

MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDTABLE SUMMARY

May 13, 2019

Tracy Corr opened the meeting on Monday, May 13, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room, City/County/Building, Lincoln, NE.

Attendance

Fourteen residents and three City staff attended:

Tracy Corr – 40 th & A NA	Jennifer Powell – Country Club NA
Karen Dienstbier – Eastridge NA	Pat Stear – Hartley NA
Myrna Coleman – Highlands NA	Dennis Hecht – Meadowlane Area RA
Karen Houseman – Near Oak Lake NA	Mike DeKalb – University Place CO
Bill Vocasek – West A NA	Fred Freytag – Witherbee NA
Russell Miller – Witherbee NA	Lin Quenzer – Mayor's Office
Wynn Hjermsstad – Urban Development Dept	Andrea Gebhart – Northern Lights HOA
Gary Aldridge – Lower Platte South NRD	David Grabarkewitz – Community CROPS
Mayor Beutler	

Welcome & Introductions

Tracy Corr welcomed everyone and asked for introductions. Karen Houseman volunteered to take notes.

Mayor's Comments

This is Mayor Beutler's last Roundtable. He offered reflection, thanks, and luck. Mayor Beutler requested each person around the room to share one thing that was an improvement through government in the last 12 years.

Everyone shared a story and enjoyed dessert.

Community CROPS – *David Grabarkewitz, Executive Director, 531-220-1156 (cell); david@communitycrops.org*

The new Executive Director of Community CROPS, Seward native David Grabarkewitz, spoke about future initiatives for Community CROPS.

David started in August 2018 and considers his job to be a "give back" position. Community CROPS is investing in neighborhoods, city development and food development. The 10th garden opened last week. At 100 gardeners per garden, that means 1,000 gardeners growing food for their families and friends. The NeighborWorks garden at 14th and D Street will open toward the end of June. David is looking for ways to find their way into new neighborhoods. Typically, the gardeners are 80% low income, 60% immigrant culture. After land acquisition, water and land management are the biggest challenges to opening new community gardens.

Community CROPS offers community gardens, education and classes about gardening, technical assistance and training for beginning, small scale farmers, and a veggie van – sort of a mobile vegetable stand. In the future, they hope to have an edible forest with native Nebraska trees that produce nuts and berries.

The Community CROPS leases 12 acres of Prairie Pines at 112th and Adams Street. They hold their farmer training and farming workshops there. The program supports the development of farming entrepreneurs through a two-year program that covers everything from assessing soil health to selling at a farmers market.

The farmer education program receives additional funding post grant to go to elementary and junior high schools to give hands on learning experiences and education about food choices. Community CROPS goals include helping neighborhood residents grow fresh fruits and vegetables in their own in-need neighborhoods. Community CROPS is also a healthy food advocate.

Despite limited funding and staff, Community CROPS finds ways to make it work. They rely heavily on volunteers (more information on their website: communitycrops.org/volunteer). In the past, they had Americorps workers and internships – some of which turned into paid positions. Funding is primarily through grants from Cooper Foundation, Woods Foundation, City of Lincoln, Lincoln Community Foundation, and federal grants. Private donations are also always welcome. Please consider giving to COMMUNITY CROPS on Give to Lincoln Day on May 30, 2019.

This summer, watch for the Veggie Van. It will be stationed at Everett School, Cooper Park, Health 360 and Peter Pan Park on a rotating schedule (see website for the specific schedule). The Lincoln Foodbank's "Lincoln Fresh" van will also be bringing fresh produce to Lincoln communities. Contact David for additional information about starting more community gardens or volunteering. **See Attachments 1 & 2**

Announcements

- **NeighborWorks – Neighborhood Forum:** Coordinators of the Neighborhood Forum are seeking residents to participate in an advisory committee -- people who will represent your area. Please recruit actively because residents' input will be needed for Forum task forces. NeighborWorks is discussing the kind of training that Omaha does for individuals volunteering in neighbor associations. Omaha training includes two tracks: civic engagement and neighborhood leadership. We want to engage the younger populations without overwhelming them. Neighborhood associations might consider mentoring younger participants as they develop in roles. Contact Pat Anderson-Sifuentez, panderson@nwlincoln.org, for more information.
- **Rental Property Amendment:** The Rental Property Amendment will be voted on by City Council on 5/13/2019. Previously, there were landlord protests. Neighborhood associations should consider providing their perspectives as well. **See Attachment 3**
- **Ice Cream Social for PAL:** The Preservation Association of Lincoln is having an Ice Cream Social at White Hall on Sunday, 5/19/2019, from 3:00 – 5:00 pm.
- **Feast on the Farm:** Community CROPS will be hosting a fundraising event on August 24, 2019, 5:00 pm-8:00 pm at Prairie Pines, 112th and Adams Street. The event showcases the best of local foods prepared by favorite local chefs. This is a "21 and over" event that includes a silent auction. Tickets go on sale (\$75 per person) the second week in June. For more information go to: communitycrops.org/events/feast-on-the-farm/
- **Trees for Neighborhoods:** The Lower Platte South Natural Resource District's community forestry program provides dollar for dollar assistance to neighborhood associations that want to plant trees. There are still funds available until June 30th – the end of their fiscal year. To apply now, contact Gary Aldridge www.lpsnrd.org. He says, "Help me help you plant trees!" **See Attachment 4**

