

# MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDTABLE SUMMARY

## December 14, 2015

Tracy Corr opened the meeting on Monday, December 14, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room, City/County/Building, in Lincoln, NE.

### Attendance

Thirteen citizens and four staff attended:

Tracy Corr – 40 <sup>th</sup> & A NA	Carl Tesch – Autumn Wood NA
Bob Reeves – Clinton NO	Rifka Keilson – Country Club NA
Paul Johnson – East Campus CO	Karen Dienstbier – Eastridge NA
Pat Anderson-Sifuentez – Everett NA & NW-L	Scott Richert – Indian Village NA
Dennis Hecht – Meadowlane Area RA	Nate Blum – Prescott Area NA
Mike DeKalb – University Place CO	Fred Freytag – Witherbee NA
Jon Carlson – Mayor's Office	Wynn Hjermstad – Urban Development Dept
Adam Rhoads – Health/KLLCB	Russell Miller – Lincoln Neigh Alliance
Mayor Beutler	

### Welcome & Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves. Paul Johnson volunteered to take notes. Tracy reminded the group that if LPS closes due to bad weather, Roundtable will not meet.

### Mayor's Comments

The Mayor encouraged neighborhood associations to participate in and promote the Snow Angel Program. Coordinated by Public Works, Snow Angels links volunteers willing to shovel snow with residents who need the service. Any individual or organization wishing to volunteer for snow removal as part of the Snow Angels program may sign up online [[lincoln.ne.gov](http://lincoln.ne.gov), keyword: snow angels] or call the Public Works Snow Center at 402-441-7644.

Some changes are going to be made to the City's recycling program to make it more effective. Other communities have been doing a better job of recycling and the Lincoln would benefit if more people recycled more. Some suggested ways to increase recycling include:

- More, stronger education efforts,
- Requiring all garbage haulers to offer recycling with their services,
- Banning different products from the landfill. The first thing that most likely would be banned would be cardboard.

Education of both residents and commercial enterprises is the key to long-term recycling success. One suggestion was to create an exchange for boxes, shredded paper & other recyclables. Additionally, it would help if people better understood the total cost of landfills. Roundtable attendees expressed support for additional recycling efforts.

### Neglected Buildings Registry Update

*Chad Blahak, Director, Building & Safety Department, and Chris Connolly, Senior Attorney, City Law Department*

The Registration of Neglected Buildings Ordinance has been in effect for over a year. It covers vacant residential properties only; no commercial properties. So far, the ordinance is working well – the legislation has needed no changes. To date, 28 properties have been added to registry, six have been demolished, two sold and two repaired. Liens have been placed on seven properties.

For a property to be considered for the Registry, it has to have been red-tagged by Building & Safety for at least two years or have significant, valid complaints filed against it. Eighteen properties added to the registry came from complaints; ten were red-tagged for two or more years. Per this ordinance, property owners are required to register vacant, neglected buildings with the City. Properties on the Registry are assessed a \$500 fee for each 90 days registration. Owners have many opportunities to solve the problem. After initial notice, owners have 30 days to address the problems or present a plan to address problems. The owner can receive permits for planned rehabilitation. Building inspectors check on the rehab work periodically to make sure progress is being made on addressing problems. If the plan is followed and completed, the building no longer needs to be registered. If the plan is not implemented, fines and further fees will be assessed on the property. If not paid by the owner, these then become liens against the property. In extreme circumstances, enough liens can accumulate and lead to the City foreclosing on the property. Any civil penalties arising from the Neglected Building Ordinance go to the school district, while registration fees go to the City.

So far, no properties have been foreclosed upon. All properties are evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Before proceeding with a foreclosure, the City will consider what liens are ahead of the Registry liens and the cost of cleaning up those liens.

Roundtable attendees suggested that neighborhoods, especially those in which the registered neglected buildings are located, be notified periodically of action on properties.

### **Announcements**

***Peacemaking Workshop*** – *Bob Reeves*: Dawn Engle is coming to Lincoln on April 10, 2016. Lincoln organizations and individuals are invited to register peace acts. The goal is to register 10,000 peace acts by April 10, 2016. **See Attachment 1.**

***Neighborhood Newsletters*** – *Wynn Hjermstad*: Links to neighborhood newsletters may be added to the City's website -- contact Urban Development at [urbandev@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:urbandev@lincoln.ne.gov).

**UPCO – White Hall Mansion** -- Open House on Dec. 20, 2015.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Mayor's Neighborhood Roundtable will be January 11, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. The topic will be determined.

### **Adjournment**

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

*Submitted by Paul Johnson*

## **Invitation to 10,000 Acts of Peacemaking in Lincoln 2016**

[www.lincolnpeacemakers.com](http://www.lincolnpeacemakers.com)

The Lincoln Peacemakers initiative is about making Lincoln a city of peacemakers, engaging the unengaged, replicating models that work, exciting a new generation through social media to become involved in peacemaking by joining current efforts or starting new ones, and teaching children to be agents of peace. Finally, we are all about recognizing and celebrating peacemaking and peacemakers in April.

Contact us at the *Lincoln Peacemakers* Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/Lincoln Peacemakers](http://www.facebook.com/LincolnPeacemakers)).

You are invited to be a Lincoln Peacemaker and register a Simple Act of Peace as a part of the Global “1 Billion Simple Acts of Peace.” Register through the website: [www.lincolnpeacemakers.com](http://www.lincolnpeacemakers.com).

*An act of peace is one that makes others’ lives easier by giving, advocating, organizing, intervening or reaching out.*

*Sponsored by the Lincoln Interfaith Peacemaking Coalition, this initiative aims to create 10,000 acts of peace by encouraging you to become...*

**Peacemakers**

**Agents of Peace**

**Teachers of Peace**

### **10,000 Acts of Peacemaking in Lincoln 2016**

Dawn Engle, a Nobel Peace Prize nominee in 2015, created the “1 Billion Acts of Peace by 2018” Campaign in 2014. She will come to Lincoln on April 10, 2016, to celebrate our acts of peace. This is an international global citizens’ movement designed to tackle the most important problems facing our planet. “We started with a simple idea: Everyone matters. Everyone can make a difference. And together, we are unstoppable.” Thirteen Nobel Peace Prize Winners are involved in the Campaign, including the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu.

To participate, first choose from 10 key focus areas critical to generating world peace:

- Inclusivity and Cooperation
- Human Rights
- Environmental Sustainability
- Alleviation of Extreme Poverty
- Global Health and Fitness
- Conflict Resolution
- Advancing Women and Children
- Education and Community Development
- Weapon Access and Proliferation
- Access to Water and Natural Resources

Next, take these steps:

1. Choose one of the 10 Ways to Peace on our website - one that you are passionate about – and figure out the root causes of that problem.
2. Come up with an extraordinary Peace Act that will address the area you choose. We’ve got some great examples at [www.lincolnpeacemakers.com](http://www.lincolnpeacemakers.com) for each of the 10 Ways of Peace; or see what others are doing and get inspired.
3. You can create as many Peace Acts as you want! Be sure to register your Peace Act on our website to help us reach our goal of 10,000 by April 10, 2016. Tell us what you did on our Facebook page or Twitter ([www.facebook.com/Lincoln Peacemakers](http://www.facebook.com/LincolnPeacemakers); [twitter.com/lpeacemakers](http://twitter.com/lpeacemakers))

***Peacemaking is building a world of peace one act at a time.***