

MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDTABLE

Via Zoom Monday, June 14, 2021, 5:30 p.m.

Meeting Notes

Attendance

Eleven residents and five City staff attended.

Tracy Corr – 40th & A
Steve Henrichsen – Planning Dept
Andy Gueck – Indian Village
Richard Piersol – Country Club
Russell Miller - Witherbee
Randy Smith – Woods Park
Stephanie Rouse – Planning Dept
Teresa Thompson – University Place
Mayor Gaylor Baird

Dan Marvin - UDD
Geri Cotter – Irvingdale
Sarah Mason – KLLCB
Karen Dienstbier - Eastridge
Bill Vocasek – West A
Paul Jonson – East Campus
Jon Carlson – Mayor's Office
Wynn Hjermstad – UDD

Welcome and Introductions

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

Mayor Gaylor Baird's Comments:

- Have been working on 2021-22 City Budget:
 - 1) Attempting to bring back programs and services that were cut/delayed during COVID year.
 - 2) Funding for new Diversity Administrator added.
 - 3) Supporting affordable housing eligible for \$5000 tax credit.
 - 4) Expand/update communication systems and cybersecurity.
 - 5) Streets, water, and sidewalks upgrades.
 - 6) Challenges in workforce training and economic development.
 - 7) Budget details on City website.
 - 8) Public hearings and City Council review coming up on August 2nd at 3:00 PM. Final input is on August 3.
- Working on release rental assistance funds:
 - 1) Funds still available for those in need.
 - 2) As of last week \$5.3 million distributed, and over 2600 checks.
- Police Chief search:
 - 1) Finalists are all in town week of June 21st.
 - 2) Police Chief in search box on City website to learn about the 4 finalists.
 - 3) Presentation each day by a candidate to the public.
 - 4) Selection of final candidate by end of the month before sending to City Council.
- COVID Update:
 - 1) In green area of dial candidate with cases in control.
 - 2) Vaccinated residents are protected, unvaccinated still in danger.
 - 3) Almost 70% partially 63% fully vaccinated. Health Dept looking for 75% goal.
- City Council meeting tonight – Short term rental changed to remove 600 ft requirement.

Affordable Housing: Zoning Code Amendment Package – Wynn Hjermstad, Community Development Manager, Urban Development Department: 402-441-8211; whjermstad@lincoln.ne.gov, Stephanie Rouse, Planner, Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department: 402-441-7491; srouse@lincoln.ne.gov, and Steve Henrichsen, Development Review Manager, 402-441-6374; shenrichsen@lincoln.ne.gov.

- The Affordable Housing Coordinated Action Plan, approved by City Council in December 2020, identified several possible zoning code updates to support affordable housing production. This amendment package includes those recommendations. **See attached PowerPoint.**

- Steve Henrichsen – Many of the items already have had Council support and discussion over time.
- Stephanie:
 - Administrative Amendments
 - Declining commercial/retail space, increasing residential needs. Proposed amendments would allow Planning Director approval for more projects.
 - Parking – Average vehicles per renter has dropped slightly in recent years. Reducing number of spaces required for Multiple Family Dwellings allows more units to be built.
 - Height – Increasing maximum heights from 35 ft to 55 ft. for Multiple Family Dwellings. Older neighborhoods would still need special approval.
 - Lot Development – Many non-standard lots in older neighborhoods. Changes to corner lots & front yard definitions. B-2 changes to allow all residential uses. Residents damaged beyond 60% could rebuild to same dimensions.
 - June/early July – Public comments
- Comments/Questions
 - Parking – Russel Miller: Several years ago parking requirements were increased.
 - a) Steve, now see people owning fewer cars. Many developers saying we don't need this much.
 - b) 1.5 reflects current data showing less car ownership.
 - c) Neighborhoods surrounding multi-user housing get the problems with the overflow parking
 - d) How were new vehicle statistics arrived at? Previous 5 yr Census data - city wide data.
 - e) Bus system not convenient.
 - f) Handicap parking requirements would not change
 - Height –
 - a) Move from roughly 3 stories to 5 stories for Multiple Family Dwelling. Several projects have been approved with higher buildings in the last few years.
 - b) There are also requirements for minimum lot size that would affect projects.
 - c) Suggestion for visual examples
 - Corner lots – Older areas of town have smaller front yards already
- Steve said that they are glad to do presentations live or virtual to explain

Announcements

- *Keep Lincoln and Lancaster County Beautiful Welcomes Neighborhood Association* leaders to visit the Lincoln and Lancaster Co. Health Department (3131 'O' St., Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm, 2nd door on your right using the East entrance) to collect yard signs to post during the July 4th holiday to encourage neighbors to cleanup up their firework debris. Return the signs after the holiday. For questions contact Sarah Mason, Environmental Health Educator at 415-939-3671 or smason@lincoln.ne.gov
- The *City of Lincoln FY 21 Annual Action Plan for HUD Entitlement Programs* is available for review and comment on the Urban Development website: Lincoln.ne.gov, keyword: urban. The Plan is required by HUD and details the use of federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME, and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for the fiscal year beginning September 1, 2021. The public comment period began May 15th and ends June 14th. A public hearing is scheduled at the Lincoln City Council on June 21st at 3:00 p.m. To comment and for questions of more information contact Wynn Hjermstad, Urban Development Dept: whjermstad@lincoln.ne.gov.
- Question by Mayor to group about change in Short-term rentals with reducing 600 ft limit:
 - Concern from attendees about removal of the limit.
 - Planning & Building/Safety are to report back in 1 year.
 - Need to contact City Council if have opinion.
 - Council could revisit; but would be unusual.
 - Mayor said that her staff is concerned about what the changes have on affordable housing.

Next Meeting / Agenda

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 12th at 5:30 p.m. via zoom.

- More details on the City Budget
- Continue Roundtable Meetings on Zoom?

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Paul Johnson