Next Meeting/Agenda

The next meeting of the Mayor's Neighborhood Roundtable will be June 10, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. It will be Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird's first roundtable meeting.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted, Karen Houseman



Veggie Van



This 'market on wheels' will serve multiple neighborhoods by setting up farmers markets at **Everett School**, **Cooper Park**, **Health 360** and **Peter Pan Park**.



We participate in the Double Up Bucks program, where people using the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program have the opportunity to double the amount of fresh fruits, vegetables and herbs they buy at no extra cost.



The Veggie Van is made possible by the generous support of the Community Health Endowment and Union Bank and Trust.



VEGGIE VAN APPEARANCES 2019

MAY 10 peter pan park 6-8PM
MAY 18 11th & B crops 11:30-2:30
MAY 29 peter pan park 12-2PM
May 30 cooper park 4-6PM
JUN 13 health 360 3-5PM
JUN 14 11th & B crops 6-8PM
JUN 15 malone center JUNETEENTH
JUN 26 peter pan park 12-2PM
JUN 27 cooper park 4-6PM
JUL 11 health 360 3-5PM
JUL 12 11th & B crops 6-8PM
JUL 24 peter pan park 12-2PM

JUL 25 cooper park 6-8PM
AUG 08 health 360 11:30-2:30
AUG 09 11th & B crops 12-2PM
AUG 28 peter pan park 4-6PM
AUG 29 cooper park 3-5PM
SEP 12 health 360 6-8PM
SEP 13 11th & B crops 6-8PM
SEP 25 peter pan park 12-2PM
SEP 26 cooper park 4-6PM
OCT 10 health 360 3-5PM
OCT 11 11th & B crops 6-8PM
OCT 23 peter pan park 12-2PM
OCT 24 cooper park 4-6PM

Attachment 2



COMMUNITY CROPS EVENTS

June 4th	How to Make Dumplings Cooking Class
June 8th	Garden Gala: A Picnic in the Heights
June 11th	Wild-Harvesting Herbs
August 8th	Curries from Around the World Cooking Class
August 24th	Feast on the Farm
September 24th	Season Extension Class



Give to Lincoln Day is a 24-hour event that encourages you to contribute to **COMMUNITY CROPS** and Lancaster County nonprofit organizations on May 30th.

GivetoLincoln.com

Give to Lincoln Day is coordinated by Lincoln Community Foundation, in partnership with local nonprofit organizations.

Every donation makes a bigger impact on Give to Lincoln Day because nonprofits also get a proportional share of a \$450,000 match fund made possible by LCF and generous sponsors.

Starting May 1, gifts given through www.GiveToLincoln.com will count toward **G2LD** and qualify for matching funds.

Give to help make Lincoln grow!

RENTAL PROPERTY PACKAGE

4-29-19

IDEAS FOR IMPROVING LINCOLN'S RENTAL PROGRAM

GOAL#1: GET ALL RENTALS INTO THE CITY BUILDING & SAFETY SYSTEM

- Estimate 50,000 rental units in Lincoln. 39,000 of those are 3 units and above already licensed.

1. Rental Registry (Included in the proposed ordinance before City Council)
 - a. All residential rental property would be required to annually provide the contact information of the owner and property manager and related property information
 - b. A \$15.00 one-time fee for registration would be charged
 - c. Apartments with three or more units are already required to have a license and their information and licensing fee are already collected. That would automatically go into the registry with no additional fee.
 - d. On-line registration should be set up with the ability for the public to confirm a rental property is registered and/or anonymously report an unregistered rental property.
 - e. No additional inspections are required as part of the registry

