

CITY-COUNTY COMMON MINUTES Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Present: Ray Stevens, Larry Hudkins,, Doug Emery, Bob Workman, Bernie Heier, Jon Camp, Gene Carroll, Jane Snyder and Adam Hornung

Absent: Jonathan Cook, John Spatz and Deb Schorr.

Others Present: Kit Boesch, Human Services Director, Marvin Krout, Director, Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning, Nicole Fleck-Tooze, Long Range Planning Manager, and Lynn Sunderman, Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Commission. Chair.

Chair Commissioner Ray Stevens opened the meeting at 8:15 am.

1. Approval of Common Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, October 13, 2009 and Tuesday, December 1, 2009.

Councilman Emery moved approval of the Common Meeting minutes of Tuesday, October 13, 2009 and Tuesday, December 1, 2009, seconded by Commissioner Heier. Motion passed 8 - 0. Please note Councilman Hornung arrived after the vote was taken.

2. Common Meeting Times:

A brief discussion took place regarding the change in Common Meeting Times. All Tuesday meetings will take place at 8:15 a.m and all Monday meetings will take place at 12:45 p.m. rather than the original 8:30 times as previously set.

3. Joint Budget Committee (JBC) Process 2010 -2012:

Kit Boesch, Human Services Director shared with the group the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) process, see Exhibit A. Boesch stated this year the JBC has received requests totaling \$684,087 or 24.6% increase. A Capacity Building Grant has been added which is intended to strengthen agency leadership, which in turn should help keep programs. There will be ten grants available in \$15,000 blocks for a total of \$150,000. Eligibility criteria is as follows:

- Agency budgets under \$600,000
- Do not receive any federal funding

These applications will be reviewed by the Keno Prevention Fund Advisory Board in April and their recommendations added to JBC in May.

Boesch shared the process for the Capacity Building Grants:

- Applications turned in /Team Review
- Recommendations from Team - JBC
- JBC reviews Human Services and team recommendations and makes their recommendations based on the amount of dollars available
- Agencies are appraised of JBC recommendations and appeal process
- Common Budget Hearing (appeals heard and recommendations forwarded)
- City Council and County Board review/ approve final recommendations
- Contacts sent out to agencies (two year contracts)

This is the second year there have been two year contracts. There is a clause in every contract stating the contract can be pulled with a thirty (30) day notice. Every year there is a financial review and an audit done on each agency and the contracts are brought back for renewal of the contract for the second year based on the finance report.

Boesch stated she understood that a 24% increase would not happen, however, she asked the JBC, City Council and the County Board to consider a 1 - 2% increase. She felt this increase could keep the safety net these agencies provide to the community in place.

Commissioner Hudkins inquired what percent of the JBC budget was City and what was County. Boesch responded the theory behind JBC historically is that in the Human Services arena the city and the county each pay half, if you look at just the JBC budget you have over \$600,000 that comes from the county and approximately \$500,000 from the city so it is higher on the county side. If you look at the overall programs that are funded in the city and the county they were even with the city funding aging services, StarTran, both the city and county funding the Health Department, look at joint budgets and then add 2.1 million JBC budget there is a much more even distribution. 2/3 county and 1/3 city, however the city steps up in a number of different ways and this is just a piece of the pie.

4. 2010 Comprehensive Plan Review:

Marvin Krout, Director, Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning, introduced Nicole Fleck-Tooze, Long Range Planning Manager, and Lynn Sunderman, Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Commission Chair. Krout stated that planning is trying to understand all the external forces that you can't control and affect how we live in the future. It's also, trying to join the community together to create a vision of what we can control and how we build a desirable community. Every five years the Planning Department is required by federal mandate to update the comprehensive plan. (See Exhibit B). A comprehensive plan is needed for the follow reasons:

- 1) State law requires a comprehensive plan in order to have zoning rules
- 2) To create a predictable environment both for government and the private sector
- 3) To receive federal funding which amounts to approximately 15 million dollars per year - (transportation funds)

Looking into the future one of the impacts is demographic change. Both nationally and locally there is a bulging baby boom population. It is being predicted that once this population reaches 65 years of age in 2030, Lancaster County will see a 128% increase. This population will require different housing needs, while Generation X and Y will also impact the housing market.

Impacts of future technology are very hard to predict, however, they need to be taken into account as we proceed with planing. It's almost certain there is going to be more use of communication technology which will affect location of jobs and the way people work. With the potential for more working at home and virtual meetings, there will be an affect on transportation and trip generation. This in turn will affect transportation technology and systems, such as signal and detection. In some cases the nature of the cars themselves is going to change.

