

MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDTABLE SUMMARY

July 8, 2019

Tracy Corr opened the meeting on Monday, July 8, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room, City/County/Building, Lincoln, NE.

Attendance

Eighteen residents and six City staff attended:

Tracy Corr – 40 th & A NA	Gloria Eddins – Clinton NO
Matthew Roque – College View NA	Jennifer Powell – Country Club NA
Paul Johnson – East Campus NA	Pat Anderson-Sifuentez – Everett NA, NW-L
Pat Stear – Hartley NA	Sue Burkey – Hartley NA
Liz Cody – Indian Village NA	Dennis Hecht – Meadowlane Area RA
Mike DeKalb – University Place CO	Fred Freytag – Witherbee NA
Russell Miller – Witherbee NA	Randy Smith – Woods Park NA
Andrea Gebhart – Northern Lights HOA	Mike Renken – NeighborWorks-Lincoln
Söndra Washington – City Council	Lindsay Limbach – Community Learning Centers
Sarah Mason – Health Dept, KLLCB	Lin Quenzer – Mayor's Office
Jon Carlson – Mayor's Office	Wynn Hjermstad – Urban Development Dept
Dan Marvin – Urban Development Dept	Mayor Gaylor Baird

Welcome & Introductions

Tracy Corr welcomed everyone and asked for introductions. Paul Johnson volunteered to take notes.

Mayor's Comments

Mayor is on her way from another meeting off-site and will be joining soon.

Future of Bicentennial Cascade Fountain

Maggie Stuckey, Executive Director, Lincoln Parks Foundation: 402-441-8258; Director@LincolnParks.org, and Susan Larson Rodenburg, President, SLR Communications

The future of the Bicentennial Cascade Fountain, at 27th and Capitol Parkway, is under consideration. When the fountain was conceived in 1972, the cost was \$155,000. The fountain was completed and dedicated in August 1978, forty-one years ago. The fountain no longer functions properly, so something needs to be done. The Lincoln Parks Foundation is asking the community to share their input regarding four concepts for repairs and/or improvements.

- ▶ **Concept 1: Refurbish the existing fountain** -- repair/replace mechanical systems and basin, replace concrete walking surfaces and redefine planting areas. This would keep the original vision for the fountain area intact and add/repair infrastructure allowing the fountain to operate safely and efficiently. \$900,000
- ▶ **Concept 2: Reduce the size of the existing basin** – repair/place concrete walking surfaces and add an informal plaza defined by tree planters. The plaza would frame the fountain and add/repair infrastructure allowing the fountain to operate safely and efficiently. \$1,100,000
- ▶ **Concept 3: Replace the fountain with a community plaza and splash pad** – adding activity space by adding a centralized large covered space, a variety of seating and an interactive water play experience. \$2,000,000
- ▶ **Concept 4: Replace fountain with plant conservatory design** -- as a centralized hub for the Antelope Triangle, a plant conservatory would tie together the Rotary Strolling Garden, the Hamann Rose Garden, and the Sunken Gardens. A conservatory could be a volunteer-run facility with seasonal plant displays and gardening related classes and programs. \$ To be determined

Everyone is encouraged to complete a quick survey to share insights and preferences concerning the future of the Bicentennial Cascade Fountain. The survey is online at go.unl.edu/cascade until August 1. The Lincoln

Parks Foundation asks the neighborhood associations to help spread the word about the survey. The survey will be open & public input accepted until August 1. The Foundation has already contacted the teacher groups (which helped fund the original fountain) for their input. It will take about a month to analyze the results, so a preferred concept will likely be identified by this fall. **See Attachment 1.**

Questions & Comments:

- Parking is limited – how can that be addressed? Additional parking will be available in the Children's Zoo lot when construction is completed.
- Many of the users are playing/wading in the water. Water is important to community.
- Current fountain did not have an endowment for maintenance. The new project will include money for a maintenance endowment.
- Do teachers wish the fountain to be maintained? Yes, but they are not likely to contribute much funding.
- Community funding will be the primary source of project funding. The Foundation plans to provide a challenge grant to get community funding. A Parks Foundation Challenge grant can only be used for renovating current parks/projects and is funded from City reserves.
- If the decision is to keep the fountain, could the fountain be returned to original white? There are some treatments available.
- This may be an opportunity to incorporate a mural or other public art.