GOAL#2: INCREASE INSPECTIONS AT PROBLEM PROPERTIES

2. Inspections (Section 2.e included in the proposed ordinance before City Council)
 - a. **Currently**, all apartment buildings with three or more units have the exterior and any common areas like hallways, laundry, etc inspected annually.
39,000 RENTAL UNITS CURRENTLY INSPECTED ANNUALLY
 - b. **Currently** a complete inspection of both exterior and interior is required when an apartment building of three or more units is sold. (Certificate of Compliance)
9,300 RENTAL UNITS CURRENTLY INSPECTED OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS
 - c. **Currently**, an interior inspection of an individual unit may occur at any time as a result of a tenant complaint.
1,000 HOUSING UNITS (BOTH RENTAL AND OWNER-OCCUPIED) COMPLAINTS
CURRENTLY INSPECTED ANNUALLY
 - d. **Currently**, an interior inspection of all units may occur if a building of 3-12 units has two or more code violations in separate units within a year of each other. (This threshold increase with building size: 13-24 units requires 3 violations; 25 + requires 4 violations)
 - e. **ADD FIVE MORE** circumstances that authorize additional interior inspections:
 - i. When one or more units in Two-Family (Duplex) rental has two housing code violations within one year of each other
 - ii. When one unit in separate rental dwellings under common ownership each receive a housing code violation within a year of each other;
 - iii. Failure to pay required fees or penalties;
 - iv. Property owner is convicted of a housing code violation
 - v. Property owner refuses service of notice of housing code violations
 - f. Clarify the notification process to tenants when interior inspections occur. Owner provides the names of current tenants to ensure proper notice for any interior inspections.
 - g. Shorten Timeframes: Explore additional email notification rather than just letter to get things moving quicker. The courts haven't used email notifications as the sole or primarily notification tool yet. With registry, we can email property owners in addition to official letter notification.

TERMS

1. There is no minimum number of trees you must order.
2. Shrubs are not eligible for cost-share assistance.
3. Standard stock sizes are 1 1/2"-1 3/4" on deciduous trees and 4'-5' on conifer stock. Root marker bags are acceptable.
4. Smaller stock can be planted but cost-share will be based on the price of the standard size stock.
5. Proposals from at least 3 tree vendors must accompany each application.
6. All trees must be guaranteed for one year. .



ABOUT THE NRD

The Lower Platte South Natural Resources District is one of 23 districts in the state of Nebraska formed in 1972 for the purpose of managing the state's natural resources, with an emphasis on watershed management. Programs and activities include all areas of natural resource management and development: tree planting, flood protection, wildlife habitat, stream bank stabilization, environmental education, land treatment, water monitoring and many others. The districts are partially funded by property taxes and governed by a board of directors—elected representatives who serve four-year terms. The NRD system is local government working to protect local natural resources. The Lower Platte South NRD includes nearly all of Lancaster and Cass counties and parts of Seward, Saunders, Otoe, and Butler counties.



LOWER PLATTE SOUTH
natural resources district

Lower Platte South NRD • 3125 Portia Street
PO Box 83581 • Lincoln, Nebraska 68501-3581
Phone: (402) 476-2729 • Fax: (402) 476-6454

For Tree Planting or Tree Cost-Sharing Programs:
Contact: LPSNRD Forester Jay Seaton
jseaton.forester@lpsnrd.org

The Lower Platte South NRD is an
Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM



LOWER PLATTE SOUTH
natural resources district



www.lpsnrd.org

PURPOSE

The Lower Platte South NRD has established a Community Forestry Program for the purpose of cost-sharing on the total cost of tree plantings by community groups to enhance the public good.



ELIGIBILITY

Neighborhood associations, service organizations, citizen groups, business associations, villages, towns and cities. Eligible lands include non-federal and non-state public lands and private property within the corporate limits of a city or village. No projects will be eligible for cost-share funds when planting under overhead power or utility lines.

COST-SHARING

The District cost-share rate is up to 50% of the total cost of the trees, and planting. The cost of planting trees will not exceed \$100 per tree and the district's portion of tree planting will not exceed \$50 per tree. Maximum of \$10,000 per application, once every three years. The applicant's match must be a minimum of 25% cash (private funds, no tax funds) and up to 25% other program funds or grants including non-NRD tax dollars.



DEADLINE

Applications will be reviewed on a first-come-first served basis, with total fiscal year cost-sharing based on the NRD budgeted amount. Spring plantings should be completed prior to June 1st. Applications are subject to approval by the district forester and decisions concerning applications will be reported to applicants by the district forester.

TO RECEIVE A LPSNRD COMMUNITY FORESTRY APPLICATION FORM

Please Complete and Return

Organization name

Coordinator's name

Address

City

State

ZIP

Phone

Email

OR

Email the LPSNRD Forester at:
jseaton.forester@lpsnrd.org
for more information.

