

# MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDTABLE

Via Zoom Monday, June 12, 2023, 5:30 p.m.

## Meeting Notes

---

### Welcome and Introductions; Volunteer to Take Notes

Tracy Corr, Chair, opened the meeting at 5:30 with introductions.

### Attendance

Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird

Neighborhood Associations:

- Tracy Corr – Chair and 40<sup>th</sup> & A
- Gloria Eddins - Clinton
- Richard Piersol – Country Club
- Pat Stear – Hartley
- Andy Gueck – Indian Village
- Pat Bracken - Irvingdale
- Geri Cotter – Irvingdale
- Dennis Hecht – Meadowlane
- Carmen Maurer – Near South
- Theresa Thompson – UPCO
- Bill Vocasek – West A
- Fred Freytag - Witherbee
- Mary Schwab – Witherbee
- Randy Smith – Woods Park

Staff:

- Wynn Hjermstad – Urban Development
- Jon Carlson – Mayor's Office

Additional Attendees:

- Chelsea Egenberger – NeighborWorks Lincoln

Presenters:

- Stephanie Rouse – Planning Department

### Mayor Gaylor Baird Comments:

- Voluntary water restrictions are in place because of the extreme drought. The aquifer is currently at 65% capacity and the current rainfall amount is half of what is typical. We are seeing some progress with voluntary restriction efforts. Please encourage water

use on designated days – information can be found at [www.lincoln.ne.gov/waterconservation](http://www.lincoln.ne.gov/waterconservation). Please share this information with your mailing lists and in your newsletters.

- Public pools are now fully staffed for the summer. Parks and Recreation staff are currently training and hiring for other positions – go to [www.lincoln.ne.gov/pools](http://www.lincoln.ne.gov/pools) for more information.
- Questions:
  - There has been lots of rain in Colorado, shouldn't that be draining to the Platte River? More information to follow.

**Historic Preservation Program** – Stephanie Rouse, Planner, Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Department: 402-441-6373; [srouse@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:srouse@lincoln.ne.gov)

**(See attached PowerPoint Presentation)**

- Stephanie has been working with Historic Preservation for about 8-9 months.
- This program does not only focus on historic buildings but also on landscapes and open spaces. It first began in 1980.
- Lincoln is a Certified Local Government which covers the City of Lincoln and some county designations. The program is housed in the Planning Department and receives CLG grants to assist with operations. Lincoln has been certified since 1982.
- Activities include daily inquiries on building histories, surveys, staffing the Historic Preservation Commission, public outreach and education, Section 106 (federal requirement) reviews and completing nominations.
- The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) meets monthly. There are seven members that have 3-year terms. HPC meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month.
- There are two types of designations – Local Landmarks (considered a zoning overlay with design guidelines that regulate changes) for the City only and the National Register. The National Register is the “Honor Roll” of historic properties. No guidelines are involved unless federal funding is involved. Both can be individual designations or districts.
- In the 1980's there were more local projects but now more are federal – HPC reviews a lot more.
- Historic Zoning overlay:
  1. Associated with events, person or architectural style.
  2. Represents a distinctive archeological style or innovation.
  3. Represents archeological value pertaining to prehistory or history.Most relate to the first two.
- Special permit:
  - Waives other zoning requirements like parking, signs, height, and area.
  - HPC makes recommendations and the Planning Commission approves, and sometimes goes to City Council.
- Design Guidelines: these apply to locally designated properties specific to the property or district. There are 114 total and usually apply to the exterior front facing facades.
- Review process: some are done administratively by the Planning Director and can take as little as a month. HPC review is generally triggered for major exterior alterations.
- Online resources are available at [www.lincoln.ne.gov/historic](http://www.lincoln.ne.gov/historic) or email [preservation@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:preservation@lincoln.ne.gov) or [srouse@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:srouse@lincoln.ne.gov), 402-441-7491.

- Stephanie walked through different scenarios. For example, if an alteration is denied, the owner can still do what they want but it takes longer and has a waiting period.
- Questions:
  - If someone does what they want without advanced approval, are there penalties? There could technically be a fine in some districts; some approvals have been made after the approval.
  - What age is determined historic? Usually, 50 years is the rule of thumb.
  - Is there a program to repair historic homes? There are state and federal tax credits typically for commercial buildings or large apartments.
  - If someone wants to designate their home, how do they do it? They should contact Stephanie – she will discuss what is best, help with the application for nomination and take you through the process. The fee is the same as for a zoning application if it is a local designation; there is no fee for federal.

**Announcements:**

- Witherbee did garage sales last week and they were very successful! Clinton reported a record low for theirs, and Irvingdale and Indian Village were also very successful!
- How did neighborhoods advertise their garage sales? Lincoln Journal Star, Facebook, other social media platforms, Next Door app, Facebook marketplace and garage sale groups.
- 4<sup>th</sup> of July signs are available at Health Department, more information will be provided.
- NeighborWorks-Lincoln will be at the Juneteenth event this Saturday 12:00-4:00 at Trago Park.
- Community Builders Coalition is offering Strong Neighborhood low-barrier mini-grants.

**Next Meeting / Agenda: (Monday, July 10, 2023 @ 5:30PM)**

- Update on Road Construction?

**Adjourn:**

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

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Wynn Hjermstad, Urban Development Department*