

MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDTABLE SUMMARY

March 9, 2020

Mayor Gaylor Baird opened the meeting on Monday, March 9th at 5:30 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room, City/County Building, Lincoln, NE.

Attendance

Twenty-one residents and five City staff attended:

Tracy Corr – 40 th & A NA	Richard Piersol –Country Club NA
Paul Johnson – East Campus CO	Karen Dienstbier – Eastridge NA
Sue Burkey – Hartley NA	Myrna Coleman – Highlands NA
Andy Gueck – Indian Village NA	Geri Cotter – Irvingdale NA
Pat Bracken – Irvingdale NA	Dennis Hecht – Meadowlane Area RA
Keith Roland – University Place CO	Fred Freytag – Witherbee NA
Russell Miller – Witherbee NA	Randy Smith – Woods Park NA
Söndra Washington – City Council	James Michael Bowers – City Council
Tammy Ward – City Council	Bennie Shobe – City Council
Sean Flowerday – County Commission	Nathan Woodruff – American Red Cross
Steph Novacek – American Red Cross	Lin Quenzer – Mayor's Office
Andrew Thierolf – Planning Dept	Wynn Hjermstad – Urban Development Dept
Dan Marvin – Urban Development Dept	Mayor Gaylor Baird

Welcome & Introductions

Attendees were welcomed and introductions made. Paul Johnson volunteered to take notes.

Mayor Gaylor Baird Comments

The Mayor discussed the **coronavirus**. The Mayor's Office is working to get relevant information out to the public about the coronavirus. They have been meeting with State of Nebraska & University of Nebraska Medical Center staff to be as well informed as possible. The City of Lincoln has pandemic plans in place for other diseases, but this is a new virus. Prevention is important so as not to transmit to others, especially high risk individuals. Prevention measures will also help protect the health care system which is already being affected by the flu season. When possible, households should prepare for possible self-quarantine and – if possible – plan to work from home. The best source for local information is online at health.lincoln.ne.gov.

The **Affordable Housing Action Plan** is available for public review and comment. Three open houses are scheduled to present the plan and receive input:

- Wednesday, March 18, Noon at the Community Health Endowment, 250 N. 21st Street, Suite 2.
- Thursday, March 19, 8:00 am at the Community Health Endowment, 250 N. 21st Street, Suite 2.
- Thursday, March 19, 5:30 pm at the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, 3131 O Street.

[Update after the meeting: The open houses were cancelled due to the coronavirus. See the website, address below, to view a presentation to the Lincoln City Council at a Pre-Council meeting]

The plan is currently in a 45-day public comment period ending April 15th. The draft plan is available on the City website – lincoln.ne.gov, keyword: affordable. For further information, contact Dan Marvin at dmarvin@lincoln.ne.gov.

[Update after the meeting: The comment period has been extended to May 15th.]

On a related topic, the State Legislature is now considering **LB 794**, an Affordable Housing bill. The legislation would require cities to allow duplex, tri-plex, and 4-plexes in all zoning districts. The City is concerned that the proposed legislation might interfere with the City's local control of housing. It is also possible that the language in LP794 may be attached to another bill.

Census 2020

County Commissioner Sean Flowerday, and Andrew Thierolf: Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Department - 402-441-6371; athierolf@lincoln.ne.gov. **See Attachment 1.**

The 2020 Census begins in March, with April 1 as the designated Census Day. A team of local government staff (City and County) have been working to contact groups that have historically been undercounted – primarily new residents & off campus college students.

Historically, the local community has received federal funding totaling \$13,000 over 10 years for each person counted in the Census. This is just one reason why it is important that every person be counted.

To make Lincoln residents more aware of the 2020 Census, a variety of promotional means are targeting census tracts where response rates have been low: advertising in five languages, public service announcements on television and radio, billboards, and yard signs.

This is the first time the Census can be completed online. When people receive their Census letter, it includes a number code to use when completing the Census online.

