

MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDTABLE

Via Zoom Monday, May 10, 2021, 5:30 p.m.

Meeting Notes

Attendance

Seventeen residents and six City staff attended.

Tracy Corr – 40th & A

Lynn Johnson – Lincoln Parks & Rec

Suzanne Hatfield - Aging Partners

Karen Dienstbier – Eastridge

Dan Marvin - UDD

Richard Piersol – Country Club

Russell Miller - Witherbee

Randy Smith – Woods Park

Kevin Cass – Mayor's Office

Sarah Mason – Keep Lincoln Beautiful

Karen O'Hara - Aging Partners

Mayor Gaylor Baird

Kendall Weyers - Tree Board

Fred Freytag – Witherbee

Andy Gueck – Indian Village

Gloria Eddins – Clinton CO

Geri Cotter – Irvingdale

Dennis Hecht – Meadowlane RA

Pat Stear - Hartley

Paul Jonson – East Campus

Greg Baker – Everett

Paul Baker – Everett

Pat Bracken – Irvingdale

Wynn Hjermstad – UDD

Welcome and Introductions

Tracy Corr, Chair, began the meeting with introductions. Paul Johnson volunteered to take notes.

Mayor Gaylor Baird's Comments:

1. **American Ballet Theatre:**

- a. American Ballet is kicking off its season on July 1st in Lincoln, at Pinewood Bowl at 8:15 p.m.
- b. Free tickets are available at <https://www.liedcenter.org/ABT>

2. **COVID-19 Updates:**

- a. COVID-19 rates are decreasing; vaccination clinics are continuing.
- b. FDA authorized the use of the Pfizer vaccine on 12-15-year-olds.
- c. About half of the community is not vaccinated. Targeting areas of the city that have had lower participation.
- d. Watching virus variances which younger people are getting infected at higher rate.
- e. Over 75% of the 65+ population have at least 1st dose of vaccine.
- f. Concentrating on efficiency and equity in the program.
- g. Ready to open to all residents. We need to get more people registered.
- h. Continue wearing masks, social distancing, and public places limitations.

3. **Short Term Rentals:**

- a. A short-term rental (STR) is the temporary rental of residential rooms or homes. These rentals are often listed on sites such as Airbnb and VRBO.
- b. Planning Commission Hearing is on May 12, 2021.

4. **Housing and Utility Assistance:**

- a. Federal Emergency Rental and Utility Assistance funds are being distributed through the Urban Development Department.
- b. About \$1.2 million has been distributed so far.

5. **Summer jobs:**

- a. Temporary summer jobs are available at jobs.lincoln.ne.gov.

The NeighborLNK Program:

Karen O'Hara, Health & Fitness Coordinator, Aging Partners: 402-441-7796; KOHara@lincoln.ne.gov
Suzanne Hatfield, NeighborLNK Coordinator, Aging Partners: 402-441-6076; shatfield@lincoln.ne.gov

- Collaborative cooperation between Aging Partners and Mayor's Office.
- Screened volunteers can provide services for elderly and disabled residents.
- Program was launched about one year ago.
- Currently not doing in-home services.
- Much of the services is companionship for neighbors that have been isolated.
- Program tries to match volunteers with neighbors so that there is a good fit. Many unanticipated services have been performed by volunteers that were not originally planned for the program.
- Unexpected results – Problems with living conditions, missing support payments, etc.
- Volunteers currently with the program.
- Mayor thanked leaders and volunteers and feels that the program brings more than just the basic services and pulls the community together.
- Karen will e-mail Wynn Hjermsstad info to have sent out to the group to include in newsletters, help get the word out.
- More information at <https://app.Lincoln.ne.gov/city/mayor/aging/neighborlnk/index.htm>
Also see attached flyer and feel free to use in neighborhood newsletters.

City of Lincoln Community Forestry:

Lynn Johnson, Director, City of Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department: 402-442-8265;
ljohnson@lincoln.ne.gov.

- May 1 – Arbor Day tree distribution of about 250 trees in 45 minutes. Collaboration with FedEx, Arbor Day Foundation and Parks and Recreation.
- Street trees are responsibility of City for removal. Contact the Parks office to report problems. Trees will be inspected & prioritized.
- Received 5,500 calls for service in last year, an increase from prior years.
- Tree Ambassador program - \$250 voucher for planting street trees. Type of tree for the property is noted and can be taken to a local nursery. Professional planting is not covered.
- Emerald Ash Borer – Working on a phased program to remove & replant street trees. Planning on about 800 trees to be removed & planted back.
- Not seeing rental areas taking part in Ambassador program.
- Treatments available to prolong life of trees. Homeowners can adopt street trees for treatment as well as trees on their property.

Questions:

Question: In Clinton Neighborhood – There are still trees from last year's storms that have not been removed.

Answer: It can take about a year to respond. Significant backlog of trees to be removed. Removal can take a while – top of trees removed, then trunk removed & eventually stump is ground. All are backed up.

Questions: An Ash tree was removed and now a white flag has appeared. What does that mean?

Answer: Stump has been flagged for grinding after utilities identified.

Question: How is the type of tree decided?

Answer: Should have received voucher for tree replacement; can contact Parks and Recreation for voucher and validity. Will have a variety of trees to select from.

Question: Are Ash tree adoptions also for trees in median?

Answer: Median trees in right-of-way (including in median) are available for adoption. Park trees adoption or treatment are being discussed internally for a policy.

Question: Tree that was removed about a year ago never had the hole filled & seeded.

Answer: Contact City of Lincoln Community Forestry.

Question: Will major storm events this year affect ash tree removal schedule?

Answer: After storm event, large problems will be handled by all crews & then ash crews go back to their projects. Problems may be reported on UPLNK.

Comments-

- Trees under utility lines are trimmed by LES and they look bad.
- New policy to not plant trees beneath power lines in the future.

Announcements

- June 5th Clinton Neighborhood cleanup.
- May 22nd 9-noon Everett, South Salt Creek and Irvingdale joint clean up.
- Everett neighborhood starting on getting Adopt-A-Block program rolling this year.
 - i. Have businesses involved and trying to get rental owners involved.
 - ii. Formally kick off in next 4 weeks, runs through November 7th.
- Sarah Mason has about \$20K Community Cleanup funds available, Keep Lincoln/Lancaster County Beautiful.
- Parks Foundation has mini-grants available.
- **Garage Sales:**
 - I. Eastridge doing garage sales June 3-5th.
 - II. Meadowlane June 11 – 12th.
 - III. Witherbee 2nd week in June, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday

Next Meeting / Agenda

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 14th at 5:30 p.m. via zoom. Ideas?

- Concern how LES butchers trees for power lines. Policy not to plant trees under power lines anymore.
- Suggestion for Short term rentals before going to City Council.
- Waste hauling discussion
- Summer jobs program for youth – Parks and Mayor's Office have been seeking summer job applicants.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Paul Johnson