

**AGENDA FOR
CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS' "NOON" MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2004
CONFERENCE ROOM 113**

I. MINUTES

1. Minutes from Council Members' "Noon" Meeting of October 4, 2004.

II. COUNCIL REPORTS ON BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS AND CONFERENCES

1. Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting (Cook)
2. Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development Investors' Meeting (Werner)

OTHER MEETINGS REPORTS:

III. APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS - To Be Announced

IV. REQUESTS OF COUNCIL FROM MAYOR - To Be Announced

V. MISCELLANEOUS -

1. Discussion on Amendment 1 Resolution - draft by Law Department
2. Does Council have any Items for the November 1st Common Agenda

VI. CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

VII. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS

1. Lincoln-The Prairie Capital City Convention and Visitors Bureau-In the spirit of participation, come out on Wednesday, October 27, 2004 from Noon to 1:00 p.m. at The Champions Club, 707 Stadium Drive, as we kick off the efforts of the Greater Lincoln Sports Alliance - Inaugural Pep Rally Luncheon with a presentation from Steve Pederson, UNL Athletic Director - Cost \$30.00 per person - RSVP by Oct. 20th to Jaime Henning at 436-2366 or by E-Mail - (See Invitation)

2. E-Mail Invitation from Nicole Fleck-Tooze, we are planning a bus tour of the Stevens Creek Watershed for elected/appointed officials to offer a first hand view of the considerations important to the Stevens Creek Watershed and Master Plan on Thursday, October 21, 2004 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Boy Scout Outdoor Education Center, 600 S. 120th Street - (See Invitation)
3. Downtown Master Plan-join us for the SECOND ACT of the Downtown Community Workshop at 5:30 p.m. with short presentation by our consultants followed by small group discussions on Tuesday, October 12, 2004 at Saint Paul United Methodist Church, 1144 "M" Street, 2nd Floor Gymnasium - (See Invitation)
4. Downtown Lincoln Association-Updowntowners Evening Social on Thursday, October 14, 2004 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Zen's-The Art of Martini Maintenance, 122 N. 11th Street - RSVP to Heather Bullock at 434-6507 by Oct. 12th - (See Invitation)
5. Invitation to an Open Forum on The Stevens Creek Watershed Master Plan on Tuesday, October 12, 2004 at the Boy Scout Outdoor Education Center, 600 South 120th Street - starting at 9:00 a.m. and ending no later than Noon - RSVP to Betty at 474-7667 or by E-Mail - (See Invitation)
6. The Co-SINC Project presents: The Refugee and Immigrant Farmers Initiative (RIFI) Conference on Saturday, October 23, 2004 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church gymnasium at 2225 Washington Street - The Conference & lunch is free, catered with locally grown foods - Please RSVP to Kim Matthews at 438-6056 or by E-Mail - (See Invitation)

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS' "NOON" MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2004
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Council Members Present: Terry Werner, Chair; Ken Svoboda, Vice-Chair; Jon Camp, Jonathan Cook, Glenn Friendt, Annette McRoy, Patte Newman; ABSENT: None

Others Present: Mark Bowen, Ann Harrell, Corrie Kielty, Mayor's Office; Dana Roper, City Attorney; Joan Ray, Council Secretary; Darrell Podany, Aide to Council Members Camp, Friendt and Svoboda

I MINUTES

1. Minutes from Council Members' "Noon" Meeting of October 4, 2004.

Mr. Werner requested a motion to approve the above-listed minutes. Ken Svoboda moved approval of the minutes as presented. Patte Newman seconded the motion which carried by unanimous consent of the Council Members.

II. COUNCIL REPORTS ON BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS AND CONFERENCES -

1. PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD (Cook) Mr. Cook reported that Golf Revenue was up 11.5% this year over last ... \$303,000. Mr. Werner asked if that was due to the sale of alcohol? Mr. Cook was not sure. Mr. Camp asked if the patronage was up, or just the revenues? Mr. Cook noted that he believed rounds were up too.

