

# MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDTABLE

Via Zoom Monday, July 11, 2022, 5:30 p.m.

## Meeting Notes

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### Welcome and Introductions

Mayor Gaylor Baird and Jon Carlson, Deputy Chief-of-Staff, began the meeting with introductions. Paul Johnson volunteered to take notes.

### Attendance

- Mayor Gaylor Baird

Neighborhood Associations:

- Tracy Corr – 40<sup>th</sup> & A
- Gloria Eddins – Clinton
- Richard Piersol – Country Club
- Paul Johnson – ECCO
- Greg Baker – Everett
- Andy Gueck – Indian Village
- Pat Bracken – Irvingdale
- Geri Cotter – Irvingdale
- Dennis Hecht – Meadowlane
- Carmen Maurer – Near South
- Teresa Thompson – UPCO
- Fred Freytag – Witherbee
- Russell Miller – Witherbee
- Randy Smith – Woods Park

Staff:

- Maggie Stuckey- Ross – Director, Lincoln Parks and Recreation (presenter)
- JJ Yost – Facilities and Operations Manager, Lincoln Parks and Recreation (presenter)
- Jon Carlson – Mayor's Office
- Wynn Hjermstad – Urban Development

### Mayor Gaylor Baird's Comments:

- City is working on the new budget; one focus is maintaining services while also reducing property taxes.
  - Additional funding for tree planting, sidewalks, public safety
  - Sales tax has grown which helps to support services & work without depending on property taxes.
  - Want feedback and ideas before the budget goes to City Council in August
  - LFR – Survival rates from cardiac arrest has increased in last few years

- LPD – 13 new academy graduates and 20 lateral recruits this month
- New Books for Babies program supported by Lincoln Libraries and private community partners. Supplies books for every baby born in Lincoln hospital
- Launched search of 2<sup>nd</sup> source of water for City of Lincoln. Citizen advisory committee starting meetings. Current source should be adequate until 2048, but planning starting now.
- \$400K grant for BioChar to use tree waste & turn it into soil supplement
- Reminder for anyone eligible to get the COVID Booster

**Maggie Stuckey-Ross** – Director, Lincoln Parks & Recreation: [parks.lincoln.ne.gov](https://parks.lincoln.ne.gov); 402-441-7847.

New Lincoln Parks & Recreation Director Maggie Stuckey-Ross spoke with the group on her vision for the department and community improvements included in the upcoming 2022-24 City Budget (see attached PowerPoint).

- Maggie is the former Director of the Parks Foundation.
- JJ Yost – Facilities and Operations Manager here today also.
- Parks Budget review:
  - Divisions – Operations, Recreation, Planning & Facilities, & Forestry
  - Funding - \$28M of funding. About half spent on personnel.
  - Support facilities, programs, existing infrastructure, Community Forestry.
  - Social support with school age programs, play equipment, Community Centers, Community Learning Centers.
- Measuring goals of tree removal/replacement/preservation. Population has access to parks, trails & active living through golf courses.
- Chart of time distribution showing percent of time spent on parks.
- Chart with Street Tree removal by Community Forestry.
- Golf – managed as enterprise fund, i.e., operating expenses & capital improvements funded by golf receipts. Golf usage has increased by 16% in last 2 years. Over next 10 years, \$200K deficit projected for revenue vs needed expenditures.
- Coming projects –
  - New Air Park Rec Center.
  - Outdoor Racket Courts Master Plan.
  - Hub & Soul at Union Plaza – Thursdays from 9/1 to 10/6 5:30 – 8:30 pm.
  - South Haymarket Park design & development.
  - Illuminate Cascade – ongoing endowment funding for Cascade foundation being sought. Will illuminate fountain for organizations contributing.
  - New Executive Director at Lincoln Parks Foundation.
- Questions:
  - Are ground fountains/spray grounds being considered for new & existing parks? South Haymarket Park plans to have an interactive spray ground. Trago Park & Woods Pool currently have one. Centennial Mall has fountains but water quality is not at high standard and they are not intended for use as spray grounds.
  - Tree grinding still 4 years? Any progress on extended delay on removal? – Some additional funding approved last year & extensive funding included in new City budget to hire contractors to help.
  - Do impact fees affect parks? Since impact fees have not increased for many years, the land that is acquired in a new area is having to be held for several years before the park is actually developed.

- What parks have their own wells and not on regular City water? Union Plaza, Children's Zoo area, some golf courses, Pentzer Park. Woods & new community parks are being planned with internal wells to serve that park.
- How are wells regulated? State permit is required for each well.
- College View CLC employees say that they cannot be a paid member of a neighborhood association. Would like to know why that is. Maggie will look into it.
- Comments
  - Encourage neighborhoods to contribute to the park development with ideas & responsibility so that the neighborhood takes ownership

#### **Announcements**

- Witherbee – August 7 Pool Party at Woods Park with free ice cream

#### **Next Meeting / Agenda**

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 5:30pm via zoom.

A proposed topic is to be information about the planning for an additional water source.

#### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted, Paul Johnson*