

MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDTABLE SUMMARY
April 9, 2012

Tracy Corr started the meeting at 5:33 P.M. Monday, April 9, 2012, in the Mayor's Conference Room, County/City Building, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Twenty-four citizens and nine staff attended:

Tracy Corr	40 th & A St NA	Jeff Schwebke	Arnold Heights NA
Bob Reeves	Clinton NO	Lynn Fisher	College View NA
Sue VanHorn	Country Club NA	Ann Bleed	East Campus CO
Carolyn Brandle	Eastridge NA	Paula Rhian	Everett NA
Dianna Wright	Highlands NA	Myrna Coleman	Highlands NA
Scott Richert	Indian Village NA	Larry Evermann	Irvingdale NA
William Carver	Near South NA	Scott Zager	Southwood NA
Kent Prier	Taylor Park NA	Luci Prier	Taylor Park NA
Trisha Spanbauer	University Place CO	Eric Sholtus	University Place CO
Bill Vocasek	West A NA	Mike Fitzgerald	Witherbee NA
Jayne Sebby	Woods Park NA	Russell Miller	Lincoln N-hood Alliance
Shawn Ryba	NeighborWorks - Lincoln	Jacob Grell	CLCs
Christy Eichorn	Planning Dept.	Chris Connolly	City Law Dept.
Meghan Sullivan	Stronger, Safer	Wynn Hjermsstad	Urban Development
David Ensign	Urban Development	Jon Carlson	Mayor's Office
Milo Mumgaard	Mayor's Office	Lin Quenzer	Mayor's Office

Mayor Beutler

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Tracy Corr opened the meeting and asked participants to introduce themselves. Attendees checked in on the sign-in sheet.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jon Carlson announced the fourth annual **BIKETACULAR!** Saturday, May 19, 2012, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., south of the capitol on Goodhue Boulevard. Contact Jon to volunteer (402-441-7224) or jcarlson@lincoln.ne.gov

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Beutler mentioned the 2-for-trees program. Lincoln Water System customers may voluntarily add \$2.00 to their water bill payment to support the Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department tree program. This program parallels the Lincoln Cares program that has expanded to include support of parks, libraries and aging.

<http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/mayor/media/2012/031512.htm>

<http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/donate/2-for-trees.htm>

<http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/donate/lincoln-cares.htm>

The Mayor announced Earth Day, Sunday, April 22, 2012. See the websites.

<http://lincolnearthday.org/>

<http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/mayor/media/2012/030612.htm>

Mayor Beutler led a Roundtable discussion on feather flags and signs.

The Mayor fielded questions and comments from the Roundtable.

USE GROUPS UPDATE – PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Christy Eichorn, Planner I, Planning Department, presented an update on Use Groups (see November 2011 and December 2011 Roundtable Meeting Summaries.) Christy highlighted three revisions to the previously presented information. (See Attachment 1.)

- Add a Use Permit Chapter: This new Use Permit Chapter consolidates Use Permit language in one place and provides consistency.
- Change language
 - For Group Living Use Groups and Civic Services Use Groups “Nonprofit religious, educational, and philanthropic institutions” changes to “Neighborhood support services.”
 - For Healthcare Facilities “Domiciliary Care Special Permit” changes to “Healthcare, Residential” and “Healthcare” changes to “Healthcare, Non Residential.”
- Make outdoor play areas for early childhood care facilities and wandering paths for residential healthcare facilities permitted accessory uses in the required front yard setback.

Christy tentatively scheduled a public hearing on Use Groups before the Planning Commission at 1:00 P.M., May 16, 2012, City Council Chambers, County-City Building, 555 South 10th Street.

Planning Department Use Groups website:

<http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/plan/usegroups/index.htm>

Mayor's press release on Use Groups:

<http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/plan/usegroups/Press%20Release.pdf>

Christy Eichorn 402-441-7603 or ceichorn@lincoln.ne.gov

Use the “Submit Comments on Use Groups” box on the Planning Department website.

Christy fielded questions and comments from the Roundtable.

PROBLEM PROPERTIES

Jon Carlson, Mayor's Aide for Stronger Safer Neighborhoods, and Chris Connolly, Assistant City Attorney, presented information on problem properties. (See Attachment 2.)

UPDATE ON PROBLEM RESOLUTION TEAM (PRT)

A committee of city officials from various agencies and disciplines (about 15 people) meets monthly to address problem properties for special attention. Not every property that has code violations is a problem property. The property must meet certain criteria to be a problem property. Once on the list it goes through various stages of monitoring or taking some type of action. Eventually, based on landowner response and/or City actions, the PRT removes the property from their list.

From January 2011 City Law Department prosecution has opened 77 cases. This number does not reflect accurately the total number of cases. Some cases do not go to court because the landowner corrects the code violation before the court date.

Chris Connolly mentioned a civil injunction – a new approach to recalcitrant landowners who do not correct problems even when the court imposes fines. After three criminal convictions for code violations on the same property without corrective action, the City Attorney will seek a permanent injunction against the landowner. Through an injunction the court orders certain actions that must (or must not) occur. Should the landowner continue not to comply, the City Attorney may return to court and seek the court's permission for the City to enter the property and correct the problem. Currently, the City Attorney has handled two such cases. The first case went well with the property cleaned up and maintained by the landowner. The second case is in court under advisement by the judge.

Anonymous Complaints

Jon led a Roundtable discussion on anonymous complaints focusing on an anonymous complaint containing 10 or more properties.

Jon and Chris fielded questions and comments from the Roundtable.

SET MAY AGENDA

The next meeting of the Mayor's Neighborhood Roundtable is Monday, May 14, 2012, 5:30 P.M., in the Mayor's Conference Room, County/City Building, 555 South 10th Street, **3rd floor**. Next month's agenda will include a presentation on Liability Insurance for Neighborhood Associations.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 6.45 P.M.

Attachment 2

Mayor's Neighborhood Roundtable 4/9/12

- Update on PRT
 - Getting Convictions & Fines
 - Civil injunction to clean up property and charge the owner
 - Anonymous Complaints – Want Roundtable Feedback
 - Current policy is to investigate every complaint regardless of origin
 - Anonymous complaints
 - Inspectors go out. So far have not had a big problem with “malicious” calling
 - Anonymous complaint with multiple addresses (10+)
 - Should we require a complainant contact if reporting multiple addresses?
 - Should we limit the number of addresses that can be accepted in a single communication?
- ***How can we use Housing Inspectors and resources most effectively?***
- Red Tagged Buildings: Unsafe or Unfit for Human Occupancy
 - If a property is “Dangerous” structurally, we can and have enforced demolition
 - If a property is “unfit” for occupancy, we do not allow anyone to live in it, but have no current time limit on how long it can remain that way.
 - Proposal to set a limit of two years that a property may remain red-tagged “unfit”.
 - Would create an exception if red-tagged because of voluntary utility shut off.
 - Still discussing/working on best ways to compel compliance.
 - Repair bond: What if they refuse to post the bond?
 - City hires contractor to make repairs and charges owner: Where do we get the money for the initial repairs?
 - Other:
 - Questions?

Jon Carlson: jcarlson@lincoln.ne.gov

Chris Connolly: cconnolly@lincoln.ne.gov