

DIRECTORS'/ORGANIZATIONAL AGENDA ADDENDUM

Monday, August 23, 2021

I. CONSTITUENT CORRESPONDENCE

1. City Budget Items – Edison McDonald
Staff response provided by Councilwoman Washington
2. Unfortunate News and Consequences by a Brave Mayor – George Wolf
3. Climate Change – Barbara Griffith

Angela M. Birkett

From: Sandra J. Washington
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 5:10 PM
To: Angela M. Birkett
Subject: RE: City Budget Items

Mr. McDonald: Thank you for sending your comments forward as part of our budget process. It feels very good to address these critical needs in our community. –Sandra Washington

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Angela M. Birkett](#)
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 12:39 PM
To: [Richard W. Meginnis](#); [Bennie R. Shobe](#); [Tammy J. Ward](#); [James M. Bowers](#); [Jane Raybould](#); [Sandra J. Washington](#); [Tom J. Beckius](#); 'Richard Meginnis'
Subject: FW: City Budget Items

Please see the email below received through Council email. Thanks.

Angie Birkett
Administrative Secretary
Lincoln City Council
555 South 10th St., Ste 111
Lincoln, NE 68508
Phone 402-441-6867
Fax 402-441-6533
abirkett@lincoln.ne.gov



From: Edison McDonald <edisonmcdonald@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 12:35 PM
To: Council Packet <CouncilPacket@lincoln.ne.gov>
Subject: City Budget Items

Dear Lincoln City Council,
Hello, my name is Edison McDonald, and I am the Executive Director for the Arc of Nebraska. We are a nonprofit with 1500 members and nine chapters covering the State, representing people with intellectual and developmental disabilities for over 60 years. We are writing today to urge your support of expanding funding for two critical items for our members' accessible housing and adaptive playground equipment. While many other cities have taken action on this, unfortunately, Lincoln has been hanging behind with few sites that have accessible equipment. We hope that you will prioritize this and other vital pieces of the budget for our members.

Accessible Playgrounds

There are play spaces that meet playground accessibility ADA compliance requirements but fail to be genuinely inclusive. Accessible playgrounds are simply those that people with special needs can access. They may include playgrounds that permit children in wheelchairs to access some or all of the playground equipment, for example. Inclusive playgrounds are created for everyone — including children with no known special needs. Truly inclusive playgrounds allow children of all different ability levels to play together. With on average 20% of the population having a disability of some kind, this is vital to ensure we have a truly welcoming community.

Affordable and Accessible Housing

We are also appreciative of your efforts to expand affordable housing options as our members have been struggling to find adequate options. This is a growing issue both for Lincoln and Nebraska as a whole. We have found that many of the affordable housing options will not include apartments that are also accessible. This leads to greater difficulty for our members as they choose where they want to live as they try to be members of our community.

Thank you for your consideration. If you are interested in discussing further please call me at (402) 802-1109

Sincerely,

Edison McDonald

Executive Director

The Arc of Nebraska

Angela M. Birkett

From: George Wolf <gwolf1226@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 21, 2021 12:30 PM
To: Council Packet; Mayor
Subject: Unfortunate News and Consequences by a Brave Mayor

This is what's happened in Montgomery, Alabama:

<https://www.montgomeryadvertiser.com/story/news/2021/08/17/montgomery-council-votes-down-lgbtq-discrimination-ban/8162471002/>

George Wolf, for Fairness Lincoln

July 21, 2021

Bowers

Elected Politicians

Climate change is the biggest issue facing the future of the Planet. In April Nebr Public Media ran a special called Extinction. We are the ASTROID that is destroying the planet. Over 1 million species are threatened because of food, water and climate. We are encroaching on the habitat of wild animals. That's another critical reason why we need the 30x30 plan. We can change the world and make it better. 1 in 4 plants are disappearing. Many species of birds have disappeared in the past 50 years. The manatees are dying off in record numbers off the Florida coast.

