

**CITY-COUNTY COMMON  
MINUTES  
MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2009**

**Present:** Dan Marvin, Chair; Robin Eschliman; Bob Workman; Ken Svoboda; Doug Emery; Bernie Heier; Ray Stevens, Larry Hudkins, Deb Schorr, Jon Camp and Mayor Chris Beutler.

**Absent:** John Spatz, Jonathan Cook

**Others Present:** Jeff Maul, Wendy Birdsall, Milo Mumgaard, Chad Blahak

Chair Marvin opened the meeting a 8:31 am.

**1. Approval of Common Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, March 3, 2009.**

Svoboda moved approval of the Common Meeting minutes of Tuesday, March 3, 2009, seconded by Hudkins. Motion passed 10- 0

**2. Lincoln convention & Visitors Bureau Update.**

Jeff Maul and Wendy Birdsall gave an update on the Lincoln Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) previous year and the year to go. Handouts were provided.

Maul gave a short update on the 2010 Special Olympics Games. Fund-raising has gone very well both on a local and a national level. The state of Nebraska has pledged 1 million dollars and the CVB will be recruiting 8,000 volunteers. They are also planning an event in July 2009 to celebrate and raise awareness.

Currently the Bureau is working with local hotels to education the front line hospitality workers on what is taking place in our community. They are working with certified folder distribution companies to increase awareness of Lincoln's activities in the local hotels.

Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) awarded Lincoln, baseball, swimming/diving and class A boys golf for three (3) years, (2010 - 2012). Boys and girls basketball were also awarded for three (3) years, (2011 - 2013), however volleyball was lost to Grand Island and Hastings for two (2) years.

Schorr questioned why volleyball was only awarded for two years when the bids were done as a three year package. Maul responded the bid that goes out from NSAA is typically for two years with the option for three. Heier raised the question on why volleyball had been awarded to GrandIsland/Hastings rather than Lincoln since the Bob Devaney Sports Center and the Coliseum are available for use. Birdsall commented the NSAA

Commissioners have a lot of pressure from western and central Nebraska to move these tournaments west. Hudkins questioned the availability of the Coliseum for the Volleyball Tournaments. Maul responded that in 2010 and 2012 there is a conflict with Husker Football and the package they offered included the Devaney Sports Center for those two years and the Coliseum for 2011.

Following are additional highlights from the presentation which is available on request:

For the first quarter of 2009, there were 24 events booked (through the CVB), 2,628 room nights, and an estimated \$751,608 economic impact.

A Meeting Planners Guide has been released and a promotional video is being created. Growth will be focused on "Be a Tourist Promotion", online marketing, expanded packaging opportunities( currently Husker Basketball), an on-line newsletter and continued involvement in West Haymarket developments.

There was a brief discussion on hotel growth/demand within Lincoln. There are currently five (5) hotel projects in Lincoln. The CVB is seeing a need for limited service properties, non-convention hotels. There are times when there is a shortage of facilities to host that next level of regional or national events. The additional hotel rooms that come into the market allow the CVB to do that. There are events like Special Olympics where a portion of the rooms will be going outside of Lincoln because there will be a shortage of them.

### **3. Green initiatives for Public Building Commission Buildings.**

Robin Eschliman addressed questions to Milo Mumgaard and Chad Blahak from the Mayor's office:

- 1) What Federal funding will be available for facilities and the amounts and types of energy conservation methods implemented. Is there a time frame in which the funds would need to be spent.
- 2) Do we have a sense of what local dollars would be necessary to match the funds.
- 3) How might this integrate with our district energy system.
- 4) Does it overlap with other energy initiatives the building commission is working on.
- 5) Do you see it contributing to economic development or new jobs.

Mayor Beutler introduced Chad Blahak who is currently working with the stimulus package and the Mayor's office and Milo Mumgaard who is replacing Denise Pearce, Senior Policy Aide, during her leave. Mumgaard, over time, will transition into the Energy Coordinator for the City of Lincoln. As the

Coordinator, Mumgaard will engage other entities in Lincoln and Lancaster County, both public and private, with respect to a broad variety of energy initiatives that will be coming forth from the Federal Government. Mayor Beutler stated the City has been very progressive in this area but not in a way designed to address and engage the future in the most meaningful and the most effective terms. There is \$2.4 million of Federal stimulus money that is currently available to the City, which will be on-going dollars. Commissioner Hudkins inquired about potential green projects between the Mayor and the Attorney General. The Mayor replied that yes he had been approached by the Attorney General regarding funds remaining from litigation settlements in the community that could potentially be used for energy related work in Lincoln. \$50,000 grant money from the Attorney General will help to fund the new city energy program along with the stimulus dollars.

Milo Mumgaard introduced himself and stated his background is all about building operations that seek to make government work better, helping to insure the government lives up to its obligations as well as develop opportunities for the people that benefit from what government does. He just returned from working on a national project, monitoring an economic stimulus project he helped set up. He stated that Lincoln is poised to move into a leadership position in conservation and energy efficiency and is in need of both funding and coordination. This in turn will save tax payer dollars. Block Grants and other funding gives the City opportunities to work with both the private and business community regarding ways projects can be done as a community, to leverage those projects and funding in order to get more bang for the buck in the coming years.

Chad Blahak introduced himself and addressed the questions Eschlman had posed. \$2.4 million is available for energy efficiency and conservation through a block grant program which was an existing program and has not been funded until the stimulus bill passed. There is a formula component to the \$2.4 million and the City needs to apply for the money. There will be competitive block grants that if Lincoln has eligible projects they will pursue them, however they do not have the requirements yet. Eschlman inquired on how this would effect the Public Building Commission and the decisions they would make. Blahak responded that at this time they do not have the rules nor the regulations on how that money is to be used. Eschlman inquired if there were specific examples this money could be used for. Mumgaard responded there are examples of what the money can be used for and the parameters are very broad. It can be used for anything from setting up revolving loan funds focusing on government buildings to public-private partnerships delivering services to the community or developing a jobs program. The Department of Energy is saying there is a great amount a latitude with how the money can be used. They are promoting in particular, the strategic partnerships and the revolving loan funds as a way in which

there is a long term return from the money. Blahak has spoken with Don Killeen regarding the Public Building Commission and the City of Lincoln and where they overlap with respect to energy efficiency and sustainable. There is tremendous excitement about how this can be coordinated together so there is a higher return on what's going on with energy efficiency. Deb Schorr spoke in regards to the building of the new jail and the opportunities this presents to apply for these energy efficiency dollars and to build a building that is energy efficient and sustainable. This is a great opportunity for the County to work with Mumgaard as well as Blahak on this project. NACO (Nebraska Association of County Officials) is sponsoring a webinar in the near future to provide information to counties on stimulus funding available for energy efficiency projects and how to apply. Marvin interjected he was excited about having a coordinator for energy efficiency who can educate the community on the opportunities available to them.

Bernie Heier gave a brief update on the new jail. It's possible to break ground some time in May. The architecture firm is scheduled to brief the County Board on Thursday, April 16. The bidding process can start as soon as they have the full plans. Even though the architects are not planning to obtain LEED (Leaders in Energy Efficiency Design) certification, they are following a number of the green requirements for LEED certification. Larry Hudkins interjected there will be a building at the corrections facility that will house the district energy on sight and it will be a ground loop water heat pump system.

Heier moved and Stevens seconded to adjourn the meeting. Roll called, motion passed 10 -0

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 am.

Minette Genuchi  
Administrative Aide- Lancaster County Board of Commissioner