

### **📖 350-foot hiker-biker bridge now open to public**

Delan Lonowski was biking the trail in August when he noticed a few wildflowers peeking through the overgrown and non-native Kentucky blue and brome grasses and volunteer trees that had been allowed to grow unchecked.

“It occurred to me: ‘What if all of this was seeded pollinator habitat?’ I just thought it was a cool concept. I threw it out on Facebook and seemed to get a favorable response.”

A plan took root: Tear out the overgrowth and reseed with native plants — little bluestem and grama grasses, columbine and sage, spring wild rye and black-eyed Susan.

With the city’s approval, Lonowski and others are focusing on two areas totaling about an acre, though they’ve identified 10 acres along the trail they’d like to reseed.

They've cut out about 300 volunteer trees so far. They'll start planting native seeds this winter, and they expect to see results in the spring and summer.

"But it's going to be kind of ugly for a while," he said. "It's usually a two- or three-year process for things to start looking good, for things to come in naturally."

### Lincoln's oldest park, at the center of renewed attention

Walkowiak is now focused on another kind of ugly — the mounds of mulch, dirt and crushed rock the city stores in the park.

Yost didn't know its specific size, but said the city uses several acres for storage; Walkowiak said it covers 6 acres, nearly 25% of the park, and keeps growing.

"When they started doing that, it was an underutilized park. Now that it's been rejuvenated, and people are showing up, it's not an appropriate place," she said. "If you degraded a fourth of any other park, people would be quite upset."

The city can't move the storage, Yost said; it has nowhere else to put it. But it will draw a hard boundary around its maintenance yard.

"We'll do something to make sure we contain our material storage area and we don't let it creep into the park."

The association has even more plans to awaken the park, Walkowiak said.

High on its priority list? A push for a controlled crossing at 10th and High, which could be more likely when the South Beltway opens and diverts interstate-bound traffic from the area.

"There's a lot that needs to happen, and all of a sudden it's starting to happen," she said. "It's very exciting."

## Top Journal Star photos for November

Top Journal Star photos for November

## Angela M. Birkett

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**From:** Maribeth Milner <mmilner@inebraska.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 05, 2021 9:20 PM  
**To:** Council Packet  
**Subject:** Please protect Nine-Mile Prairie from urban creep...

I understand there's a proposal to build affordable housing near Nine-Mile Prairie. While I'm generally in favor of building affordable housing I have two concerns.

1) A few years ago I saw a national piece on the 10 cities most vulnerable to running out of water. Lincoln was one of them. We depend upon Colorado Rocky Mt snow pack which is becoming a scarce resource. We need to find ways to significantly reduce our water footprint.

2) I have concerns about developing the undeveloped (with respect to buildings) portion of the proposed site. We need a buffer between that project and the Nine-Mile Prairie to reduce the impact of chemicals, city street drainage and general changes to the local climate.

While I'm not familiar with the documents I've been assured by people who are that the proposal isn't consistent with Lincoln's Climate Action Plan and Comprehensive Land Use Plan (pp 24-26).

A few resources for your consideration:

Nine-Mile Prairie Master Plan  
<https://grassland.unl.edu/nine-mile/nine-mile-plan.pdf>

2021-2027 Climate Action Plan  
<https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/files/sharedassets/public/projects-programs-amp-initiatives/resilient-lincoln/documents/climate-action-plan.pdf>

Plummeting insect numbers 'threaten collapse of nature'  
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/feb/10/plummeting-insect-numbers-threaten-collapse-of-nature>

Sincerely,

Maribeth Milner

5151 Vine #608  
Lincoln, NE 68504

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**Angela M. Birkett**

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**From:** Sylvia Bailey <aesthete974@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 06, 2021 8:23 AM  
**To:** Council Packet  
**Subject:** Protect Nine Mile Prarie

Blight designation must NOT include Nine Mile Prarie. No development of Nine Mile Prarie! EVER!!!!

Sylvia Bailey  
2432 NW 41st Street  
Lincoln, Nebraska  
68524

## Angela M. Birkett

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**From:** Daryl Dickerson <barz1114@tampabay.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 06, 2021 10:10 AM  
**To:** Council Packet  
**Subject:** Use of relief funds

Council Members,

As you know, many of the bars, venues and restaurants were decimated by the pandemic and the subsequent closures and restrictions on our businesses which followed. Many of us are in a deep financial hole that will take years from which to recover. Every day for 15 months, our patrons were told to stay away from our businesses by every person who got in front of a microphone to discuss the pandemic response. Most of them took it seriously, especially at bars and other establishments which actually followed the mandates and did the right thing to help from a public health perspective.

Now, we are trying to get back some of that lost business but it is slow in returning.

What I propose is a grant for those businesses that took a huge hit in their sales which can be used to pay state, county and city fees, permit fees, various taxes and other items for a period of time long enough to make a real difference in our futures. Say two years or even three years.

