

MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDTABLE SUMMARY

December 9, 2019

Tracy Corr opened the meeting on Monday, December 9, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room, City/County Building, Lincoln, NE.

Attendance

Fifteen residents and four City staff attended:

Tracy Corr – 40th & A NA
Jennifer Powell – Country Club NA
Karen Dienstbier – Eastridge NA
Sue Burkey – Hartley NA
Myrna Coleman – Highlands NA
Mike DeKalb – University Place CO
Russell Miller – Witherbee NA
Marti Lee – NeighborWorks-Lincoln
Sean Stewart – Building & Safety
Mayor Gaylor Baird

Gloria Eddins – Clinton NO
Paul Johnson – East Campus CO
Paula Rhian – Everett & IHC
Pat Stear – Hartley NA
Andy Gueck – Indian Village NA
Bill Vocasek – West A NA
Randy Smith – Woods Park NA
Chad Blahak – Building & Safety
Jon Carlson – Mayor's Office

Welcome & Introductions

Tracy Corr welcomed everyone and asked for introductions. Paul Johnson volunteered to take notes until he must leave at 6:00. Paula Rhian volunteered to finish the meeting notes.

Mayor Gaylor Baird Comments

The City is prepared for winter operations. Check the website at snow.lincoln.ne.gov for continuous snow-related updates. City ordinance requires sidewalks to be cleared by 9:00 a.m. after snowfall. To expedite snow removal, it's helpful for residents to travel as little as possible. Residents can report issues with snow removal via UPLNK or by calling 402-441-7541. As always, Lincoln residents will watch out for each other and help their neighbors as needed.

A Roundtable attendee suggested that neighborhood associations help distribute information about the snow update website via neighborhood communications.

Interviews for the Health Director position start tomorrow, so the Mayor will need to leave the Roundtable meeting early today.

Question: How long has the Open Data portal been available on the City website?

Answer: City staff are currently revamping the portal & website to improve ease of use.

Neglected Building Registry Update

Chad Blahak, Director of Building & Safety: 402-441-7049; cblahak@lincoln.ne.gov

Sean Stewart, Chief Housing Inspector: 402-441-6525; sstewart@lincoln.ne.gov

Chad and Sean updated the group on the **Neglected Building Registry**, which was begun in 2014. Currently, there have been a total of 67 properties on the registry; 30 were added due to complaints and 37 were added as a result of being placarded. Of that total, eight properties have been sold to new owners but not yet in compliance with codes, ten have been demolished by the City, eight have been brought into code compliance by the original owner, sixteen have been brought into compliance by a new owner, twenty-three are being assessed registration fees, and one is in legal process.

To be added to the Registry, a property must be vacant, have been on the Red Tag list for at least 2 years, and/or be the focus of significant complaints. Often these properties have become burdens on the community — eyesores leading to increased crime and declining property values. Registration of a neglected building includes a plan that addresses the neglect. If the plan is followed and completed, the building no longer needs to be registered. If the plan is not implemented, fines and further fees will be assessed on the property every 90

days. If not paid by the owner, these then become liens that can — in extreme circumstances — lead to the City foreclosing on the property. However, this really isn't the best result.

Preferably, the property is brought into compliance and becomes available as a safe, sanitary place to live. To accomplish that ideal, the Director of Building & Safety has authority to work with owners who are making good efforts to address neglect issues. When a property has new owners, the property remains on the list until significant progress has been made.

The ordinance has been an effective tool in dealing with neglected properties. Most of the properties get sold to new owners who are motivated to improve the property. Some properties have gone to court in an attempt to make the owner move more quickly.

The public information website lists the properties on the Neglected Building Registry. Use the keyword "Citizen" on the City website (lincoln.ne.gov) to go to the public information login site.

A Roundtable attendee suggested the City put a sign up on listed neglected properties so that the neighborhood is aware that "something is being done."

Another Roundtable attendee asked whether a building can be inspected, even if the outside looks fine.

Chad and Sean also explained that the **Problem Resolution Team** program is separate from the Neglected Building Registration program, but houses can end up on both lists if they are vacant. It was explained that if a property owner lists their own building on the Neglected Building Registry, the cost is \$500 every 90 days until the problem is resolved. If the city has to list it for them, the cost is \$1,000 every 90 days until the problem is resolved. Liens are filed quarterly.

If you register as a user on the Citizen Access Portal, you can search for the registry list. Go to the City home page and use "Citizen" in the keyword field. If you do not register as a user, you will not be able to view the list.