When you complete the Census form, the fundamental question is, “Where are you living on April 1, 2020?” That is the census point of time. This question is not asking for a person’s permanent address (such as student’s hometown).

Roundtable Question: How are homeless being counted?

Answer: Census workers will go out to try to capture the numbers.

For further information, go to Lnkcounts.org.

Announcements – *All events may be canceled or postponed due to coronavirus.*

Free Trees from Arbor Day Foundation -- Lynn Johnson, Parks and Recreation Department Director, told the Roundtable about a project with Arbor Day Foundation that involves a free distribution of 400 trees on Arbor Day. The trees, to be planted on private property, will be in three-gallon containers and likely about four feet tall. There will be five varieties of shade trees. The Arbor Day Foundation plans to distribute the trees at Union Plaza on the afternoon of Friday, April 24, and the morning of Saturday, April 25. Contact Lynn at ljohnson@lincoln.ne.gov for more information. **See Attachment 2.**

Text Amendment #20001- -- Conditional Accessory Buildings – Currently, climate-conditioned accessory buildings (heated/cooled) can be no higher than the main building on a property. The proposed change to the zoning code would allow conditioned buildings to follow the height & setback regulations for the zoning district, not the main building. **See Attachment 3.**

American Red Cross – On Saturday, April 25, Red Cross volunteer teams of three will be available to install **free smoke alarms & batteries in the Clinton neighborhood**. The teams will be based at the Salvation Army Center. Residents interested in receiving alarms can sign up online at soundthealarm.com. The Red Cross, event sponsor, will advertise & do door hangers to make people aware of the opportunity. Building & Safety recommends having a fire alarm in every room except the kitchen. The Red Cross distributes smoke alarms all year long. There are no income requirements. Red Cross actually installs alarms, not just give the homeowner an alarm. **See Attachment 4.**

Street Advisory Committee – Russell Miller asked Roundtable attendees to tell the Street Advisory Committee about residential streets that need repair. This is how those streets can be considered for recommendation by the committee. Postcards have been distributed showing which residential streets are already scheduled for repair.

Roundtable Question: Where are funds for arterial repairs coming from?

Answer: The capital improvement plan covers the major rehab streets. The sales tax repair is aimed at residential areas and 25% of sales tax funds is for new streets.

Roundtable Question: How far out have plans been made?

Answer: Plans for this first year and the second year are set. Plans for the third year are not set yet.

Lincoln Prayer Breakfast – The 2020 Lincoln Prayer Breakfast is scheduled for Friday, April 17, at Lincoln Station, 201 N. 7th Street. Reservation deadline is April 10.

Next Meeting/Agenda

Next meeting will be April 13th at 5:30 pm. The topic TBD.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Paul Johnson

Why the 2020 Census is Important to Nebraska

Attachment 1

Did you know that the distribution of political representation and taxpayer's dollars is based upon how many residents the Census counts?

Equal Representation in Government

The Census is conducted every 10 years to ensure equal representation in elected government at the federal, state, and local levels.

Return of Resident Tax Dollars to Nebraska

The Census establishes Nebraska's proportion of all federal funds for the next 10 years. In fiscal year 2016, \$3.995 billion in federal funds were obligated in Nebraska based upon resident counts from the 2010 Census and subsequent annual population estimates. This equates to \$2,096 in federal funds distributed annually for each Nebraska resident. When residents are not counted the state loses federal dollars that should be sent to local areas.

Your community benefits the most when everyone is counted.

These are just some of the ways that census population totals matter for the amount of dollars returned to Nebraska.