Defining Neighborhood Associations for Registration to Receive Redevelopment Notices –

Wynn Hjermstad, Community Development Manager, City of Lincoln: 402-441-8211; whjermstad@lincoln.ne.gov.

Nebraska State legislation requires that neighborhood associations “registered” with the City be contacted and offered a choice in how they will be notified of Planning Commission and City Council public hearings on redevelopment projects: US mail, e-mail, or certified mail. The City of Lincoln does not have a process for official registration of neighborhood associations, so the first step to comply with this law is defining criteria to be required for official registration as a neighborhood association with the City. **See Attachment 2.**

Lincoln has always been very open & proactive in keeping neighborhoods informed about upcoming projects. Currently, Lincoln's definition of neighborhood associations is relatively loose. However, for the purpose of being notified for redevelopment projects, the definition and a registration process must be codified.

Questions and Comments

- Some neighborhoods may have difficulty meeting all of the proposed registration criteria.
- Will the bylaws requirement be a problem? Urban Development has sample bylaws available online as an appendix of the *Neighborhood Association How To's* brochure: <https://lincoln.ne.gov/city/urban/neighborhoods/pdf/neighassoc/NAhow2.pdf>.
- What is needed to move the process forward? Approval by Roundtable attendees would be helpful. In response, attendees voted to accept the criteria proposed by Urban Development to be “registered.” All neighborhoods will continue to receive notifications as always.

Announcements

- Keep Lincoln/Lancaster County Beautiful (KLLCB) staff thanked everyone for putting out fireworks signs and reminded attendees about the permanent household hazardous waste site.
- Meadowlane Area Resident Association will have their annual meeting.
- For affordable housing, it has been suggested that the requirement of no more than three unrelated persons living in a property be reconsidered. Generally the group did not support this but more discussion will follow in the future.
- The Omaha HUD office notified NeighborWorks-Lincoln that Ben Carson, Secretary of U.S. Housing & Urban Development Department (HUD), will be in Lincoln in two weeks as part of a tour of Omaha and Lincoln projects.

- Indian Village representatives reported that their 4th of July bike parade has proven to be a great alternative to fireworks.
- Jon Carlson shared a handout listing membership of the Advisory Committee on Transportation (ACT). Committee members are appointed by the Mayor and are charged with providing oversight, collaboration, and advocacy regarding transportation infrastructure investments. Roundtable attendees noted familiar names on the list: Mike DeKalb, committee co-chair (University Place) and Russell Miller (Witherbee).
See Attachment 3.

Next Meeting/Agenda

- The next meeting of the Mayor's Neighborhood Roundtable will be August 12, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. Several possible topics were discussed, including: the need for "adult only events" to server alcohol, State legislation impacting air B&B's, and the results of the Parks Foundation Cascade Fountain survey.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at about 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Paul Johnson.

Attachment 1

Bicentennial Cascade Fountain



The Bicentennial Cascade Fountain has been at the corner of 27th Street and Capitol Parkway since 1978. It was the result of a collaboration between the Lincoln Area Retired Teachers Association (now Lincoln Area Retired School Personnel) and Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department to commemorate the nation's Bicentennial.

The fountain is now in a need of major renovation to keep it operating. The Lincoln Parks Foundation invites the public to share their input regarding a variety of options for repairs and improvements through an online survey. The survey is open through August 1, 2019. Visit:

go.unl.edu/cascade



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Attachment 2

TO: Mayor's Neighborhood Roundtable representatives
FROM: Wynn Hjermstad, Community Development Manager
DATE: October 31, 2018

At the October Roundtable meeting, Dave Landis, Director of Urban Development, explained new state legislation requiring notification to neighborhood associations when the Planning Commission schedules a public hearing relating to the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) process. This includes consideration of Blight and Substandard Determination Studies, Redevelopment Plans, and Plan Amendments that identify new TIF projects. Notification is to be to associations located in or near the proposed area, are registered with the City, and are to be given the choice of how to receive notification: US mail, certified mail, or e-mail.