I'd suggest \$1000 for each percent of sales lost from 2019 to the same period in 2020. Take sales from April 1, 2019 to March 20, 2020 and compare to sales from April 1, 2020 to March 30, 2021. If a business lost 70% in that time period, the grant would be \$70,000 to be spent on such items as previously mentioned. That list is by no means complete and could be expanded to include sales tax, unemployment insurance and others. This is a win/win for the city and the entertainment business community, since the grant money would all come back to the state and municipalities in the form of those taxes and fees over time.

I hope you will consider this concept to help those of us who were most affected by the pandemic and especially those of us who did not fight every step of the way your efforts to keep the community safe.

Thank you for your service to our city.

Daryl Dickerson  
Sandy's  
Lincoln

## Angela M. Birkett

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**From:** Geri K. Rorabaugh  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 07, 2021 8:26 AM  
**To:** Council Packet  
**Cc:** David R. Cary; Steve S. Henrichsen; Stephanie L. Rouse; Brenda J. Thomas  
**Subject:** Change of Zone 21020 - South of Downtown PUD Clarification

**From:** Vish Reddi <[Vish.Reddi@nearsouth.org](mailto:Vish.Reddi@nearsouth.org)>  
**Date:** July 6, 2021 at 6:41:34 PM CDT  
**To:** "David R. Cary" <[dcary@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:dcary@lincoln.ne.gov)>  
**Cc:** Cathy Wilken <[adminvp@nearsouth.org](mailto:adminvp@nearsouth.org)>  
**Subject:** South of Downtown PUD Clarification

Dear David,

I am writing on behalf of the Near South Neighborhood Association to get some clarification regarding the South of Downtown PUD which affects a portion of our neighborhood. The PUD will create some additional commercial opportunities within specific areas of the neighborhood currently zoned residential. It is our understanding that the intent of the PUD is to enable limited and specific retail operations and personal services. Reading the PUD language, however, it is not immediately clear how more intense commercial uses, for instance, car sales, pawn shops, smoke shops, or check-cashing businesses would be prohibited, while softer uses like hair salons, baked good sales, or art studios would be allowed.

Would it be possible to add some clarifying language within the PUD to explain how the uses are defined and allowed? Could the uses inappropriate for the residential areas within the neighborhood like pawn shop, smoke shop, and check-cashing business simply be recognized as prohibited within the residential zoning. It is our understanding that is the intention of the PUD, so we believe these clarifications would benefit not only the residents trying to understand the change but also the city staff that will later be interpreting it.

Sincerely,

Vish Reddi

President, NSNA

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Vish Reddi, President

Near South  
Neighborhood  
Association

P.O. BOX 80143  
LINCOLN, NE 68501-0143  
Email: [vish.reddi@nearsouth.org](mailto:vish.reddi@nearsouth.org)

[www.nearsouth.org](http://www.nearsouth.org)



July 2, 2021

Attn: Lincoln City Council Office  
City/County Building  
555 S. 10th Street, Suite 111  
Lincoln, NE 68508

Subject: Resolution 704 of the Lincoln Airport Authority - Certifying to the Lincoln City Council the Amount of Tax to be levied for the Payment of Lincoln Airport Authority Bonded Indebtedness

Lincoln City Council:

Enclosed please find a copy of the above referenced Resolution 704 passed by the Lincoln Airport Authority at their Regular Board of Directors Meeting on June 24, 2021, certified by Board Secretary Nicki Behmer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ramona M. Beck". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Ramona M. Beck  
Office Manager  
Lincoln Airport Authority

cc: Lincoln City Clerk

## RESOLUTION NO. 704

### A RESOLUTION CERTIFYING TO THE LINCOLN CITY COUNCIL THE AMOUNT OF TAX TO BE LEVIED FOR THE PAYMENT OF LINCOLN AIRPORT AUTHORITY BONDED INDEBTEDNESS.

#### RECITALS

##### I.

The Airport Authority of the City of Lincoln (the "Airport Authority") is authorized, under the Cities Airport Authorities Act (Neb. Rev. Stat. § 3-501 et. seq.), to certify annually to the City Council of the City of Lincoln, Nebraska (the "City") the amount of tax to be levied for airport purposes that the Airport Authority requires under its adopted budget statement to be received from taxation. Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 77-3443(3), such certification must be in the form of a resolution adopted by a majority vote of members present of the Airport Authority.

##### II.

The Airport Authority has determined that it is necessary to issue its bonds pursuant to the Cities Airport Authorities Act and to secure such bonds by pledging the receipts of the tax levy authorized under the Cities Airport Authorities Act to the repayment thereof.

##### III.

The Airport Authority has adopted its budget statement for Fiscal Year 2021-2022, commencing on July 1, 2021, and has determined that a levy is required to pay the Airport Authority's bonds.

