

MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDTABLE SUMMARY

March 11, 2019

Tracy Corr opened the meeting on Monday, March 11, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room, City/County/Building, Lincoln, NE.

Attendance

Thirteen residents and four City staff attended:

Tracy Corr – 40th & A NA
Paul Johnson – East Campus CO
Pat Anderson-Sifuentez – Everett NA & NWL
Dennis Hecht – Meadowlane Area RA
Bill Vocasek – West A NA
Russell Miller – Witherbee NA
Lindsay Limbach – Lincoln CLC's
Jon Carlson – Mayor's Office
Mayor Chris Beutler

Jennifer Powell – Country Club NA
Karen Dienstbier – Eastridge NA
Pat Bracken – Irvingdale NA
Mike DeKalb – University Place CO
Fred Freytag – Witherbee NA
Bennie Shobe – City Council
Lin Quenzer – Mayor's Office
Wynn Hjermstad – Urban Development Dept

Welcome & Introductions

Attendees were welcomed and introductions made. Tracy Corr thanked everyone for braving the unpleasant weather. Paul Johnson volunteered to take notes.

Mayor's Comments

Mayor made some comments on snow removal & potholes. With the exception of a recent storm, he feels that snow removal has been generally good. The Mayor also shared a chart displaying city pothole efforts over the past 12 months. **See Attachment 1.**

If neighborhoods feel that the snow removal / pothole handling system needs to be reviewed, they should take it up with the next Mayor. The Mayor asked for comments from neighborhood representatives:

- The city staff doing the work are doing a great job given the weather situation.
- Potholes come with this part of the country.
- If the sales tax initiative passes, the citizen advisory group could also be asked to review snow removal / pothole repair.
- As conditions become more extreme due to climate changes, the City will need to prepare & budget for those conditions.
- Residents have a responsibility to assist with snow removal by keeping streets as clear of vehicles as possible, especially during snow parking bans.

Burying Overhead Lines: Neighborhood Impacts and Benefits

General discussion between Mayor Beutler, staff and neighborhood attendees.

The City is considering the possibility of proposing "underground requirements" for the Lincoln Electric System (LES). This is a discussion about that concept. It would require LES to give a higher budgetary priority to burying power lines than it now does. The proposal would have "undergrounding" be a gradual process that would not require additional funds.

On the plus side, burying power lines would:

- Improve reliability of power services,
- Improve driver safety,
- Encourage economic development,
- Add to entryway appeal,
- Preserve tree canopy,
- Provide a cleaner, more vibrant look for older neighborhoods.

At least four City Council members are generally supportive of the draft proposal.

On the minus side, the LES Board does not support the draft proposal because:

- It interferes with their duties as an independent board, and
- Burying power lines in older neighborhoods is difficult and costly.

The Mayor pointed out that the LES Board is a non-elected board, so it is not accountable to the public and does not regularly receive public opinions. To help them understand, one possibility would be to have a public meeting with the LES Board and the City Council. Because City Council members represent Lincoln residents, this would be a way to express public views to the LES Board. Although working with the LES Board to change “undergrounding” priorities would probably be a long process, the long-term impact on Lincoln would be quite positive.

The timing for this proposal might not be good, given the upcoming change in City leadership. The Mayor would also like to see progress on:

- Voter approval of the ¼% sales tax initiative which would be a major improvement in the road system
- West Haymarket parkland as an attraction for residents & workers in the Haymarket / Arena area.
- Voter approval of a storm water bond issue which would help the 33rd & Cornhusker area, University Place, and Havelock areas.

Mayor Beutler asked for vote of attendees as to whether or not to pursue the LES proposal. The majority voted to wait on the proposal.

Announcements

- Lincoln Mayoral Candidate Forum: Saturday, March 30, starting at 1:00 pm at Auld Pavilion in Antelope Park, 1650 Memorial Drive. Sponsored by Nebraska League of Conservative Voters, NeighborWorks-Lincoln, and Planned Parenthood of the Heartland. The event is free & open to the public, but space is limited. Please register in advance at: <https://secure.everyaction.com/kFKMQwCefkqSAVfD6diQdA2\>.
See Attachment 2.
- East Campus Mayoral Candidate Forum: Sunday, March 24, 2:00 – 4:00 pm, at New Hope United Methodist Church, 1204 N. 45th Street (45th & Orchard).
- Lincoln City Council & Mayoral Candidate Forum on the Environment: Tuesday, March 26, 6:00 to 8:00 pm, at the Firefighter’s Reception Hall, 241 Victory Lane. Free and open to the public.
- Mayor’s Prayers Breakfast: Friday, April 12, 7:00 am at Lincoln Station (7th & P Street) . Lincoln Station, April 12, 7 am. Individual tickets cost \$30. Reservations online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mayors-interfaith-prayer-breakfast-2019-tickets-57201229417>. The deadline for reservations is April 7th.
- UPCO Park Easter Egg Hunt: Saturday, April 20, 10:00 am, at UPCO Park (40th and Adams) – don’t forget your Easter baskets.
- Taste of 27th on the Bridge: Thursday, April 25, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm at the Elaine Hammer Bridge. **See Attachment 3** or visit TASTEOF27TH.EVENTBRIGHT.COM.

