

MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDTABLE

Via Zoom Monday, August 09, 2021, 5:30 p.m.

Meeting Notes

Attendance

Eleven residents and six City staff attended.

Mayor Gaylor Baird	Paula Baker - Everett
Tracy Corr – 40th & A	Mo Neal - Irvingdale
Sandra Washington - City Council	Russell Miller - Witherbee
Karl Reinhard – Irvingdale	Jon Carlson – Mayor's Office
Randy Smith - Woods Park	Dennis Hecht – Meadowlane
Greg Baker – Everett	Richard Pierson - Country Club
Ian Edgington – Clinton	Pat Stear – Hartley
Dan Marvin – UDD	Wynn Hjermsstad – UDD
Brian Praeuner - StarTran – LTU	June Kucera - LPS CLCs

Welcome and Introductions

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

Mayor Gaylor Baird's Comments:

Vaccinations:

- The vaccine provides great protection. However, the Delta Variant is different.
- Higher viral loads with Delta Variant resulting in more severe disease and deaths.
- Briefing tomorrow (Tuesday, August 10, 2021) with Health Director Pat Lopez.
- The average number of cases per day doubles every 10-12 days.
- Between July 1 and August 7 daily cases went from 9 to 69
- Hospitalization 7-day average for July increased from 14 on July 1 to 43 by July 31
- The Health Department continues to monitor and offers walk-in clinics.
- 68% of ages 16 and older are vaccinated.
- About 50% of Lincoln residents are fully vaccinated.

Emergency Rental Assistance:

- Housing and Utility Assistance continuing to be deployed.
- Over \$6.5 million dollars have been distributed to date.
- The eviction moratorium was extended.
- Go to <https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/rent> for more information or to request assistance.
- Progress being made on bipartisan infrastructure funding

Budget

- Mayor stated it was nice to see so many supporters across all sectors. She is pleased with the positive feedback received.
- Council has put forward some amendments related to adjusting the budget in accordance with how property valuations end up.
- Final adoption of budget on August 23, 2021; therefore, it is not too late to submit comments.

Transit Development Plan: Brian Praeuner, Transit Planner, Star Tran

- Please **see attachment for Brian's presentation.**

Questions

Question: Is there an outside company helping with study?

Answer: Yes, Nelson Nygaard based out of Portland.

- Same firm assisted in 2015.
- Do both small and large transit systems.

Question: Are representatives of underserved populations on committee to help decide routes and stops?

Answer: Working group established that included community representatives, members from the Center for People in Need and Southeast Community College.

Question: Were there any blind representatives included in working group?

Answer: No, there are not really any local blind representatives. The Blind Federation was suggested by an attendee as well as having focus groups for blind riders.

Question: Is StarTran looking at implementing smaller buses and more of them?

Answer: Yes, StarTran is looking at more vehicles, routes and drivers.

- 70% of the cost of bus service is the drivers' wages.

Question: Is there regular demand for service at city's edge?

Answer: StarTran wants to move to serving the highest concentrations of people.

- Land use is less dense at the edge of city.
- The farther you stretch a ride out, more of the community is served but a sacrifice is made in schedule for the rest of riders.
- StarTran feels it is more important to keep service on a regular timetable--for instance, a bus available every 15 minutes.
- StarTran depends on high transfer usage.
- StarTran is also looking at bicycle connections in this budget.
- A feasibility study has been undertaken to look at different locations for a central bus transfer facility. It would include amenities such as a ticket area/booth, security, etc. The biggest hold up is the amount of money needed to create such a central transfer facility. The City applied for a federal grant close to \$17 million to build one.

Announcements

Reminder from Russell Miller to weigh in on road projects regarding the quarter cent sales tax and Lincoln On The Move funds/projects. Direct suggestions to Thomas Shafer or ltu@lincoln.ne.gov.

Next Meeting / Agenda

- Police chief introduction
- Tree trimming
- How to distribute newsletters; get word out to neighbors about events
- Discussion re: Signs "selling" items for joining and membership

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:30

Respectfully submitted, Tracy Corr