

MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDTABLE

Via Zoom Monday, January 9, 2023, 5:30 p.m.

Meeting Notes

Welcome and Introductions; Volunteer to Take Notes

Chair Tracy Corr opened the meeting at 5:30 with introductions. Karen Dienstbier volunteered to take notes.

Attendance

Mayor Gaylor Baird

Neighborhood Associations:

- Tracy Corr – Chair and 40th & A
- Gloria Eddins – Clinton
- Richard Piersol – Country Club
- Karen Dienstbier – Eastridge
- Greg Baker - Everett
- Andy Gueck – Indian Village
- Dennis Hecht – Meadowlane
- Carmen Maurer – Near South
- Tut Kailech – Neighborworks
- Teresa Thompson – UPCO
- Julie Flodman – Witherbee
- Fred Freytag - Witherbee
- Russel Miller - Witherbee
- Mary Schwab - Witherbee
- Randy Smith – Woods Park

Staff:

- Wynn Hjermstad – Urban Development
- Dan Marvin – Urban Development

Presenters:

- Jeff Chambers, Senior Project Director, UNL Center on Children Families & the Law – Presenter
- Melissa Ripley – LPD Homeless Outreach Officer, Lincoln Homeless Coalition Chairperson – Presenter
- Matt Martinosky – Coordinated Critical Service Team Lead, CenterPointe – Presenter

*Russell Miller's last meeting – he will be missed! Julie Flodman and Mary Schwab will be taking over for Russell.

Mayor Gaylor Baird Comments

- February 23rd will be the grand opening of the American Job Center. The bus stop at 1330 M St. – ground level - will have expanded hours two days a week from 7:00 am – 6:00pm.
- LPD has created a new class of Lieutenants – five officers promoted to this rank. Focus on career development and providing more support to the officers on the street. Officers being promoted to Sergeant and 16 new officers from the academy.
- Flood Protection is underway at the City Council now – it has not been updated in decades. Until FEMA does so, the immediate short-term purpose is to protect people and property. Will continue to work with partners. Worked hard to reach consensus. Respectfully disagree doesn't mean not listening. Updated over 22 times for more than a year in collaboration with many stakeholders.
- The Lincoln City Flag was voted best in the United States!
- Last call for Holiday Tree recycling before January 16th – this is the 36th year it has been offered. Christmas lights recycling at Eastridge Elementary School parking lot and multiple fire stations.

Homelessness in Lincoln

Jeff Chambers, Senior Project Director, UNL Center on Children Families & the Law (see attached PowerPoint).

The goal of Lincoln's Continuum of Care **is to stably house all persons who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of experiencing homelessness in the most appropriate and effective housing to achieve stable, permanent housing** and to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring.

To achieve these goals involves:

Homeless Prevention and Diversion

Street Outreach –Critical Services Team

Emergency Shelter

Transitional Housing

Rapid Rehousing

Permanent Supportive Housing

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

Coordinated Entry

Planning

Involving those with Lived Experience in Developing Solutions

City of Lincoln CoC Accomplishments:

- Reduced the number of persons experiencing unsheltered and sheltered homelessness by 57% in the last 10 years.
- Increased the amount of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development funding to Lincoln by 83% in past 5 years.
- One of 60 communities to be recognized by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness as having ended U.S. military veterans' homelessness.

Jeff further presented data including the number of people served and their demographics (age, race, etc.) and reviewed the annual Point in Time Count results annually since 2007, noting the decrease in

homeless over time. The definition of chronically homeless was presented along with an over view of the coordinated entry system called All Doors Lead Home, which is the way people apply for assistance.

Melissa Ripley – LPD Homeless Outreach Officer and Lincoln Homeless Coalition Chairperson stated that LPD refers the homeless to the 60 – 70 organizations in Lincoln prepared to offer assistance. These organizations can help the homeless rather than taking them to jail. In many cases, the homeless see the police as harassing them and they don't want to deal with the police. They try to connect people with resources other than LPD. Homelessness is not a criminal issue. LPD is trying to make interaction a more positive experience, and referrals to the CoC organizations also frees up LPD to work on other issues.

The goal of the CoC is to provide wrap around services when they are housed, it is not simply putting them in an apartment. Helping people to be successful is their goal. For example, Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach provides daily meals, shower facilities and sack lunches that can be brought to people on the streets. If there is fresh produce available, they can take that too. They also provide a permanent address for the homeless who need a permanent address.

The CoC is an active group. If anyone is interested in becoming more involved, contact her. Melissa will be the Chair for the next year. The CoC meet monthly on the last Friday of the month. There are also subcommittees. It is not a huge time commitment to serve.

Matt Martinosky, Coordinated Critical Service Team Lead at CenterPointe works with people with drug abuse and alcohol related illnesses. Each of the outreach workers take time to discuss how they approach working with people living on the street. Outreach is going to where they are, building trust, and getting them what they need. May be a bottle of water, a hygiene kit, etc.

Wherever possible they will try to find permanent housing for the homeless. Some of the homeless have mental illness issues and need to be where they can hear street noises and see what is going on around them. These are the most difficult people to help because if they choose to live on the streets the City has no option at this time to do anything for them other than what is already available. The Outreach Team developed a Resource Packet that he can provide, contact Matt to obtain a copy.

The My Lnk app is a great resource list. For example, it includes help if food is needed today, or diapers, every resource imaginable. It updates real time. <HTTPS://myLnk.app>

Questions:

There were a number of questions dealing with services available and some individual cases.

Who works with the VA Hospital on the homeless issue? Centerpointe offers peer support for vets. And organizations can make referrals to the VA.

Matt Talbot can help to divert people from becoming homeless.

Some businesses in downtown Lincoln are frequented by homeless people. Be kind to them and try to get them to move on. Use the city resource guide if needed.

Mayor stated that over \$4 Million has been made available to the City to be used for permanent supportive housing for 24 housing units for chronically homeless people.

Comments: when dealing with the homeless think outside the box, give them your sympathy, treat them as you would want to be treated.

Google All Doors Lead Home Coordinated Entry for more information about how the process works. It was reiterated to just talk to folks, human being to human being.

Matt – Willing to have one-on-one conversations, feel free to reach out to him if you want to talk more.

Mayor – Thanks to Jeff, Melissa and Matt and thanks for all you do!

Announcements:

Gloria Eddins – Today is National Law Enforcement Day – Thanks for all you do! Thanks Melissa!

Next Meeting / Agenda:

Greg Baker – in the future, search for second water source updates. Mayor may have announcement next month about the Mayor's Water Council.

Adjourn

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

*Respectfully submitted,
Karen Dienstbier*