

# MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDTABLE

Via Zoom Monday, December 12, 2022, 5:30 p.m.

## Meeting Notes

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### Welcome and Introductions

### Attendance

Neighborhood Associations:

- Tracy Corr – 40<sup>th</sup> & A
- Gloria Eddins – Clinton
- Richard Piersol – Country Club
- Karen Dienstbier – Eastridge
- Greg Baker - Everett
- Andy Gueck – Indian Village
- Pat Bracken – Irvingdale
- Carmen Maurer – Near South
- Haider Al Haider – NeighborWorks
- Teresa Thompson – UPCO
- Bill Vocasek – West A
- Russel Miller - Witherbee
- Randy Smith – Woods Park
- Jennee Kucera – CLC Community Builder

Staff:

- Wynn Hjermstad – Urban Development
- Amy Huffman – Lincoln City Libraries (Presenter)
- Ryan Wieber – Lincoln City Libraries (Presenter)
- Amanda Barker – Mayor's Office

### Mayor Gaylor Baird's Comments:

Mayor was not in attendance. Amanda Barker, from the Mayor's Office, wished everyone Happy Holidays from the Mayor. She is excited to welcome Ryan Wieber to the City as the new Library Director. He has moved to Lincoln from Kalamazoo, Michigan. He started in his new position last week and this is his first opportunity to connect with Lincoln Neighborhood Associations.

**Lincoln City Libraries** - Ryan Wieber, Director: 402-441-8510, [rwieber@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:rwieber@lincoln.ne.gov); Amy Huffman, Public Information Specialist II, 402-441-8517, [ahuffman@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:ahuffman@lincoln.ne.gov)

Amy Huffman, Public Information Specialist II:

- Neighborhood Associations have contacted Amy about providing an article for their neighborhood newsletter about Lincoln City Libraries and their local branch. They are happy to do so, an example is attached. Articles may contain book recommendations if requested. A Lincoln City Libraries Newsletter began this year – also see attached. If neighborhood associations would like to contribute to the newsletter with an article or an idea for an article, please contact Amy. The newsletter schedule follows Lincoln Public Schools’ calendar and will be issued the first of September, December, March, and June. Events will be listed by branch and then subdivided by the age events are geared toward. The newsletter will be available by PDF, with a limited number printed. The PDF version will be available earlier than the print version. Please email or call with questions or comments – [ahuffman@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:ahuffman@lincoln.ne.gov). Library Website: [Lincolnlibraries.org](http://Lincolnlibraries.org).

Ryan Weiber, Director:

- Ryan is a lifelong reader who started out wanting to be an archivist and did so at the Detroit Institute of Arts. He then took a position as Director of a small public library so he could live closer to family. He loved all the aspects of this job at the library. During his time at that job, he campaigned for, and built, a new library. He is still in the process of getting settled in Lincoln and has only been on the job a few days. He has heard great things about Lincoln libraries, the library staff, and loves how the city supports its libraries. Ryan is excited to be here and to meet people in all the neighborhoods around the city. He is willing to come to meetings to speak on programs or other topics of interest.
- The attached PowerPoint contains statistics for each branch and illustrates how busy and valuable every branch is. It also illustrates the level of activity within each building – overall, Lincoln Libraries are very busy places. They are used for community gatherings, a place to do homework and other studying, have quiet time, and hold programs for kids and adults. Each library branch is a valuable place to the neighborhood.
- Vision for the Lincoln Libraries: Continue the excellence of the library’s services – and for this, everyone in the community can help. He is keen on innovation and using the latest technology models for books and downloads, new services, and new ideas and activities to help enrich lives. Ryan is also looking at new ways to introduce libraries and reading to underserved populations.

#### Questions:

- Andy – Lives between two libraries, really likes e-books and hopes Ryan supports Little Free Libraries? Yes! Anyway we can support the love for reading and libraries. Digital interest is going up slowly but print is still king in the library world. The library model for buying books is incredibly expensive and digital and audio is more expensive. The model they are currently working with is not fair and very costly. Amazon, from 2009-2011, sold more digital than print books.
- Pat – How is the use of the bookmobile? In the 2021-2022 fiscal year, there were about 25,000 circulations in 2,500 visits. The bookmobile goes out about 20 hours a week to places like the People’s City Mission, retirement homes, and other places not accessible by bus. They also

attend different events around the city. You can put a book on hold and the bookmobile will deliver the book to you (will deliver by car if the weather is bad).

- Jennee – CLC's do not have enough translators for what they do. Libraries have been great for providing translators and have programs and services for new resettlement communities visiting the libraries. Ryan is eager to get involved in this – libraries are used for teaching, has translated documents, and has a story time in Spanish.
- Russell – The library quit collecting book fines, how that is going? Ryan hasn't heard anything negative. Most libraries across the county have gone fine free. In Kalamazoo, it brought back a lot of patrons who had quit coming because they had accumulated large fines. They are still trying to get people to return materials. They may lose a little revenue because of no fines but they are getting more patrons to return to the library.

### **Announcements:**

#### Haider – NeighborWorks Lincoln Updates:

- Currently connecting with residents and community leaders to be part of a Neighborhood Forum planning group. The first of three forums in 2023 will focus on youth activities and the north side of Lincoln. Email Tut Kailech ([tut.kailech@nwlincoln.org](mailto:tut.kailech@nwlincoln.org)) for more details and to get involved.
- Meetings are being held with key partners to develop the strategy for NeighborWorks Lincoln's community building and engagement work. They are working to identify what data & metrics will be used to select target neighborhoods and track progress. More will be shared when the strategy is finalized.
- Work continues to meet with residents in the Malone & Hawley neighborhoods to connect residents across the area to meaningful opportunities. Contact information for people, businesses and associations in the area are welcomed.
- Community engagement work continues on behalf of the South of Downtown Community Development Organization regarding the CenterPointe Redevelopment at 13th and E-D streets. Focus groups of residents in the area will be held soon. For questions or further updates, contact Chelsea ([chelsea.egenberger@nwlincoln.org](mailto:chelsea.egenberger@nwlincoln.org))

Teresa – UPCO: UPCO will be meeting tomorrow night at Nebraska Wesleyan at 5:30PM. Community organizers are helping the organization. See the UPCO Facebook page for more details.

### **Next Meeting / Agenda:**

Homeless Population – what does LPD do to address homelessness – examples: 16<sup>th</sup> and South, cold weather, and blocking sidewalks. Where is the best place to address concerns? What is the Continuum of Care and what do they do?

### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Wynn Hjermstad, Urban Development Department, City of Lincoln*