

MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDTABLE SUMMARY

May 11, 2020

Tracy Corr opened the meeting, held via Zoom, on Monday, May 11 at 5:30 p.m.

Attendance

Fifteen residents and four City staff attended:

Tracy Corr – 40 th & A NA	Gloria Eddins – Clinton NA
Richard Piersol – Country Club NA	Karen Diersbier – Eastridge NA
Pat Stier – Hartley NA	Andy Gueck – Indian Village NA
Geri Cotter – Irvingdale NA	Pat Bracken – Irvingdale NA
Grant Daily – South Salt Creek	Keith Roland – University Place CO
Fred Freytag – Witherbee NA	Russell Miller – Witherbee NA
Randy Smith – Woods Park NA	Lindsay Limbach – Family Resource Center
Sarah Mason - KLLCB	Tammy Ward – City Council NW Lincoln
Sandra Washington – City Council At-Large	Jon Carlson – Mayor's Office
Dan Marvin – Urban Development Dept.	Wynn Hjernstad – Urban Development Dept
Mayor Gaylor Baird	

Welcome & Introductions

Attendees were welcomed and introductions made.

Mayor Gaylor Baird – COVID-19 update and questions from the group

Mayor Gaylor Baird's remarks focused on a public health update and the City's response to COVID-19. Working with the Lincoln Lancaster County Health Department, key criteria are being monitored. Some of the criteria include the number of cases and increases or decreases, the percent of positive tests and the amount of testing available, hospital system strength as defined by ICU beds, PPE, and the ability to protect employees. The capacity available to trace and quarantine is a proven public health strategy and must be done to a larger degree. Today, 11 LPS nurses joined staff to do contact tracing so we now have 27 people along with interpreters. More will be needed, especially when LPS starts again.

Mayor announced an exciting launch today - the COVID-19 Risk Dial. It is a proven strategy offering one more way to guide the public and offer recommendations. The Risk Dial uses five factors that indicate what risk level phase we are in by color. Check the website, Lincoln.ne.gov to review the Risk Dial. The website also has information for businesses as they prepare to reopen. Mayor is proud of our community for taking it slow. We are trying to reach all constituents; layers of protection for the long haul takes the whole community. NeighborLNK is one way to support neighbors who may be homebound, can't run errands, or are living alone and need companionship. It is operated on a volunteer basis and hopefully it will last beyond the pandemic. Established by Aging Partners, it is proactively setting up support for people isolating and quarantining so they get care packages and make it easier to stay home.

The Health Department is doing amazing work along with the hospital system and leaders, the Lancaster County Medical Society and others. Dr. Bill Johnson with Bryan was an invited guest at Friday's press briefing. He showed great slides about how important face masks are. Face masks are an important strategy for the foreseeable future; our new normal. Mayor asked for questions and concerns and what she can do to help support neighborhoods.

- Retail store employees not wearing masks, are they required? No, we will be reaching out. Restaurant workers and other close contact businesses are required to wear them. Trying to get the word out where to buy masks locally to help local businesses.

- What is NeighborLNK and where is it found? It is on the City's website, click on COVID-19 and the "How to Help" tab. It is a partnership with Aging Partners, Service Space, and the Senior Foundation. Volunteers get care packages to people quarantined so they don't have to leave home. Packages include food, disinfectants, and household supplies. Pat Lopez is working with Cultural Centers now; reaching people with language barriers or who don't feel comfortable asking for help or going to testing sites.
- Would like to see people become comfortable using face masks. Thanks for leadership, Mayor. Need to get more positive info out, how to live life in a different world. Are there guidelines for garage sales? Mayor talked about fear, frustration, and anger at the press conference today and offered clarity that is surfacing about what is important in life. Will ask the Health Department for guidance on garage sales. Mayor encourages getting out, walking, biking - it is important to get out and get exercise and fresh air.
- Will pools open? Getting close to making an announcement on that.
- The COVID-19 Risk Dial provides good communication regarding the Directed Health Measure through June 30th. It is a credit to the community how well residents have responded. We recognize not everyone can stay home all that time. It is recommended people stay home as much as possible while in the Code Orange situation.
- Are we in a position to test those that had COVID-19 for antibodies? Testing now is for the virus; reliable antibody testing is not available yet.
- The State Penitentiary appears to be starting an outbreak, do you get updates? Pat Lopez talks multiple times to the State. Much of the guidance from the State comes from our Health Dept.
- Thanks to Mayor for your leadership. Concern with correctional facilities. A lot of staff go home after work, there is work release, and cleaning crews that are prisoners. These are valid concerns, Mayor could address in a future briefing. Pleased with Lancaster Co jail response.
- Is there support/networking with other Mayors around the Country? Yes, Lincoln already belonged to the Conference of Mayors, and is one of 41 cities in a partnership with Bloomberg's City Initiative which brought Johns Hopkins and others together with information and what other cities are doing. Pleased that our Risk Dial involved John Hopkins who is editing our work.
- We have learned so much more than we knew with the 1918 pandemic such as social distancing and the ability to communicate. There are important differences today compared to 1918. How lonely and isolating and terrifying it must have been. Much more knowledge today. Still a lot we don't know but learning quickly.
- Historians are super heroes, communicating about 1918 pandemic gives us some color on what it was like. Photos are available at the Lincoln Journal Star.
- What kind of masks are recommended? Those made out of cloth can be washed and re-worn. Cloth masks are helpful in reducing air flow of droplets. There is info on the website on how to make them. Disposable masks cannot be cleaned and should be disposed of after each use.
- Need to get information translated and made available to ELL. Yes, Mayor will be addressing this in the press briefing tomorrow. The Health Dept is currently working with cultural centers. We are working to expand our reach as much as we can.

Announcements

- Wynn Hjermstad, Urban Development: the *FY 20 Annual Action Plan for HUD Entitlement Programs* is available for public review and comment on the Urban Development Department website. This Plan outlines how federal funds will be used in FY 20 beginning September 1 and includes Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME, and Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funds.

- Gloria Eddins: Appleseed has a great website with many COVID-19 resources. It includes a link to multi-cultural recourses.
- Fred Frytag: Witherbee's newsletter is available on their website.
- Sarah Mason, Keep Lincoln/Lancaster County Beautiful: Clean up grants are still available. See lincoln.ne.gov/city/health/environ/Waste/KLLCB/Cleanup.htm.

Next Meeting/Agenda

Next meeting will be June 8th at 5:30 pm. The topic TBD. If it is via Zoom, an invitation will be sent.

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

Respectfully submitted, Wynn Hjermstad