Roundtable attendees discussed how to define a neighborhood association for purposes of meeting this new requirement. The Planning and Urban Development Departments will continue current notification procedures with notices given to all associations on our mailing lists. This new definition is ONLY for this unique circumstance involving the TIF process and how you want to be notified.

Roundtable attendees asked staff to prepare a potential definition of neighborhood associations including factors discussed at the meeting. Staff from Planning and Urban Development have identified the following for your consideration:

Neighborhood associations meeting the following criteria will be officially registered for purposes of TIF related process notification:

1. Has boundaries.
2. Has an annual meeting or designated number of meetings per year.
3. Has by-laws.
4. In a year, has a minimum of 5 people attend, assist, or interact with neighborhood activities.

Please review and discuss these criteria and provide your input to me by December 1st. I prefer E-mail (whjermstad@lincoln.ne.gov), but I can also be reached at 402-441-8211. After receiving your input, a definition will be finalized and all associations will be contacted to determine if they meet the definition. Those meeting the definition will then be asked to specify how they want to receive notification of TIF-related public hearings: US mail, certified mail, or e-mail.

To reiterate, this definition and notification process is only for TIF related projects. All contacts currently on our notification lists will continue to receive notices on Planning Commission actions and issues deemed of interest to neighborhoods.

Attachment 3

Advisory Committee on Transportation (ACT)

ACT Charge Statement: *Provide an additional level of oversight, collaboration and advocacy regarding transportation infrastructure investments in the City of Lincoln.*

From the voter-approved ballot language:

- i. The street projects funded by the additional quarter of one percent sales tax shall be determined by the City's Capital Improvement Program with the guidance of a citizen oversight committee appointed by the Mayor to ensure that these tax revenues are spent fairly, efficiently, effectively, and in all quadrants of the City.
- ii. The Transportation and Utilities Department shall provide to the citizen oversight committee, the City Council, and the Mayor an annual report on projects funded by the increased sales tax for each year that the increased sales tax is in effect for the purposes set forth herein.

Advisory Committee on Transportation (ACT)

Megan Stock – who recently ran for City Council- lives in Southeast Lincoln and is a school teacher at McPhee Elementary near the State Capitol.

Genelle Moore lives in Near South and was a Captain with LPD Northwest Team.

Ken Cooper lives in Northeast Lincoln and is the facilities manager for the Center for People in Need with a long background in non-profit human services.

Barb Fraser is on the City's Pedestrian / Bicycle Advisory Committee and brings a lot of knowledge on multi-modal transportation. Barb lives near Williamsburg Neighborhood.

Amy Eidenmiller lives in the West A neighborhood and, among other things, is a board member of the Nebraska Federation of the Blind.

Pablo Cervantes is on the South of Downtown Board and works for LPS as their migrant education program coordinator.

Mike DeKalb (Co-chair) Lives in University Place with background in Planning, the NRD board, and neighborhood issues.

Russell Miller lives in Witherbee brings a long history of knowledge about infrastructure financing and neighborhood issues.

Rick Krueger, Krueger Development lives in Country Meadows in SE Lincoln

Don Linscott, Commercial Realtor/Broker at Greenleaf Properties

Todd Wiltgen, former County Commissioner, now working with the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce lives in East Lincoln

Jeane McClure is the Executive Director of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Nebraska and lives in Country Club Neighborhood.

Brett Ebert is an Attorney with Baylor-Evnen and lives in Fallbrook in northwest Lincoln

Shannon Harner, one of the co-chairs, is the President of HomeServices – formerly Home and Woods Brothers Real estate.