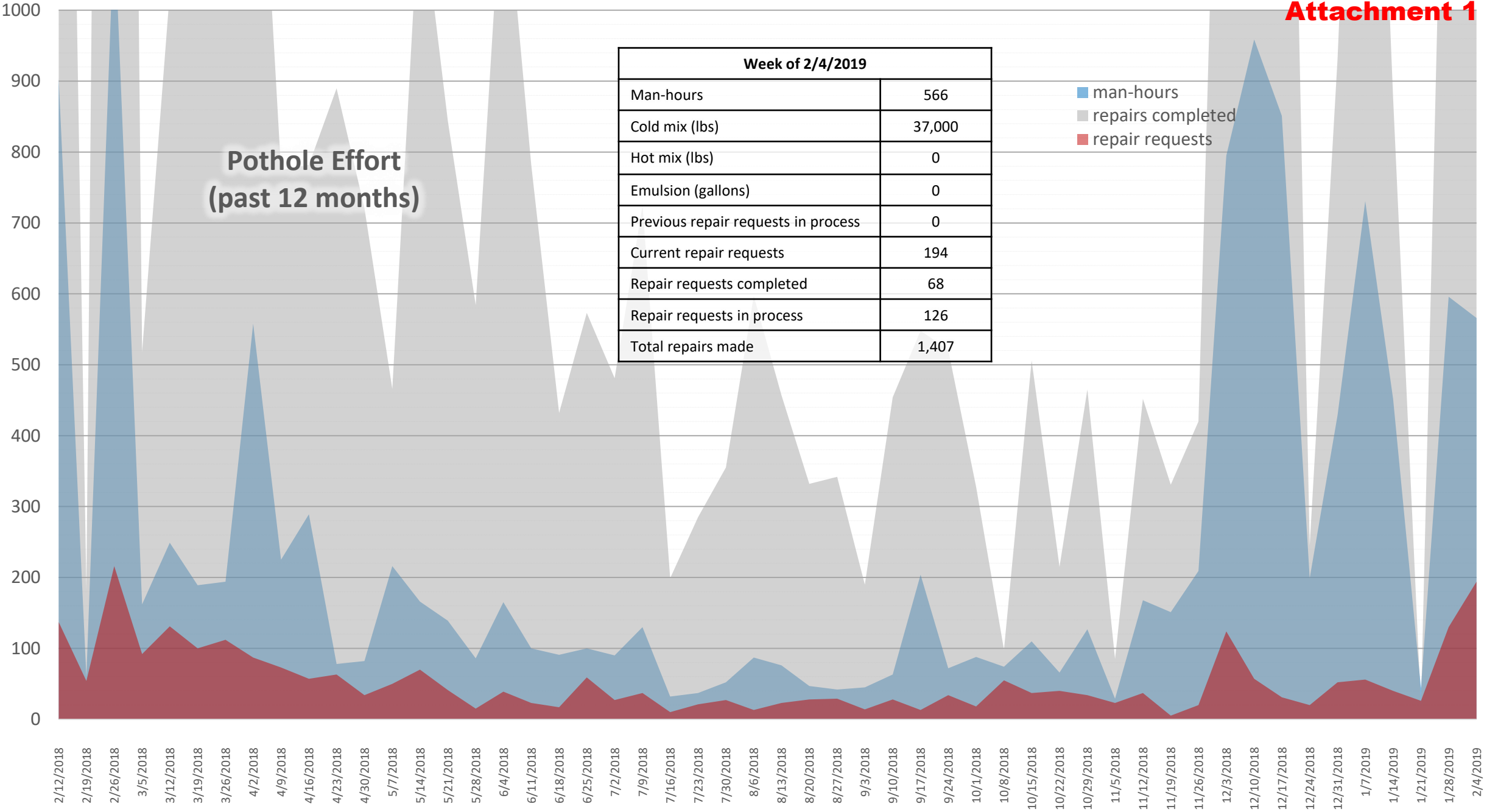
Next Meeting/Agenda

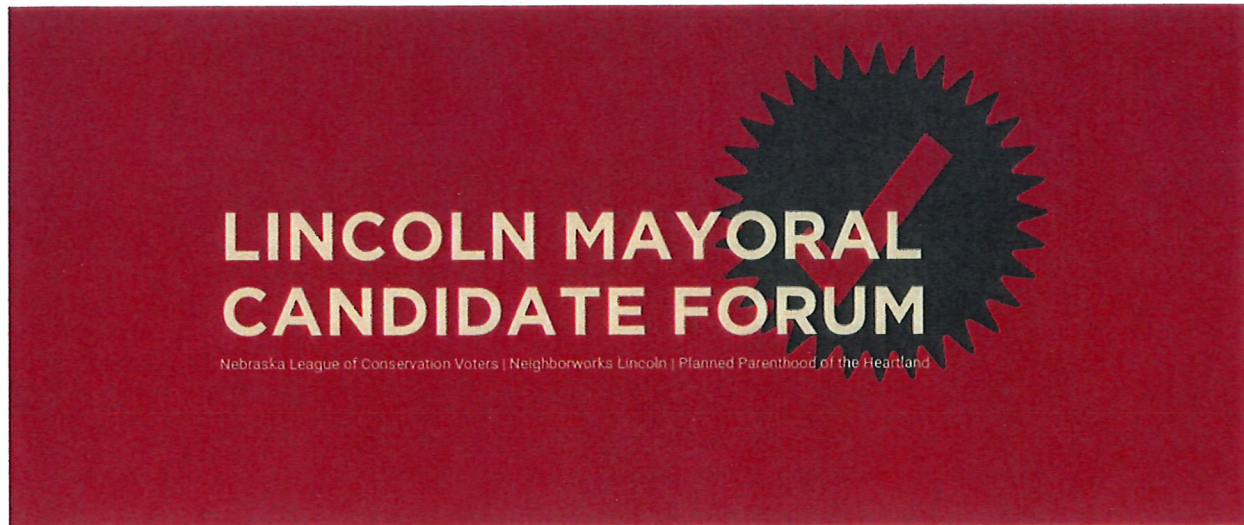
The next meeting of the Mayor’s Neighborhood Roundtable will be April 8, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. Two topics were suggested (Adopt an Ash Tree update or Community Crops), but the topic is TBA.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted, Paul Johnson.





Lincoln Mayoral Candidate Forum

****This event is free and open to the public, however, seats are limited. Please register at: <https://secure.everyaction.com/kFKMQwCefkgSAVfD6diQdA2> to ensure your spot at the event. When registering, you must select the quantity of tickets you are reserving.**

On March 30th, candidates running for Mayor of Lincoln will convene to discuss key issues facing the city of Lincoln, and what they will do to address them if elected.

Candidates Leirion Gaylor Baird, Jeff Kirkpatrick, Cyndi Lamm, and Rene Solc have committed to attending the event. This candidate forum provides an opportunity for voters to get to know the candidates and their positions, as well as highlight the differences in their proposed policies.

What: Lincoln Mayoral Candidate Forum

When: Saturday, March 30th, starting at 1:00 PM

Where: AULD Center, 1650 Memorial Dr. Lincoln, NE 68508

The questions asked during the forum will encompass a wide range of issues in order to provide the most informative experience possible for those in attendance. Candidates may be asked questions about energy and the environment, as well as sustainable growth, fiscal responsibility, government transparency, transportation, infrastructure, neighborhoods and housing, public safety, and education.

The forum is hosted by the Nebraska League of Conservation Voters (NLCV), NeighborWorks Lincoln, and Planned Parenthood of the Heartland.

If your neighborhood association would like to be a co-sponsor, please contact pat.anderson@nwlincoln.org. We ask that you help us get the word out through your social media.

TASTE OF 27TH ON THE BRIDGE

DINING AT THE ELAINE HAMMER BRIDGE WITH:

Pho Factory, Amin's Kitchen, Vung Tau, Lobo's City Mex, Misky Bakery, Sal's Pizza, Imperial Palace, & Banhwich Cafe

Thursday, April 25 | Dinner 5-7pm

Tickets \$40 per person

EVENT BEGINS AT LITTLE SAIGON MARKET
MORE INFO AT TASTEOF27TH.EVENTBRITE.COM



Asian Community
and Cultural Center



Photo by Google Maps