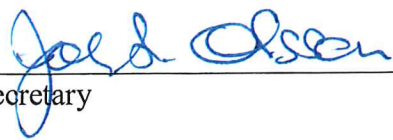
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of the Airport Authority of the City of Lincoln, Nebraska:

Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 3-504(12), the Airport Authority does hereby certify to the City Council of the City that the Airport Authority requires, under its adopted budget statement for Fiscal Year 2021-2022, the amount of \$2,040,000.00 to be levied for the repayment of the Airport Authority's bonds. Such tax levy and collections have been pledged to the Bonds and secure the repayment thereof. In accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. § 77-3443(2), the tax levy and amount so certified pursuant to this Resolution are not counted in the City's levy limit provided by Neb. Rev. Stat. § 77-3442, because such levy and amount are for the repayment of bonded indebtedness approved according to law and secured by a levy on property.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Secretary is authorized and directed to forward a certified copy of this Resolution to the City Council of the City with a copy to the Lincoln City Clerk.

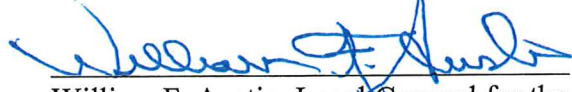
PASSED AND APPROVED on this 24th day of June 2021.

ATTEST:

  
Secretary

  
Chairman

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
William F. Austin, Legal Counsel for the  
Airport Authority of the City of Lincoln, Nebraska

## CERTIFICATE OF PASSAGE & POSTING OF RESOLUTION NO. 704

I, Nicki Behmer, Secretary of the Lincoln Airport Authority Board of Directors, Lincoln, NE, hereby certify the adoption of Resolution No. 704 - A Resolution to the Lincoln City Council the Amount of Tax to be Levied for the Payment of Lincoln Airport Authority Bonded Indebtedness, at the Regular June meeting of the Lincoln Airport Authority Board of Directors on June 24, 2021. Resolution 704 was approved by a vote of 4-0, with one Board member absent. Notice of the meeting was posted in two (2) public places: in the June 17, 2021, edition of the Lincoln Journal Star; and on the Lincoln Airport Authority Website at [www.lincolnairport.com](http://www.lincolnairport.com).



Nicki Behmer, Secretary

## Angela M. Birkett

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**From:** Cheri L. Howard  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 07, 2021 11:28 AM  
**To:** Council Packet  
**Subject:** FW: Nine Mile Prairie and the TIF initiative

Greetings Joni,

I have forwarded your thoughts to Miki Esposito, the Mayoral Aide on Environmental Impact and Climate Change, as well as the City Council.

Thank you so much for taking the time!

*Cheri*

### Cheri Howard

Office Specialist / Constituent Services  
Office of the Mayor  
O: 402-441-7511 | Direct Ext. 7512

555 South 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 301  
Lincoln, NE 68508

[lincoln.ne.gov](http://lincoln.ne.gov)

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**From:** Joni Day <jonimartineau@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 7, 2021 11:18 AM  
**To:** Mayor <mayor@lincoln.ne.gov>  
**Subject:** Nine Mile Prairie and the TIF initiative

I am against implementing the TIF initiative as it will have a detrimental effect on Nine Mile Prairie. There needs to be 2.5 miles between the prairie and any development. The TIF initiative is in conflict with the city's Climate Change action plan.

I do support construction of affordable housing but there are other areas that this construction could be done on. I implore you to consider this information in your decision making about the TIF initiative.

Joni Day.

**Angela M. Birkett**

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**From:** Lorrie Benson <lorriebenson2@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 07, 2021 11:36 AM  
**To:** Mayor; Council Packet  
**Subject:** comments re blight designation for Nine Mile Prairie area

Mayor Gaylor Baird and Members of the City Council,

Please revise the proposed blight designation for the Nine Mile Prairie area so that it does not include areas that are currently in prairie grasses. As the UNL study on the Nine Mile Prairie Environs and the City of Lincoln Climate Action Plan have established, protecting undeveloped grassland areas is really important. I see this as the first big test of the city climate plan. Does it have meaning, or will it just sit on a shelf?

I also think adding more affordable housing in Lincoln is critical, and take developer Fred Hoppe at his word when he says there aren't many areas in Lincoln where affordable housing can be developed.

I've been impressed by the creative and common-sense solutions you've provided on other city issues, and know you can bring the same to this issue. This shouldn't be an either/or situation. Please take a little time to figure out where we can build affordable housing without sacrificing environmentally important areas.

Please make my comments part of the record. Thanks for considering my opinion!

Lorrie Benson  
7100 Holmes Park Rd, Apt 103  
Lincoln NE 68506

## Angela M. Birkett

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**From:** Nancy Becker <nbecker180gmail.com@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 07, 2021 11:59 AM  
**To:** Council Packet  
**Subject:** Development near Nine Mile Prairie

I understand the need for affordable housing in and around Lincoln, however, I am extremely concerned you are considering the area by Nine-Mile Prairie. The proposed areas contain tall grass prairies, which provide habitat, carbon sequestration and habitat bridges. The potential damage to this area could be devastating. How does this fit into the 2050 Plan proposed by the Mayor and supported by the Council?

Nancy Becker