

MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDTABLE

Via Zoom Monday, January 10, 2022, 5:30 p.m.

Meeting Notes

Welcome and Introductions; Volunteer to Take Notes

Tracy Corr, Chair, began the meeting with introductions. Jon Carlson volunteered to take notes. Fourteen residents and four City staff attended:

Maggie Stuckey-Ross-Parks & Recreation Foundation Executive Director	
Lynn Johnson-Parks and Recreation Director	
Gloria Eddins – Clinton	Richard Piersol – Country Club
Karen Dienstbier-Eastridge	Pat Steer—Hartley
Andy Gueck—Indian Village	Geri Cotter—Irvingdale
Pat Bracken—Irvingdale	Dennis Hecht—Meadowlane
Teresa Thompson—University Place	Fred Freytag—Witherbee
Russell Miller—Witherbee	Randy Smith—Woods Park
Tut Kailech—NeighborWorks Lincoln	Jenee Kucera—CLC's
Bennie Shobe—City Council	Jon Carlson—Mayor's Office
Wynn Hjernstad—Urban Development	

Mayor Gaylor Baird Comments

Mayor was unable to attend. Jon Carlson reported that the COVID risk dial remains in the red. The Omicron variant is very contagious. So far, as seen internationally and in U.S. communities, it seems to move in and crest fast but more data is needed. Residents are encouraged to take steps to stay safe, take precautions, and follow protocols including wearing masks, reassessing trips, and social distancing.

Parks and Recreation Updates

Maggie Stuckey, Executive Director of the Foundation for Lincoln Parks and Recreation, gave a presentation on winter activities in our parks - using the parks during the winter months. The Foundation is the 501c3 partner for the City Parks & Recreation Department.

Park Activities:

- 134 miles of trails, 133 parks, 89 playgrounds, 6 rec centers, 5 golf courses, 4 dog runs (9 pools, 2 spray grounds – summertime), 7,303 acres of greenways and open spaces (including Wilderness Park).
 - Visit your neighborhood park...85% of Lincoln residents are within a ½ mile walk. Playground, walking, frisbee, more.
 - Visit a community park: hiker/biker trails, team sport fields, basketball courts.
 - Visit a regional park: Pioneers, Holmes, Mahoney...ice skating, hiking, fishing, cross country skiing, sand volleyball (even when it's cold!).

- Skate parks, pickleball, tennis, basketball, horseshoes, and disc golf are all available – even when it’s cold. Two large disc golf courses: Beal Slough along Highway 2 and I-180.
- Dog runs across the community.
- Biking is great even in cold weather.
- Rec Centers offer year-round indoor and outdoor activities for residents, families and kids.
- Pioneers Park Nature Center is open year-round and a great way to see nature in all four seasons.
- Golf courses remain open year-round – as long as temperatures are above 32 F.
- Explore public art through the Otocast app on your smartphone.
- Stay creative: neighborhood activities...scavenger hunts, walks, more.
- Enclosed shelters are usually available for rent in the Winter, but currently closed through January due to Covid counts.

10 YEAR FACILITIES PLAN UPDATE:

Lynn Johnson, Director of Parks and Recreation, gave a presentation on the 10-year facilities plan update and shared what needs repair and replacement over the next decade. The plan calls for a total of \$38.7 million over the next ten years which means around \$3.8 million per year. Items are prioritized A-B-C for inclusion in the Capital Improvements Plan years (“A” being priority). We look in all four quadrants of the city, but the age and condition of facilities is the primary driver. The complete list is available in the Plan on the website, but examples include:

- NE: Mahoney Ballfield lighting
- NW: Highlands South Conservancy and Ashley Heights Park
- SE: Tierra Park trail and Holmes ball field lighting
- SW: Irvingdale Park storage facility, Sawyer Snell ballfield lighting; Pioneers Park water main; Nature Center dams stabilization and Prairie Building renovation
- Greenways: renovate trailheads, trail bridges
- Community forestry: replace street trees at a 1:1 ratio (plant one when one is removed)
- Aquatics: pool renovations
- Rec center renovations: Air Park and others

There are also larger capital campaigns in partnership with the Parks & Recreation Foundation including: Sunken Gardens, Antelope Park Playground, New South Haymarket Park and Wilderness Park.

Announcements

- Country Club Neighborhood Association zoom meeting with developers about redeveloping the Bishop Heights Shopping Center.
- Ghazal has taken a different position and is no longer at Urban Development, please contact Wynn until a new person is hired.
- Tut Kailech: NeighborWorks Neighborhood Forum on Saturday 2/12 from 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon at Sower Church, 2640 R Street

Next Meeting / Agenda

Ideas for future meetings include:

Marc Shkolnik, LES regarding SEP and solar.

Mike Davis on StarTran electric buses.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Jon Carlson