

# MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDTABLE

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

## Meeting Notes

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### Welcome and Introductions; Volunteer to Take Notes

Tracy Corr, Chair, began the meeting with introductions. Paul Johnson volunteered to take notes. Fifteen residents and four City staff attended:

Mayor Gaylor Baird  
Tracy Corr-40<sup>th</sup> & A  
Gloria Eddins-Clinton  
Richard Piersol-Country Club  
Paul Johnson-East Campus  
Karen Dienstbier - Eastridge  
Paula Baker-Everett  
Pat Stear-Hartley  
Andy Gueck – Indian Village

Geri Cotter-Irvingdale  
Pat Bracken-Irvingdale  
Bill Vocasek – West A  
Fred Freytag-Witherbee  
Russell Miller-Witherbee  
Randy Smith – Woods Park  
Tut Kaelech, NeighborWorks Lincoln

**Staff:** Jon Carlson, Mayor's Office  
Dan Marvin, Urban Development  
Lynn Johnson, Parks and Recreation (presenter)  
Wynn Hjermstad, Urban Development

### Mayor Gaylor Baird Comments

- Covid – Numbers are continuing to drop. There are still vaccination clinics for all doses at the Health Dept, physicians, and pharmacies.
- The City & County has new a new Human Resources Director, Barb McIntyre.
- New staff members in the Mayor's office are T.J. McDowell and Amanda Barker.
- The City and Lancaster County released the Welcoming and Belonging Strategic Plan focused on welcoming immigrants and refugees. Find it on the City's website under One Lincoln.
- LES is starting an integrated resource planning process to forecast future power needs. Summer public meetings will be held and hope you will participate.

**Tree Programs and Projects** – Lynn Johnson, Director, City of Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department: 402-441-8265; [ljohnson@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:ljohnson@lincoln.ne.gov)

Let's Talk Trees – See attached PowerPoint presentation. The 150<sup>th</sup> Arbor Day is this year.

- **Street Tree Voucher Program** – available for planting new street trees. \$250 is redeemable at local nurseries. Sidewalk space must be at least 6 feet wide, but a waiver can be received if the sidewalk space is too narrow. Contact [forestry@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:forestry@lincoln.ne.gov)
- **Adopt an Ash Program** – allows residents to treat ash street trees. The injection method is completed by a licensed arborist and requires treatment every 2 to 3 years. A map is on the City's website showing all ash street trees & which are treated & not treated.
- **New contractual street tree planting efforts in low- and moderate-income areas to replace ash street trees** – This program focus is on central city neighborhoods with an emphasis on replacing ash street trees. The new Community Forestry Planner, Mike Fallon, will be contacting

neighborhoods about street tree planting projects and looking for volunteer assistance with watering young trees. Reach Mike at [mfallon@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:mfallon@lincoln.ne.gov).

- **Work with neighborhood associations on free tree distribution** – yard trees to be planted on private property. Trees will come from Great Plains Nursery, are 4-6 feet tall and in 3-gallon containers. Neighborhood volunteers will be needed to help to distribute trees. Several varieties will be available.
- **At Risk Private Tree Removal and Replacement Grant Program for low- and moderate-income property owners** – grants to remove dead & dying trees on private property. New replacement trees will also be provided. Contact Loren Roberts with the City's Urban Development Department at [lroberts@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:lroberts@lincoln.ne.gov). Funds come from a grant that needs to be used within 3 years.
- **Questions**
  - What chemical is being used to treat trees?
  - Concerned about trees that have had the centers cut out because power lines run through them. Trees are no longer allowed to be replanted under power lines. Instead, staff are working with residents to plant in yards.
  - Are streets that have no sidewalks but have trees in the public right-of-way eligible for tree replacement? Yes.

Randy Smith – Please thank Lynn for his service before his June 1 retirement.

### **Announcements**

- LES is doing a census of power poles in Woods Park & perhaps other neighborhoods.
- The Clinton neighborhood cleanup will be on June 4<sup>th</sup> beginning at 8:00 a.m. and a neighborhood parking lot garage sale will be May 21<sup>st</sup> at 8:30 held at Connection Point.
- UNL's Big Event is April 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- NeighborWorks Week events include the Impact Bike Tour on June 7<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. and the Hawley Hamlet Neighborhood Block Party on June 10<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- Country Club will have garage sales on May 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Stransky Park meeting on April 26<sup>th</sup> will provide an opportunity for input on proposed changes.

### **Next Meeting / Agenda**

It was suggested that Donna Garden, LTU Assistant Director/Utilities, discuss water wells in Ashland & an update on future water sources.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted, Paul Johnson*