**MAYOR’S NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDTABLE**

**Via Zoom Monday, March 14, 2022, 5:30 p.m.**

**Meeting Notes**

**Welcome and Introductions; Volunteer to Take Notes**

Tracy Corr, Chair, began the meeting with introductions. Paul Johnson volunteered to take notes.

Thirteen residents and two City staff attended:

Mayor Gaylor Baird

Tracy Corr-40th & A Geri Cotter-Irvingdale

Gloria Eddins-Clinton Pat Bracken-Irvingdale

Richard Piersol-Country Club Dennis Hecht-Meadowlane

Paul Johnson-East Campus Teresa Thompson-University Place

Greg Baker-Everett Fred Freytag-Witherbee

Pat Stear-Hartley Russell Miller-Witherbee

Tut Kaelech, NeighborWorks Lincoln

**Staff:** Jon Carlson, Mayor’s Office

Wynn Hjermstad, Urban Development

**Mayor Gaylor Baird Comments**

* Covid- Indicators are trending down. On March 12 there were 108 cases. Positivity rates & hospitalizations are down. Vaccinations are readily available including clinics in elementary schools this month and at the Health Dept.
* Construction – LTU planning on 40 projects this season on existing streets. There are also sidewalks, water mains, & other projects which can be tracked on the LTU website.
* Grants – American Rescue – joint planning with County. City was awarded $7M to small businesses in grants for rent. County - $15M in mental health services. Grants up to $12M to different groups to promote jobs & job training recently awarded.
* Comments – Suggestion that “Lincoln on the Move” ¼ cent sale tax signage be placed at construction projects so that residents know what funds are paying for.

**LES Program Updates –** Marc Shkolnick, Manager, Energy Services: mshkolnick@les.com. Marc will provide a representative to attend neighborhood meetings or news articles for neighborhood newsletters. Contact him if interested.

Energy Efficiency & Programs (see attached PowerPoint presentation)

* About 35% of energy is wasted – leakage in the home, high usage appliances in non-climate-controlled areas (refrigerator in a garage).
* About half of energy used is to heat/cool home, 14% to heat water, 10% for lighting.
* No & low-cost savings ideas:
  + 85-90% of incandescent bulb is wasted in heat. LED – only 10-12% energy wasted.
  + Furnace air filter – dirty filters use about 15% more energy.
  + Thermostat settings – 78 in summer, 68 in winter.
  + Window shades – closing shades.
  + Energy Star appliances – often little cost in appliance, but about 25% more efficiency.
* LES Sustainability Programs:
  + Summer peak sets the maximum power that needs to be available to the system.
  + Whole House Sealing – up to $1000 for sealing & insulation.
  + Heat Pump/A/C and water heaters– grants to offset cost of replacement equipment.
  + Smart thermostats – Install smart thermostat that LES can connect to, get $25 gift card & $25/yr annual credit.
  + Federal tax credits – scheduled to expire in 2021, extended through 2022.
* Solar programs:
  + About 250 homes have rooftop solar. Net metering allows LES to purchase excess energy & will charge for times home generation is deficient.
  + When thinking of solar – make sure home is currently well-insulated to minimize usage; reduces size of solar needs.
    - Make sure firm hired is reputable.
    - LES has resources online for homeowner when considering solar.
      * Southern facing roof, unshaded.
      * LES annual rates have been 1.5-2% /yr for last 10 years.
      * LES energy is currently 6 cents/KWH.
      * Solar Trade Ally Network list of contractors.
      * Solar calculator to estimate amount residence would save with solar.
    - Question – Building with lots of roof space & little or no electrical usage, could solar be installed & sold to LES? No, rates are too low to make it economical.
    - Question – Where is power being sold for solar project east of Lincoln (Ranger Power)? Eventually would be sold to SW Power grid, but no further information.
    - Question – Retrofit air-to-air heat pumps may be installed in current homes. Backup furnace can be gas or electric. Ground to air heat pump is quite expensive. LES has incentives available for replacement of ground to air heat pumps.
    - Question – Is information available for neighborhood newsletters regarding hiring contractors for solar. Check with LES.

**Announcements**

* Big Event coming up in April. Projects for individuals deadline has passed, neighborhood groups coming up.
* 48th & Holdrege St Project Phase II information meeting on 3/15 at 1st United Methodist Church in University Place 5:30 – 7:30 pm.
* March 27th 2:00-4:00 Uni Place annual meeting.

**Next Meeting / Agenda**

Next month: Parks talk about forestry. Other ideas for future meetings:

* 2020-2021 surcharge on Black Hills - when will be dropped off tax bill.
* LTU taken over city median maintenance that used to done by Parks.

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted, Paul Johnson*