Mr. Cook stated that they had discussed a program - GEO Caching....there are 475 locations in the Lincoln area...where people bury little things and then they go to a website and give clues to where they are and then someone goes to find them....somewhat like a "treasure hunt". Many locations are on private property, but quite a few sites are on City Park land. The Parks Board members were going to just say we weren't going to deal with it, but we need to come up with some policy regarding the use of city property in this program. He noted that the Federal government doesn't allow it in National Parks, but the State does allow it in their parks, but they do charge entrance fees - so maybe they think people are 'entitled'.

Mr. Friendt added that the item being sought doesn't even have to be buried. He noted that when he was at the Stream Creek Prairie, three people showed up one Sunday afternoon, "finding" that particular entrance.

Mr. Werner asked why a policy needs to be set? He wondered if government couldn't just leave people alone? Mr. Cook answered that if they're digging up park land.... Mr. Werner countered with the comment that it's not like they're digging with a bulldozer. Mr. Cook noted that they needed to come up with some reasonable policy - nothing harsh [to protect the park land]. Ms. McRoy, agreeing with Mr. Werner, commented that she did not want a policy - she felt people should be left alone. Mr. Camp noted that [as a safety issue] we wouldn't want people stepping in holes and falling.

Mr. Cook continued his report, noting that there may be something coming forward regarding the recommendation of how to spend the money from the Woods Park land sale. A small portion of it will be used at 48th & Randolph to purchase one-third of an acre; the rest of it will be used to purchase 30 acres at 14th & Arbor. He noted that some people disagree with that policy - selling park land in the core to buy park land on the fringe. Mr. Cook didn't agree with this policy, but revealed that the Park Board doesn't feel responsible for having sold the park land.

Mr. Friendt asked where one would find big chunks of land in the core? Mr. Cook noted that the total land available at 48th & Randolph was three acres. Mr. Friendt asked if there were 30 acres available in the core, noting that a major factor in the decision would include availability. Mr. Cook agreed, conceding that the land at 48th & Randolph was more expensive because it lies within a developed area; the land at 14th & Arbor Road is just outside the Future Service Limit, so the land is much cheaper there.

Mr. Werner asked if that would be coming before the Council. Mr. Cook was not sure how that would be handled. Ms. Harrell noted that she believed it would come before Council, but was only 80% sure of that fact.

Mr. Cook stated that another important issue that was voted upon was discussion about the Kroc Center...the strip of land which Council had approved for townhome development...the old railroad right-of-way. Now they're discussing building a Kroc Center. In order to do that, the owner must be willing to do some kind of a land trade. One of the locations that he was looking at was along Bison Trail, next to Pioneers Park. The Board decided, unanimously, that that was not a good idea. That land near Pioneers Park is very valuable - much more valuable, we think, than the land we'd be trading with. Also, this is a beautiful new park area that we're trying to develop - we aren't going to give it away for townhome development right along the trail. He didn't know how this would be worked out, but we will have to come up with another plan. Mr. Werner asked if the owner didn't want to just sell the land? Mr. Cook answered that the owner did not, because there would be tax implications if the land were just sold.

Mr. Cook thought that if the Center does come in, this motion won't effect whether or not we get the proposals approved by the Salvation Army. If it is approved, we'll find some alternative way of handling it.

Mr. Cook continued his report with the announcement that there would be a committee that would be participating in the development of the Master Plan for Jensen Park, so we're finally getting to that point where we're looking at what kind of improvements we'll want. It's a large enough park that we think there will be both passive recreation with large green areas, as well as a lot of ball fields and so on.

He concluded his comments with the report on the Re-veiling of Bump & Lump. He commented that he and Mr. Svoboda had both attended the 125th Anniversary Tour of Old City Hall and the presentation of the plans for the new fountain and the walkways area there. Mr. Cook expressed enthusiasm for the park plans. He noted that there was a donor who will pay for the water fountain, but the donor doesn't want to be identified yet, until it's actually built and the fountain is operational. But, Bump and Lump will be moved to the Centennial Mall area.

