

# MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDTABLE

Via Zoom Monday, August 8, 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
- Paul Johnson – ECCO
- Karen Dienstbier – Eastridge
- Pat Stear - Hartley
- Andy Gueck – Indian Village
- Dennis Hecht – Meadowlane
- Carmen Maurer – Near South
- Randy Smith – Woods Park

Staff:

- Steve Beal – Lincoln Lancaster County Health Department (presenter)
- Stephanie Rouse – Lincoln Lancaster Co Planning Department (presenter)
- Jon Carlson – Mayor's Office
- Wynn Hjernstad – Urban Development

### Mayor Gaylor Baird's Comments:

- City Budget process – Discussed budget items that are coming up for final City Council approval.
  - Budget & program is supported by higher sales tax receipts.
  - Council has plans to add \$1M to Fast Forward Fund for helping businesses.
  - Final budget will be decided by the City Council.
- There are 12 new LFR graduates. LFR has three times the national average of females making up LFR.
- Misc facts
  - Summer reading program – there were 16,000+ readers in summer reading program.
  - Parks & Rec programs –
    - 114,000+ people used public pools
    - Pioneers Park Nature programs
    - Day Camps – 26,000+ meals served
    - Team Sports- good participation

- Covid comments – important to get vaccinated; especially children & back to school vaccinations.

**Lincoln Animal Control** – Steve Beal, Manager, Lincoln Animal Control: [sbeal@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:sbeal@lincoln.ne.gov); 402-441-7900.

- “Protecting People and Pets” **(see attached PowerPoint)**
- Offices in & connected to Health Department. Animal Control only provides services within the city limits.
- There are 11 full time officers and 6 dispatchers.
- Enforce state & local animal laws/ordinances
  - Lost pets – licensed animals are returned to owner rather than to shelter.
  - Neglect & Cruelty – There were 46 pets left in car calls in July.
  - Irresponsible Owner ordinance – 5 or more violations in 3-year period. Animals can be taken from owner & owner banned from ownership for 3 years
- Service & Enforcement Calls - 2021
  - 386 animal bites & 61 attacks
  - 477 neglect calls
  - 746 wildlife calls
  - 1,217 dead animals
  - 31 coyote calls, 85 fox calls
  - 106 dogs dangerous or vicious
  - 13,556 defect or warning tickets
  - 697 injured animal calls
  - 1,497 impounded animals. Decreased from 3,400+ 3 yrs. ago
  - 167 permits for fowl/small & large animals, pet/groom/mobile groom shops, etc.
  - 1,015 bat calls, 345 tested for rabies with 10 tested positive
  - Sanitation Problems. Public education
- Abandonment of Pets/Animals
  - Must have court order before can enter property.
  - If there is imminent danger, then can enter property.
- Calls & Dispatches
  - 30,000 calls in 2021, 11,500 officer dispatched
- 64,229 dogs & cats licensed in Lincoln. 70% of budget comes from pet license fees.
- Ordinances & Policies
  - Public input from Health Department, Advisory Committee, County Board of Health, City Attorney’s office, Mayor’s Office, City Council public hearings, Public Hearings
    - Recent case of pig as emotional support animal
- Partnerships & Collaborations
  - Animal Control Advisory Committee
  - Problem Resolution Team- works to address problem properties. Includes many City departments working together
  - Neighborhood associations
  - Community Service Clubs
  - UNL School of Veterinary Medicine – local rabies testing & consultation
  - Capital Humane Society – partially City supported
  - The Cat House - Feral Cat Agreement,
  - Lincoln Animal Ambassadors

- Department Funding
  - License, impound & permit fees make up 70 % of funding.
  - City funding makes up 30%.
- Hours & Contacts – 24/7 availability
- Questions:
  - Pet waste services – on weekly trash pick-up schedule, but ordinance says within 5 days pet waste must be disposed of. Legal?
    - If there is complaint, then Animal Control would investigate.
    - Ordinance should probably be modified to accommodate varied trash pick-up schedules.
  - Lincoln Fox Project – track & study foxes. Graduate student project
    - Can contact Steve for Project contacts.
  - Feral cat at house –
    - If Animal Control called, then they would set a trap and take to Humane Society.
    - Cat House would immunize and neuter feral cat and release back into community.
    - Working Cat program deals with farm/country cats.
    - Partners very effective at controlling feral cats. If large population in an area, contact Animal Control.
  - Does Animal Control handle neighbors that are trapping wildlife(squirrels)
    - Suggest licensed wildlife control service.

#### **Announcements**

- **Proposed zoning text amendment (see attached)** - Stephanie Rouse, Transportation Planner, Lincoln Lancaster County Planning Department: [srouse@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:srouse@lincoln.ne.gov), 402-441-6373. -- To allow the subdivision of pre-1953 parcels into multiple lots. The function of these lots will not change. This is consistent with the *Affordable Housing Coordinated Action Plan* by providing more flexibility and a tool for preserving these homes which are considered naturally occurring affordable housing. More information is available on the Planning Department website.
  - 94 parcels, most having 2 buildings on one lot, some with more
  - Owners have contacted about change in ordinance to allow subdividing to create separate lots for each building. Buildings must meet all applicable building and safety codes.
  - Idea is that they can create more housing.
  - Question – If building on subdivided property was destroyed, could owner rebuild?
    - Ordinance changed last year to allow rebuilding on exact same old building footprint.
- Aging Partners – will be moving offices to VA property, Victory Park.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 10, 2022, at 5:30 pm via zoom.

A proposed topic is future plans for Water System and a presentation on “reasonable accommodation” and fair housing.

#### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted, Paul Johnson*