Since sustainability has to do with conservation of resources, historically over the past 20 -30 years this has been part of the plan. Sustainability now means new things in terms of energy, energy future and carbon monoxide emission. All the issues will be looked at, however, the focus will be on transportation and land use.

Looking back at the last update of the comprehensive plan, five years ago, it was assumed that current trends would continue as they were for the next thirty years. This was what was expected and distribution of new population was based on plans for infrastructure with a moderate increase in the downtown Antelope Valley area but basically all the growth in the fringe areas of the city.

Omaha is looking at an element of their comprehensive plan which is suggesting they might grow more effectively if they target some of the development in terms of additional infield and redevelopment in the city as opposed to all of it occurring on the fringe. 40% of the future growth being proposed in Omaha's plan, which is on-going, is to be located inside the current city limits.

We also have to take into consideration the shorter term reality of the housing market place. We have seen a 75% reduction in building permits from the peak years of 2003- 2004, at the same time, we have doubled the number of vacant, potential lots that we have services to or have commitments to provide services to. These lots provide enough land for at least the next decade without having to do further extensions.

We also have to think about transportation in terms of what is affordable. The federal government is very demanding that the plan has to be financially constrained, and count on expected revenues. Over the last five years we have reduced the number of intersections that have congestion during peak hours. With an increase in population and traffic in 30 years it's going to be very difficult to maintain the same level of service that we have in the past.

The last thing to focus on is the area in and around downtown Lincoln. The focus will be on the downtown and surrounding area and how it all links together, what the potentials are for infield and redevelopment in that area and how it may all be linked in the future by an enhanced transportation system.

The Planning Department is planning to spread out the resources and take advantage of all the time they have till the federal deadline of December 2011 to submit a long-term transportation plan.

5. Combined Weed Program Annual Report and Recommendations:

Russ Shultz, Weed Control Authority, Superintendent distributed the 2009 Annual report and Recommendations Combined Weed Program City of Lincoln (Exhibit C). Shultz referred to the 2009 Weed Abatement and Enforcements map in the handout. This map illustrates the parcels in the City that the 3,144 inspections were made on 1,404 sites. There were 1,069 violations, 904 were cut and 157 were contracted cut. The next map showed the 2009 noxious weeds. There were 679 inspections on 395 sites and 329 violations found. Shultz brought special attention to Phragmites, which was a newly designated noxious weed last year. There were 254 sites in the County found to have Phragmites. It is very important these be controlled because the seed blows by wind and there is an opportunity that all the wetlands in the County could be infested. A good response from all the land owners contacted regarding the Phragmites infestation was received. All the sites have received some control and there will be follow up visits done in May to make

sure the control is working. At this time Phragmites is not well established in the County and 90% control should be accomplished. Phragmites can grow up to fifteen feet tall and is very difficult to control from the ground. The 25 acres on the N. 48th Street landfill site were controlled by helicopter.

Each year the multiple weed abatement violations are reviewed and the total number of violations dropped from 729 to 356. Those with ten or more violations dropped from 15 - 7. The decrease was attributed to letters and contacts established with these owners. Approximately half of the forced control is due to foreclosures and continues to be an issue.

Forced cuttings dropped from 207 to 157. Further reduction is anticipated in 2010 as a result of developed contacts with the mortgages and contractors.

A total of 278 advance work orders have been prepared along with aerial photos. Currently there are 176 weed abatement sites that are being targeted due to past violations.

Councilman Snyder stated there were problems all last summer with noxious weeds embedded in the mesh that was along the sides of the Joint Antelope Valley Trail. It didn't look like much was done to control the weeds most of the summer. Shultz referred to the weed abatement multiple violations 2009 page of the hand-out. He stated all the city properties were addressed that had a complaint on them. The bottom line is that owners are responsible and they need to have a plan to keep the vegetation down.

A brief discussion took place regrading right-a-way visibility obstruction and weed height violation contacts. Shultz responded there are various City departments that are responsible for different ordinances and it takes coordination with the departments to correct the problems. He recommended holding a pre-season meeting with City departments that deal with vegetation overgrowth to review and update coordination efforts.

The next meeting will be Monday, April 5, 2010, 12:45 p.m. in Room 113.

Councilman Camp moved and Commissioner Hudkins seconded to adjourn the meeting. Roll called, motion passed 8-0

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.