Mr. Svoboda noted that he had missed the Mayor's opening remarks. He wondered if it would be the intention, then, that the fountain would be named after the donor - or has that been stipulated? Ms. Harrell explained that the Park would be known as "Government Square", but there will be a plaque, probably memorializing the fountain as the donor wishes.

Mr. Svoboda commented that it would probably be identifying - not memorializing. [Laughter]. Ms. Harrell agreed that it would be a dedication, not a memorialization.

Mr. Camp asked if the City allows anonymous donors to give something and then have plaques and such named after them? Mr. Cook noted that it wasn't truly anonymous - the Administration knows who the donor is. Ms. Harrell noted that the donor isn't anonymous, they just don't want to be named right now, with Mr. Cook adding that they don't want to be in the press right now. Mr. Friendt surmised that they want to see how the public reacts to the project, before coming forward [Laughter]

Ms. Harrell explained that the donor would like to have a formal ceremony dedicating the fountain. Mr. Camp observed that Omaha had just come through a difficult time with the naming of a public park there after [a State Senator]. He didn't want Lincoln caught in a similar situation. Ms. Harrell noted that she felt the Council would be pleased when the donor was revealed. Mr. Camp answered that he was just concerned with open disclosure.

2. LINCOLN PARTNERSHIP FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT- Investors' Meeting (Werner) Mr. Werner reported that he was meeting with the Chamber at 7:30 with full intentions of attending the LPED Meeting, but the discussion there was far more interesting. Mr. Svoboda wryly observed that Mr. Werner was way to bloodied to go to another meeting without going home to change clothes first. Mr. Werner agreed that he had had to defend himself, so he stayed & wasn't able to attend the LPED meeting. Mr. Werner noted that Mr. Friendt had been at the LPED meeting as a presenter, and asked Mr. Friendt if he would give a short report on those proceedings.

Mr. Friendt reported that they had given a presentation on the websites and how the Convention's Visitors' Bureau, Chamber of Commerce and LPED all work together and how that linking works. They tried to demonstrate the new mapping system that is part of the website. Conceptually, every time they talk about it, it sounds wonderful. Mr. Friendt noted, however, that he has yet to see it function as advertised.

Mr. Friendt continued, reporting that they then had given their normal report on how many prospects, how many suspects, how many leads they have - on which they're currently working. Right now they have projects (that meaning real live folks that have gotten information). He noted that we're in the top three nationally, apparently. He reported that the total investment, if these projects were to come to Lincoln, would be about \$50,000,000 and add 300-400 employees.

He noted that they also gave a report on Retention activities, which Mr. Friendt thought was great. These are Lincoln companies that they're working with on expansion projects, which was very good.

Mr. Werner asked if they hadn't also received a talk by some boring guy from the University? Mr. Friendt smiled and noted that they had allowed him to give a presentation on the Nebraska Center for Entrepreneurship and what the Center does and how that ties into economic development in this region.

OTHER MEETINGS - None

III. **APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS** - Ms. Kielty commented that there was 1st Reading for the new Fire & Police Pension Investment Board. Because two of the names were actually re-appointments from the Old Board to the New, Council Members don't have Board Bank information on them. The Mayor had asked Ms. Kielty to get some information from appointees and give that to Council - which was the information that Ms. Kielty then passed out to Council Members. She informed Council that if they had any questions, they should call Personnel or the applicants themselves.

IV. **REQUESTS OF COUNCIL FROM MAYOR** - Mr. Bowen noted that he had hoped to have the LES response back to Council, but they didn't get it done in time, so we won't talk pre-council until that information is received.

