

MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDTABLE

Via Zoom Monday, September 11, 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; Chelsea Egenberger volunteered to take notes.

Attendance

Mayor Gaylor Baird

Neighborhood Associations:

- Tracy Corr – Chair and 40th & A
- Gloria Eddins – Clinton
- Richard Piersol – Country Club
- Megan Grimes – Indian Village
- Mo Neal - Irvingdale
- Dennis Hecht – Meadowlane
- Teresa Thompson - UPCO
- Fred Freytag – Witherbee
- Julie Flodman - Witherbee
- Mary Schwab – Witherbee
- Randy Smith – Woods Park

Staff:

- Wynn Hjermsstad – Urban Development
- Jon Carlson – Deputy Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
- Liz Elliott – Director, LTU

Additional Attendees:

- Chelsea Egenberger – NWL
- Sarah Mason - KLLCB

Presenters:

- Jared Nelson, Watershed Management, LTU
- Kim Morrow, Chief Sustainability Officer, Mayor's Office

Mayor Gaylor Baird Comments:

- Mayor was called to Mayor Beutler's office in 2007 to consider serving on the Planning Commission – which consists of a 6-year commitment for weekly meetings that start at 1:00 PM and have no end time. Mayor would like to acknowledge that the Chair of the

Mayor's Roundtable has also been the Chair of the Planning Commission and served on the Planning Commission for the last 10 years! Tracy Corr! Thank her for her commitment and dedication to the Lincoln community.

- Bailey Feit has been nominated to the Planning Commission. She has a background in education and has a Masters Degree in Education from UNL – we are grateful she agreed to the remaining 6-year term.
- Due to the State Legislature passing LB77 – the conceal handgun protection act – those 21 and older and those otherwise not prohibited by law can conceal a handgun without a permit. We have been working with City facilities to prohibit conceal carry per Executive Order which the Mayor signed on September 1st.
- New Urban Development Director – welcome to Peter Hind, former Senior Architect at Schemmer. Thank you to Dan Marvin for four years of service and all the initiatives that he helped advance in his tenure.
- From Liz Elliott – This Sunday is the Wasterwater Facility Open House, everyone is invited to come to celebrate 100 years of treating our wastewater!
- **Flood Mitigation Master Plan Outreach - Jared Nelson** Senior Engineer, Watershed Management, Lincoln Transportation and Utilities: 402-441-7018, jnelson@lincoln.ne.gov; Kim Morrow, Chief Sustainability Officer, Office of Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird: 402-441-5633, kmorrow@lincoln.ne.gov.

Jared Nelson, Watershed Management: (see attached PowerPoint)

- What is the Flood Water Mitigation Master Plan? This plan is to help understand and mitigate the flood risk.
- There is a higher risk of flooding in our community vs the FEMA flood maps of 100 year flooding.
- There was flooding around South Salk Creek in 2017 – which caused many street closures, many homes and buildings experienced flooding. It has been the largest flood to test our system. When the water was all the way up in the levees, there was water starting to pool and flood areas next to the levees. This is a major problem that impacts our community.
- 3 main phases in this process:
 - Planning process
 - Risk Assessment
 - Mitigation strategy
- The plan will be revisited every year
- What is the purpose?
 - To understand the flood risk and identify mitigation actions and projects to protect the community.
 - To be eligible for FEMA funding for mitigation projects.
 - To reduce flood insurance premiums for Lincoln residents by moving up one or more Community Rating System (CRS) classifications.
 - City has been part of CRS for years.
 - FEMA rewards the city and individuals for flood watershed management efforts we are doing – one of those activities is this plan.
 - Class 5 is one of the best rankings and that results in a 25% reduction of flood insurance premiums for all policy holders in Lincoln.
- What are the flood risks?

- Floodplain covers 16% of the City.
- Urban flooding
- Dam/levee failure
- What are the recommended activities?
 - Preventative actions
 - Property protection
 - Natural Resources protection
 - Emergency Preparedness/Response
 - Structural Projects
- Past Efforts:
 - Antelope Valley – reduced the flood risk and FEMA updated the Flood Plain to shrink the flooding area to correspond with the project efforts for mitigation.

Community Engagement – Kim Morrow – Chief Sustainability Officer

- Lincoln Climate Action Plan – flooding was one of the main risks
 - What we want to do as we make our community more resilient, we want this to be co-created solutions in our various neighborhoods.
 - Future engagement opportunities:
 - Open house on September 26th at Belmont Rec from 5:30-7:30pm (noted this as a draft location and time).
 - Higher risk neighborhoods will be contacted.
- Other efforts to protect the community:
 - Adopted higher floodplain regulatory standards in January 2023.
 - Continuing active participation in FEMA’s Community Rating System.
 - Floodplain remapping project (100% FEMA Funded) – can take up to 10 years.
 - Feasibility study of structural & non-structural flood mitigation efforts.
 - Enhanced community engagement.

Questions/Comments:

- How have you been affected by flooding in the past?
 - Success story – house around Antelope Creek was made more affordable was made more affordable when it came out of the floodplain.
 - Many neighbors in Clinton had flooding in their basements.
 - Everyone was looking for the same materials to address their flooding issues – sump pumps, hoses, fans.
- What kinds of stories have you heard of flooding in your neighborhood?
- Buy-outs or Elevation – what concerns would neighbors have?
 - IF you do a buy-out, what happens to your property?
 - Jared’s response: generally with buy-out programs there would be an agreement made for monetary funds to buy the property. If the landowner agrees then they would agree to sell the property. Typically, a deed restriction is put on the property. Then the City would demolish the building. We want to make sure we are not displacing residents. Presumably, it could be

neighborhood green space if it doesn't serve a more structural process – the surrounding residents could be engaged with how to utilize it.

- Example: Beatrice has systematically bought out properties over the last 30 years to convert to park space.
 - Concern of forced buy-out so it is essential to emphasize that it is **voluntary!**
- Large structures upstream were referred to in the presentation – what examples?
 - There are 10 large levees and reservoirs upstream from Lincoln built by the Army Corps of Engineers.
 - When we get 10 inches of rain, it fills out those levees and reservoirs first. No specific locations identified.
- FEMA Flood Maps – when were they last updated?
 - 2010 or 2011 was the last update. Data used to make the maps is 60 years old. NOAA comes up with the rainfall data and goes into numerical models.
- What roles will Lower Platte South NRD play?
 - We work a lot with them – they are an equal partner and shareholder in this plan. They have their own planning efforts, and we support each other's efforts.
- Visiting Neighborhood Associations schedule to be shared?
 - More to come and reaching out will happen to those specific neighborhoods. Reach out in the next month or two.
 - Talk to Council at the end of November.
- Any plans to invest in CERT programming and resources to increase resident capacity to respond to disasters like flooding?
 - Want this feedback at upcoming events.
 - Not sure what is being done specifically.

Announcements:

- Invite everyone to come celebrate 100 years of treating our wastewater.
- Check out our toxics bounty program: www.HazToGo.com we are paying bounties for household hazardous waste. Take advantage of this great opportunity and remember to share it with your neighbors!
- 9/8 – 9/30 Welcoming and Belonging Events: <https://fb.me/e/1w6haq1KL>
- 9/24 Streets Alive: <https://healthylincoln.org>
- 9/24 LES ride and drive event. Roundtable Discussion with EV drivers and with reservations can drive: www.les.com/EV-ride-and-drive.

Next Meeting / Agenda: October meeting is cancelled. Next meeting November 13, 2023 @ 5:30PM

- Introduce Peter Hind, new Director of Urban Development.

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:30 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Chelsea Egenberger*