

# MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDTABLE SUMMARY

December 8, 2014

Tracy Corr opened the meeting on Monday, December 8, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room, City/County/Building, in Lincoln, NE.

## Attendance

Twelve citizens and five staff attended:

Tracy Corr – 40th & A NA	Jeff Schwebke -- Arnold Heights NA
Rifka Keilson – Country Club	Paul Johnson – East Campus CO
Myrna Coleman – Highlands NA	Amy Karabel – Irvingdale NA
William Carver – Near South NA	Mike DeKalb – University Place CO
Lin Quenzer – Mayor's Office	Jon Carlson – Mayor's Office
Wynn Hjermstad – Urban Development Dept.	Adam Rhoads – Health/KLLCB
Mike Renken – NeighborWorks-Lincoln	Leirion Gaylor Baird – City Council
Derek Danel – UNL Student	Kelly Theye – UNL Student
Mayor Beutler	

## Welcome & Introductions, Volunteer to Take Notes

Meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Corr. Everyone introduced themselves. Paul Johnson volunteered to take notes.

## Mayor's Comments

- N St Bikeway Project – New bids requested resulted in better prices
- Public Safety Bond – Parties are still discussing, but will probably be on spring ballot
- Sidewalk Repair – About 1500 segments (7.5 miles) completed this year. Backlog should be caught up within next 14 months
- Emerald Ash Borer – Looking for funding assistance from new Nebraska Legislature

## Graffiti Prevention Program Update

William Carver switched from his community role as Near South neighborhood representative to his professional role as Graffiti Prevention Coordinator to present an update on the City's Graffiti Prevention Program.

Lincoln's graffiti ordinance was passed in 2006, but with limited budget and staff. When the Stronger Safer Neighborhoods initiative began in 2009, it included \$25,000 to fund a part-time graffiti coordinator within the Health Department's Keep Lincoln-Lancaster County Beautiful program.

Nationally, most cities have seen graffiti increase over the years. Lincoln is bucking that trend with decreasing graffiti incidences. One reason may be that the approach in Lincoln includes education, not just enforcement and also Lincoln's increasingly rapid response -- prompt removal of graffiti discourages future graffiti. In 2009-10, the Graffiti Prevention Coordinator received 1,066 complaints that took an average of 23.7 days to close. In 2013-14, 514 complaints were received and averaged 6.6 days to close.

Over the years since Carver began working with graffiti prevention, the prevalent types of graffiti have changed. He presented examples of local graffiti; explained symbols used and described typical message content.

The public can report graffiti by contacting the Graffiti Prevention Coordinator at [wcarver@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:wcarver@lincoln.ne.gov), calling 402-441-4690, or using the online Citizen Action Center on the City's home page ([Lincoln.ne.gov](http://Lincoln.ne.gov)) -- just type "graffiti" in the keyword box. The Citizen Action Center also

has free apps for Android, iPhone and Windows phones making on-the-spot reporting of graffiti easy and quick.

In response to questions, Carver explained that:

- Only unwanted graffiti is covered by the City ordinance. There are no regulations to force change or removal of graffiti if a property owner has granted their permission.
- When graffiti occurs on property controlled by Lincoln Parks & Recreation or Public Works & Utilities departments, it is cleaned up/removed by the departments' own crews

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Mayor's Neighborhood Roundtable will be on January 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. Interest was expressed in having a presentation by Dave Landis, Urban Development Department Director, on Tax Increment Financing (TIF).

*Notes submitted by Paul Johnson.*

**WILLIAM CARVER**  
Graffiti Prevention Coordinator

wcarver@lincoln.ne.gov

**LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY**  
**HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
Keep Lincoln & Lancaster County  
Beautiful  
3140 "N" Street, Lincoln, NE 68510  
402-441-4690 fax: 402-441-6206



lincoln.ne.gov