

MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDTABLE

Via Zoom Monday, August 14, 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; there were no volunteers to take notes.

Attendance

Mayor Gaylor Baird

Neighborhood Associations:

- Tracy Corr – Chair and 40th & A
- Gloria Eddins - Clinton
- Richard Piersol – Country Club
- Karen Dienstbier - Eastridge
- Paul Johnson – ECCO
- Greg Baker – Everett
- Jeff Graham - Everett
- Pat Stear – Hartley
- Megan Grimes – Indian Village
- Geri Cotter – Irvingdale
- Dennis Hecht – Meadowlane
- Fred Freytag – Witherbee
- Julie Flodman - Witherbee
- Mary Schwab – Witherbee

Staff:

- Wynn Hjermstad – Urban Development

Additional Attendees:

- Tut Kailech – NeighborWorks Lincoln

Presenters:

- Kris Humphrey - LTU

Mayor Gaylor Baird Comments:

- Budget – the biannual budget will have some minor adjustments. The highlight within the package of adjustments is a historic cut to the property tax rate and also vital investments. There are about \$8 million in investments while forgoing an estimated \$6 million in tax rate cuts. There are operational investments included for LPD, StarTran, new equipment for LFR, and the swimming pools being staffed and open. Infrastructure

investments include improvements to city parking garages, fire stations, South Haymarket Park, and gap funding for the new senior services center at Victory Park. Some of the key areas being supported are public safety, economic vitality, and strong neighborhoods. The budget hearing is today, and the vote will be next week. You can find more information on the City's website: Lincoln.ne.gov.

- Universal Visitation for families with newborns. Every family with a newborn child can now receive a public health nurse visit (up to 3) to support the wellbeing of both the family and child. This program was included in the 2022-24 budget and was just activated. Lactation consultations will also be available. This program is called Family Connect. It is voluntary and there is no cost for the visits.
- The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) notified us that school booster routes have to be eliminated and StarTran will lose funding if the changes are not followed. FTA funding is 80% of the \$15.5 million dollar StarTran budget. The schools were notified, and we are working with LPS; 6 routes are being adjusted. More information can be found at lincoln.ne.gov/StarTran.
- Update on Pershing – thrilled to be making progress on the redevelopment. They are currently in the demolition process. The project will eventually consist of 93 units of affordable housing, more public green space, and enhancement to the pedestrian environment. Demolition is anticipated to be complete around November.

Questions/Comments:

- Is a library going at the Pershing site? What's happening to Bennet Martin Library? A: The developer, White Lotus, envisioned a civic purpose like a library if financing is available. There is not a definite plan right now since funding is not in place. A wellness center has also been proposed and plans for the YMCA have been discussed.
- Question about the school booster routes – is there really no recourse? A: FTA does not want to be in the position of creating an unfair competition to a private vendor for transportation services, although there isn't one in Lincoln. FTA has been putting us on notice for years and now they are requiring it. Funding is at risk for StarTran. Regular meetings with schools are ongoing to help support school success. FTA sees this as the school's responsibility. There is considerable communication with parents about using public transportation with fixed routes.
- What is the piece of equipment LPD bought - a large tank-like structure? A: It is called a Bearcat. It has limited applications; it can advance to a scene when LPD doesn't know who is armed and what they will find. We are hoping to prevent harm to people serving our community.

City Street Improvement Projects – Kris Humphrey, Assistant City Engineer, Lincoln Transportation and Utilities: 402-441-7711; khumphrey@lincoln.ne.gov

See attached PowerPoint for more information.

- Lincoln on the Move (LOTM) is a ¼ cent sales tax approved by voters providing funding from December 2019 to November 2025. It provides additional funds for street pavement projects to enable the City to deliver more projects sooner than would be possible through existing programs. Projects are located in all quadrants of the city: 25% of funds are for new

construction, 73.5% to existing neighborhoods and arterial streets, and 1.5% to the RTSD for the N. 33rd and Cornhusker Safety Improvement Project. There is a 14-member Advisory Committee that currently has five open positions. If interested in serving, apply at Lincoln.ne.gov/City/Boards-Commissions.

- Public Engagement & Communications: LTU staff try to get out into the community and are active on Facebook and Twitter. There is also a website for every project. Mailers are sent out during design and dynamic message signs are posted so people are aware of what is coming.
- Currently, Project Delivery staff are managing almost 60 design projects including roadway reconstruction and rehabilitation, bridges, sidewalks, watermains and traffic signals. For project details visit Lincoln.ne.gov, keyword: projects.
- Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Program – locates and maps new and existing assets with a high degree of accuracy, saving time and funds, increasing safety, and providing visual inspection of areas difficult to access. This infrared technology can also monitor environmental changes, has photo and video capabilities, and is able to assist during emergencies, weather events, and at night in real time.

Questions/Comments:

- Please check the S. 42nd intersection project, it is a dangerous detour.
- Do you collaborate with LES? A: Yes, every two weeks and they also work with the Parks and Recreation Department on tree replacement.
- There does not seem to be a lot of communication with businesses in the areas of the projects. If more notice is given, they can let patrons and employees know. A: They try to do door hangers with contact information for any questions or concerns.

Announcements:

- Clinton Neighborhood is hosting a history walk in the area including The Bay, Turbine Flats and the Cultural Center sometime in September – watch their Facebook page for more details.

Next Meeting / Agenda (Monday, September 11, 2023 @ 5:30PM):

Ideas for future meetings:

- Update on UPLNK
- Weed abatement process.

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:42 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Wynn Hjermstad*