

# MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDTABLE

Via Zoom Monday, November 13, 2023, 5:30 p.m.

## Meeting Notes

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### Welcome and Introductions; Volunteer to Take Notes

Jon Carlson (on behalf of the Mayor), opened the meeting at 5:30 with introductions; Mary Schwab volunteered to take notes.

### Attendance

Neighborhood Associations:

- Tracy Corr – Chair and 40<sup>th</sup> & A
- Richard Piersol – Country Club
- Paul Johnson – East Campus Community Organization
- Karen Dienstbier - Eastridge
- Megan Grimes – Indian Village
- Issac Remboldt - Irvingdale
- Dennis Hecht – Meadowlane
- Fred Freytag – Witherbee
- Julie Flodman - Witherbee
- Mary Schwab – Witherbee
- Randy Smith – Woods Park

Staff:

- Wynn Hjermstad – Urban Development
- Jon Carlson – Deputy Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
- Peter Hind – Director of Urban Development
- David Cary – Director, Planning Department
- Paul Barnes – Long Range Planning Manager, Planning Department

Additional Attendees:

- Chelsea Egenberger – NWL
- Brent Lucke - NWL

Presenters:

- Tom Beckius – City Council Chair
- Andrew Thierolf – Planner, Planning Department

### Jon Carlson ( on behalf of Mayor Gaylor Baird) Comments:

- Winter weather will be managed by the investment of \$3.6 million dollars to buy 12 new "super combo" snow plows. This will double the capacity to clear Lincoln's streets

this winter. A contest to name the new snow plows resulted in 854 name ideas being submitted. Winners will be announced.

- \$6 million dollars has been budgeted for winter snow removal and maintenance operations.
- There are many events to encourage Lincolnites to shop locally this holiday season.
- LFR has purchased a new ladder truck, this is in addition to 18 new vehicles that have been added to the LFR fleet since 2019.
- Welcome Emeka Anyanwu, the new CEO of Lincoln Electric System. LES has a big part to play in the Lincoln Climate Action Plan.

**Modernizing Lincoln’s County Comprehensive Parking Plan – Councilperson Tom Beckius and Andrew Thierolf, Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Department. Presentation is here:**

<https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/2/planning/development-review/parkingreform/overview-slides.pdf>

A link to the project website is here: <https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/City/Departments/Planning-Department/Development-Review/Modernizing-Lincolns-Commercial-Parking>

- Parking Modernization is envisioned in the 2050 Lincoln-Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan, with Policy 11: Parking Requirements.
- This study compared Lincoln to cities of various sizes throughout the Upper Midwest.
- Policy 11 in the Comprehensive Plan states: Eliminate or reduce minimum parking requirements in additional zoning districts (beyond B-4 Downtown) and include conditions that minimize the impact on neighboring properties. In recent years cities across the country have eliminated parking requirements which have resulted in several problem properties in the core being redeveloped. The parking reform is viewed as a long-term process.
- For example, Buffalo, NY eliminated parking minimum requirements citywide for all uses in 2017.
- 47% of major developments (17 projects) included fewer parking spaces than previously permissible. Initial results are published in the Journal of American Planning Association (JAPA).
- Planning Commission/City Council would still provide final approval of these site plans.
- Expected results are lower department costs, creation of additional pad-site opportunities in commercial centers, expanding building footprints.
- More vibrant urban development that supports multiple modes of transportation.
- Approximately 95% of commercial and industrial acreages in Lincoln are included in this proposal.

**Announcements:**

- Mary Schwab announced the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Witherbee Neighborhood Association and invited all to attend the Birthday Party/Volunteer Appreciation Event at Redeemer Lutheran Church on Thursday, November 15<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00PM.

**Next Meeting / Agenda:** Next meeting December 11, 2023 @ 5:30PM

- Introduce Peter Hind, new Director of Urban Development.

**Adjourn:**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:20 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Schwab*