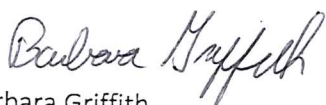
Then 4 days later I heard a shocking story from On Point hosted by Meghna Chkrabarti on the fertility crisis. Genetics, environment, pollution and chemistry has affected males. Sperm count has been reduced from 100 million in the 1960's to 50 million today. Many men with problems have about 1 million sperm. The plastics in the environment and in water are affecting human and animal species. All of this was first reported in the wonderful lab study for mice, but it is proven now in women. The chemical change is happening in the placenta fluid. Boys are born with smaller penises. The biggest difference is found in the largest difference in all species. If you measure the distance from the genitals to the anus in a straight line there is (suppose to be) a measurable difference. (it is larger in males). "That distance is becoming shorter. There is a FERTILITY CRISIS across this planet. Nature is doing a great job trying to wipe out life today (Between COVID 19 and the plastics problem) and you in power can do something before it's too late.

Then Samantha Bee devoted a show in June to the LGBTQ life. There are 30 different ways to be considered intersex. WE ARE MORE THAN MALE AND FEMALE AND THE DIFFERENCE IS GROWING!!!! It is no different from right or left handedness or someone who is red headed.

There have always been since the beginning of time deformity in the genitals at birth. Over the years Doctors fixed those problems immediately and decided in the first year of life whether the child will be raised as a BOY OR GIRL. But in today's world children as young as 4 who have a full vocabulary describe wanting to do or be different from the sex they are presenting to the public. Children have had to live with the consequences of those early decisions to generally become a female because ultimately all people start out as female in the womb and as the male hormone testosterone is introduced ovaries decent to become testes and the penis grows. (this is high school genetics)

Today we need to let these children choose the genitals they prefer. 36 states from all over the world are calling for unity on gender. The U.S. is not a part of this. Teachers were penalized and fined for discussing Pete Buttigieg in the lead up to the Democratic primaries. Biological diversity exists in all species and it would be worth your time to learn about our many thousands of citizens who are not 100 % male or 100 % female.

The Public Media show was an hour, On Point can be found on the computer, and Samantha Bee packs a lot in a 30 minute show.

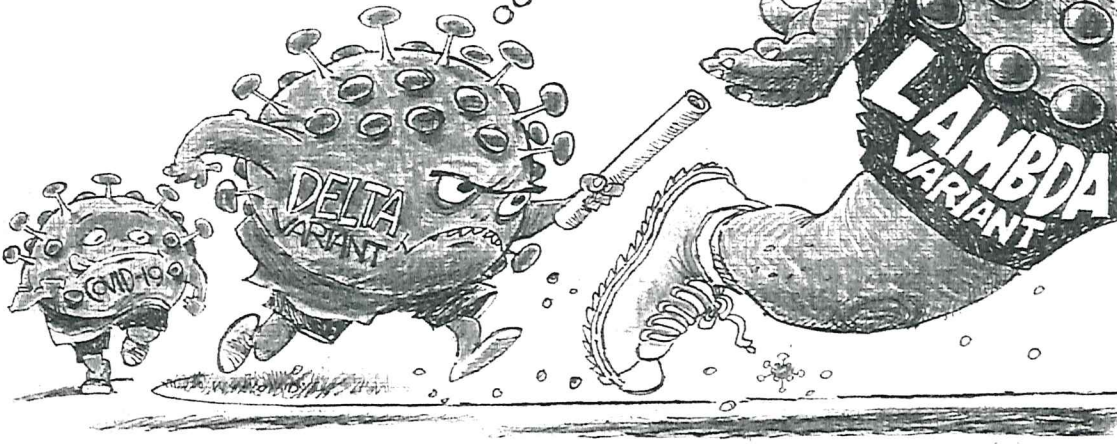


Barbara Griffith

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Hickman NE 68372

HUMANS HAVE
TO LEARN, WE
DON'T DROP THE
BATON!



Learn from COVID to fight climate change

COVID-19 is a nightmare that has left more than 600,000 people dead in the United States alone. But from the very start it was also a clear dress rehearsal for the looming global catastrophe of climate change, which is barreling toward us and likely to wreak more damage than the pandemic.