Announcements

- Final reminder: If you haven't already done so, please take the ***Lincoln Housing Survey***. Please tell your friends, neighbors, and neighborhood association contacts about the survey as well. Here's the link: <https://surveymonkey.com/r/LincolnHousingSurvey>
- The **2020 Neighborhood Forum** will be January 25, 2020, from 9:00 am to Noon, 2640 R Street, the Sower Church, also known as Candlewood Church.
- Flyer handed out: Lower Platte South Natural Resource District – **Community Assistance Program – See Attachment 1**.

Next Meeting/Agenda

Next meeting will be January 13th, topic to be determined.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

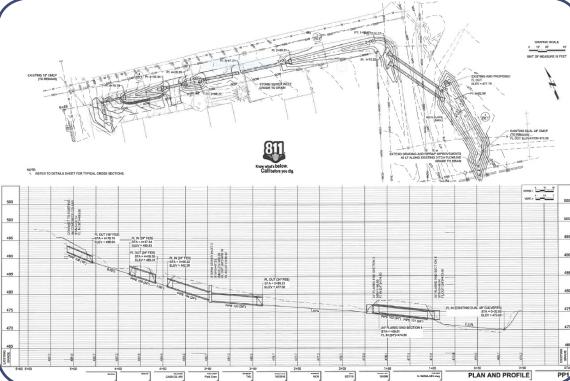
Respectfully submitted, Paul Johnson & Paula Rhian

Attachment 1

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



LOWER PLATTE SOUTH
natural resources district



Design



Construction



Completion

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

Contact: Tracy Zayac, Stormwater/Watershed Specialist. The Lower Platte South NRD is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer



www.lpsnrd.org

PURPOSE

The Community Assistance Program (CAP) provides up to 50% cost-share assistance to support communities and homeowners associations as they address natural-resources concerns, such as drainage, stormwater, and streambank erosion.



PROCESS

1. Contact the NRD to discuss your project.
2. Send a letter requesting funding assistance for your project to the NRD.
3. The District's Urban Subcommittee considers the request and makes a recommendation to the Board of Directors.
4. The Board votes on the cost-share request at a regular Board meeting.
5. The NRD notifies you of the Board's decision, including the funding amount that the NRD has approved.



ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

CAP funds may be used for such projects as improving stormwater or drainage, including studies to identify potential solutions; repairing storm erosion damage to public trails; stabilizing stream channels; etc. Cities and villages, as well as private homeowners associations, may apply for funding. Association projects should be located on lands that serve a public good, e.g., common areas, stormwater detention areas, though the Board may consider exceptions. Cost-share is available for project design and construction phases. Maintenance of completed projects is solely the responsibility of the applicant and is not eligible for cost-share.

HOW TO APPLY

Send a letter requesting CAP funding to the NRD office. Be sure to include each of these items:

- Project description, stating both the problem you want to solve and the proposed solution
- A map and, if available, photos of the project area
- Project scope and schedule of costs developed by your engineer or consulting firm
- Total project cost and the amount of funding you are requesting from the NRD
- Expected project timeline

FAQs

Q: Can we use other funding assistance, in addition to our money and the NRD's share?

A: Yes. The NRD will cost-share up to 50% of the portion of the project that you are paying yourself. For example, if you receive a grant that covers 33% of the project cost, and you pay 33%, then the NRD would cost share the remaining 33% of the total cost.

Q: How do we receive our NRD funds?

A: The NRD will reimburse you, up to the approved cost-share amount, once the project is complete. You will submit a letter requesting reimbursement and documentation of actual costs paid for the project, which we will use to verify the amount we pay to you.

Q: What if our project is delayed?

A: Weather and other circumstances can sometimes delay project completion, so the NRD does not set a deadline for completing a CAP-funded project. NRD staff will check in with you periodically for status updates on your project, so that we can keep our Board informed of CAP project progress.

Q: What if the project ends up costing more than we thought when we applied for CAP cost-share?

A: Notify the NRD as soon as possible of the increased costs, and request an amendment to the approved cost-share for up to 50% of the increase.

Q: I am a private homeowner, and I have a problem with creek bank erosion in my backyard. Can I get CAP assistance?

A: No. The Community Assistance Program is designated for cities, villages, and homeowners association, but the NRD may be able to help you identify other funding solutions for your situation. Contact our office to tell us more about your project.