	2016 Federal Returns to NE
Transportation & Highways	\$421.1 M
Housing & Energy	\$289.6 M
Families & Children	\$525.9 M
Health & Insurance	\$1,585.6 M
Education	\$960.2 M
Rural Affairs	\$28.7 M
Community & Economic Support	\$65.3 M

Over a 10 year span:



2020 VISION
IT'S YOUR FUTURE

— 2020 DECENNIAL CENSUS IN NEBRASKA —

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Source: George Washington University, 2017
<https://gwipp.gwu.edu/sites/g/files/zaxdzs2181/f/downloads/Nebraska%20CFD%2008-18-17.pdf>;
content from North Dakota State Data Center,
modified to represent data for Nebraska

Celebrate **ARBOR DAY**

Friday, April 24 • 4:00 - 8:00 PM
Union Plaza, 21st & P Street

Celebrate all things trees with Lincoln's Arbor Day celebration in Union Plaza!
Various activities, demonstrations, food by The Hub Cafe, craft beer from
White Elm Brewing Co., and live Music by the Wildwoods



Saturday, April 25
10:00AM - 2:00 PM

Nebraska Innovation Campus
2021 Transformation Drive

Celebrate Earth Day's 50th Anniversary!

Lincoln Earth Day is a free, kid-friendly event for the entire family to enjoy. There will be musical performances, hands-on demonstrations, food trucks, green vehicles and more!



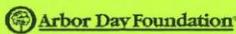
Arbor Day Tree Give Away

Lincoln Parks & Recreation is distributing over 400 trees!

Six varieties of hardy trees will be distributed to the public for planting on private property. Over time, these large shade-providing trees will help build the tree canopy in Lincoln. Trees are in a 3 gallon container along with helpful care instructions.

Species include: Kentucky Coffee Tree, Northern Red Oak, Burr Oak, Hackberry, American Sycamore, and Northern Catalpa.

The City of Lincoln and Community Forestry Advisory Board is the recipient of the 2020 FedEx Tree Distribution Award. A Special thanks to the following partners that make this program possible:





Text Amendment #20001 – Conditioned Accessory Buildings

A text amendment is proposed on behalf of Jonathan Henning and Kathryn Duncan to remove the requirement that conditioned accessory buildings can be no taller than the main building. This text amendment was submitted for the March 18, 2020 Planning Commission agenda.

“Conditioned space” is generally a separate accessory building, but provided with heating and cooling systems. Accessory conditioned space often contains uses typically found in a house such as a recreation room or craft room. The proposed amendment will make the standards for conditioned accessory buildings consistent with the allowances for regular living space within the main building.

Today, conditioned accessory buildings cannot be taller than the main building and must conform to all applicable setbacks of the main building. The regulations are different than for unconditioned accessory buildings, which can be built up to the height restriction of the main building except if located in the setbacks, where they are limited to a height of 15 feet.

The original intention with limiting the height of a separate conditioned accessory building was to prevent it from looming over the main structure. However, it has become clear that the height restriction is inconsistent with what could otherwise be done by right within the building envelope.

Since an addition to a main building could be extended out to the setback lines and follow the maximum zoning district height, there should be no reason why a conditioned accessory building could not do the same. Conditioned accessory buildings would still be required to meet the setbacks of the main building so the change should not have a significant effect on surrounding properties.

The following text amendment was determined in cooperation with the applicant and staff:

27.72.120 Accessory Buildings

- e. Accessory buildings having a conditioned area shall comply with the applicable height restrictions and setback requirements of the main building.
 - ~~1. Comply with the height regulations of the district the accessory building is located in, but shall be no taller than the main building on the same lot, and~~
 - ~~2. Meet the required setbacks of the main building.~~

Please feel free to contact Rachel Jones, Planning Department with any questions at (402) 441-7603 or rjones@lincoln.ne.gov



Just one day
of your life can
change someone
else's forever.



Join our growing movement.

Every day, seven people in the United States die from home fires and more lives are lost every year in home fires than all other disasters. Smoke alarms cut the risk of death or injury in half.

That's why we are rallying hundreds of volunteers to *Sound the Alarm* and install FREE smoke alarms in Lincoln on April 25.

Join us as we make homes in our community safer.

Visit SoundTheAlarm.org to volunteer!