Early on, it seemed like COVID-19 might sober us up, and teach us some useful lessons for that other great and imminent threat. Perhaps the coronavirus would

force us to acknowledge that there really are invisible dangers in the world, and that there really are experts who know more than we do. Perhaps it would show us that if we don't act to avert crises sooner rather than later, the problems only get worse.

Climate activist Bill McKibben suggested something along those lines. "This might be the moment when we decide to fully embrace the idea that science, you know, works," he wrote back in March 2020. U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres called COVID-19 a "wake-up call" for climate change.

But here in the United States, we did not rise to the occasion. We did not wake up. Instead, we bungled much of our response to COVID-19, making the situation worse than it had to be. It's not clear we learned much of anything as a nation.

I was reminded of that again Monday when the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change issued its most dire report yet (each has been more dire than the last). The IPCC concluded that humans can no longer reverse some of climate change's effects or stop its intensification over the next three decades. Therefore, we should expect more raging storms, devastating heat waves, harrowing floods, out-of-control fires, severe droughts and other "extreme events unprecedented in the ob-

servational record."

That wasn't the part that bothered me. I expected no less.

What bothered me was the frustrating conclusion that we could still head off the most devastating climate change effects if we took immediate concerted action. Sharp cuts in carbon emissions beginning right now could make an enormous difference in what lies ahead.

It's frustrating because why think that any such thing will happen? Isn't concerted action what Americans just showed we cannot do — pull together, sacrifice together, expect that Washington will behave rationally or that our leaders will lead? I'm pleased there's still hope, but what indication is there that we will avail ourselves of it?

In response to the pandemic here in the U.S., many millions of people behaved responsibly, wore masks, got shots and made sacrifices for more than a year.

But many, many millions of others responded by denying the facts and disbelieving the science. They chose stubbornness and know-nothingism. They chose shortsightedness. Some were misinformed; others were in the grip of fantastical conspiracy theories.

Worse yet, many elected officials, led by then-President Donald Trump, were willing to politicize the pandemic, spreading bad information or encouraging misbehavior. Some merely kept quiet, like the New Mexico mayor quoted in The Times on Monday who says he no longer urges his constituents to get vaccinated: "You could lose votes for pushing the vaccine too much."

That kind of gutlessness is why case numbers are going up and new virus variants are threatening to send us all back into hiding. Only about 58% of vaccine-eligible Americans are fully immunized.

COVID could have been stopped much sooner. A minor step like getting a shot in the arm — how difficult is that? It's not an affront to liberty to ask people to get a lifesaving vaccination.

If people won't get vaccinated or wear masks, how can they be expected to transform their lives as climate change requires? Answer: They can't.

And fighting climate change is even harder than fighting COVID-19 in this sense: With COVID, there's no trillion-dollar industry with a vested interest in making sure you don't believe in it.

Unfortunately, neither the capitalist system (which too often encourages corporations to maximize profits at society's expense) nor our democratic system (which allows citizens to toss out politicians who call for unpleasant efforts) seems particularly well suited to meet the climate battle.

Here's what the IPCC report says: Melting ice and rising sea levels are accelerating. Extreme weather events are worsening. Even if we cut emissions drastically now, some climate changes are "locked-in" and will be "irreversible" for centuries. In about a decade, we're expected to barrel past the limits on warming that the Paris pact sought to set.

The pandemic dress rehearsal didn't go so well. And with each passing year, each passing presidential administration, each rise in temperature, each new season of wildfire or flood or drought — the problems ahead become deeper and harder to solve.

The lessons of COVID ought to be clear: We cannot dismiss science or blithely ignore what we know is coming at us. We need to work together, look out for others and accept that sacrifices will be necessary, as we have sometimes done in wartime.

We need leaders — Republicans and Democrats alike — who will acknowledge reality and instead of pandering for votes at any cost, press us to meet our obligations to the world and to each other. The threat to the planet is real, and we won't be saved by self-delusion, conspiracy theories or stubborn, studied ignorance.

Nicholas Goldberg writes for the Los Angeles Times.

With the
Census
Report
why not
bring

refugees
+
immigrants
into
the
Small
Towns?

Barbara
Bueffel