V. **MEETINGS/INVITATIONS** - Noted Without Significant Comment

VI. **MISCELLANEOUS** -

1. Discussion on Amendment 1 Resolution - Draft by Law Department - Mr. Werner opened the discussion by stating that he apologized because he thought there was an understanding that we would put the Resolution for Amendment One on the Agenda for [Introduction], because he thought we needed it to go on at this time....but apparently we don't? Mr. Werner commented that it is on the Agenda and we can take it off or we can move it forward. Does anyone have any reason to go forward or not go forward with it?

Ms. Newman commented that her personal opinion was that she did not like things that are on the ballot being endorsed one way or the other by the Council. She felt she was the lone voice in this opinion, so she encouraged Council to do what they would, but she would be inclined not to vote for this Resolution.

Mr. Cook commented that if Council did not have a unanimous vote on this issue...he felt it would be silly to bring something like this forward and not have a unanimous Yes vote. So, if there are any members of the Council who are inclined to vote No, Mr. Cook stated that he would rather just pull it and not have it on the Agenda for action. Ms. Newman added that it wasn't that she did not support it personally, but it's just a philosophical thing. She felt that if it's on the ballot, people need to educate themselves and decide for themselves which side they would take on this issue.

Mr. Friendt stated that he could not help but find such sensitivity regarding this resolution, given the Patriot Act and the Death Penalty Resolutions, just underwhelming. Mr. Cook responded that this is a ballot issue and not merely a resolution of statement. Mr. Friendt stated that this is something important, something that actually effects our community. Mr. Friendt noted that he would prefer to have it on the Agenda. Mr. Werner polled the Council Members on whether or not they would like the Resolution moved forward? Ms. McRoy stated that it was fine with her; Mr. Camp agreed to have it placed on the Agenda; Mr. Svoboda stated that he was fine with moving it forward. Mr. Friendt, Ms. Newman and Mr. Cook already having expressed their opinions, Mr. Werner stated that it seemed there was a majority that would prefer to have it moved forward, so they would go on and let the vote be what it is.

2. Does Council have any Items for the November 1st Common Agenda The Council discussed the T.I.F. issue that had already been placed on the November 1st Common Agenda. Mr. Camp, who had requested that the issue be placed on the Agenda, explained that he thought it would be good if the Council talked to the County Commissioners about Tax Increment Financing and just general philosophical approaches, because in passing the T.I.F. project, the City is reallocating tax dollars away from another governmental taxing entity. Mr. Werner noted that it includes LPS, too. Mr. Camp commented that LPS gets 65% of tax dollars. Ms. Newman felt it was a major issue that needed to be discussed - and would probably need more than an hour.

After a lengthy discussion it was determined that the issue would be addressed at the Council Member's Retreat on the 18th of November. It was agreed that would be a good venue for gathering basic information and (coupled with one or more pre-councils), it would be wise to gather balanced information before a more public discourse was undertaken.

Ms. Harrell noted that the pre-councils would need to cover three primary areas. 1) The History of the Use of T.I.F. in Lincoln; 2) how that compares with Omaha; and 3) What are the implications for the future in terms of its use as an economic development tool - especially in light of the fact the City does not have other financing tools to create that situation. It was agreed to have Staff and representatives from the Chamber of Commerce at the pre-councils to offer a balanced input on what would be good for the community regarding these issues.

The T.I.F. Item will be removed from the Common Agenda of November 1st, 2004

VII. COUNCIL MEMBERS -

JON CAMP - No Further Comments

JONATHAN COOK - No Further Comments

GLENN FRIENDT - No Further Comments

ANNETTE McROY - No Further Comments

PATTE NEWMAN - No Further Comments

KEN SVOBODA - No Further Comments

TERRY WERNER - No Further Comments

MARK BOWEN - No Further Comments

ANN HARRELL - No Further Comments

CORRIE KIELTY - No Further Comments

DANA ROPER - No Further Comments

VIII. MEETING ADJOURNED - Approximately 12.16 p.m

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