



MAYOR'S ENVIRONMENTAL TASK FORCE (METF)

Date: Thursday, Aug. 2, 2018

Time: 12-1 p.m.

Location: City Building 3rd Floor Conference Room

First time attendees included on roster (*Attachment A*).

Opening remarks from Mayor Beutler, and discussion on autonomous vehicle shuttle project

- The autonomous shuttle pilot project, funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies, was discussed including how many of the group rode the shuttle and what is the sentiment within METF. Topics of discussion included affordability, reliability, safety, reduced traffic congestion, and scheduling and logistics of an integrated, alternative transportation system. The data collection and community engagement process was also discussed including community-wide data collection and grant reporting requirements. The City will know if it received the phase two grant in September or October 2018.
- The rollout of LED light replacement in partnership with LES in to take place in September.

Announcements, led by Frank Uhlarik

- Upcoming METF Meetings: September 6th and October 4th
- PACE is set to appear with City Council again on Aug. 27. This meeting is open to the public.
- Brittney Albin announced that Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) is seeking Compost Program volunteers AND Green Schools activity partners and has eight schools that will need help training students how to sort their lunch waste into recycling, compost, and landfill containers during that first week of school (Aug. 13-17). If you are interested in helping, or know someone else who might be, please fill use this form to get more information and sign up: [Compost Program Volunteer Sign-Up](#). She also noted that there are a total of 49 schools composting in the district.
- Brittney Albin also noted that LPS is seeking partner activities for schools to complete as part of our [Green Schools Recognition Program](#), which are being restructured for the 2018-19 school year. A one page letter has been attached (*Attachment B*) with more details about the GSRP and what types of activities align with the program. We know there are already so many great environmental education and sustainability literacy resources available to our community – our office simply wants to support those opportunities and communicate them to our schools as part of our district sustainability



"OUR HOME, OUR FUTURE, OUR CHOICE"

goals. If you think you have an activity (or multiple activities!) to share with our Green Schools Recognition Program, please fill out the [Partner Activity Registration Form](#).

- Jamie Carson provided an invitation to the Turbine Flats and Carson+Co Global First Friday, Pollinator Garden Grand Opening, and Open House on Friday, Aug. 3, 2124 Y Street.
- Jamie Carson also noted that the next Envirorun Lincoln Speaker Series events will take place on Thursday, Aug. 23, "Local Food" with fun run at 6:30 p.m. and panel at 7:30 p.m., and "Environmental Policy & Politics" on Thursday, Oct. 25. See envirorun.com/lincoln for more information.
- Jesse Starita reminded the group that planning is in progress for the Nebraska Youth Summit on Climate, scheduled for Monday, Oct. 1, 2018.
 - Nebraska Youth Climate Summit Facebook [page](#)
 - [Student Application](#)
- Kim Morrow notified the group that she is co-planning an environmentally-focused retreat from Oct. 12-14, 2018, at Spring Creek Prairie, for those of us feeling environmental distress, looking for hope and solutions – all based on the work of an eco-philosopher (*Attachment C*).
- Brittney Albin noted that the next Lincoln Earth Day is on April 27, 2019, and the LED Coalition is in the process of recruiting and planning if anyone would like to join or knows of interested parties. If you are interested in joining the group that organizes the Lincoln Earth Day celebration, please e-mail info@lincolnearthday.org.
- Sara Hartzell updated the group on the trail grants and the Wilderness Park South Bridge. The new trail is being developed with ADA accessibility. Letters of support are welcome and can be sent to shartzell@lincoln.ne.gov by Aug. 15, if possible. Thank you to all those who came to Council meeting and spoke out for parks. See attachment for template letter of support (*Attachment D*).
- H.P. Singh shared with the group that he is presenting at an upcoming symposium at Doane University and he informed the group that LES is seeking electric vehicle users for a study.
 - Sept 14-15, Doane University: "Building Resilience in the Anthropocene"
 - Singh is searching for any current drivers of plug-in vehicles who are willing to provide feedback on charging stations. This is for a startup-accelerator course he is taking through NMotion, <http://www.nmotion.co/academy/>
- Sara Brock shared about two upcoming family-friendly events:
 - Second Saturday Science Lab at the State Museum
 - Topic: Water under our feet
 - August 11th from 10 am - 12 pm
 - Free with regular admission
 - website: <http://museum.unl.edu/investigate/index.html>



"OUR HOME, OUR FUTURE, OUR CHOICE"

World O' Water at Papio-Missouri NRD/Chalco Hills
8901 S. 154th Street, Omaha, NE
September 8th 12 pm - 4 pm
Free admission
website: <https://www.worldwater.org/>

Introduction of Carson+Co Global (CCG) by Frank Uhlarik

- Overview of current project work led by CCG, as well as support with program management and communications by Jamie Carson
 - Departmentwide cataloging of internal and external projects
 - Input of projects into decision support tool for prioritization of projects
 - Streamlining program management and communications

Update on Lincoln Environmental Action Plan (LEAP) by Frank Uhlarik

- LEAP progress report, on the following policy categories:
 - Energy
 - Land Use
 - Transportation
 - Waste
 - Water
- Intentional progress is being made with LEAP, while establishing a process to communicate progress. Additionally, we are working on website, dashboard, and metric reporting. The METF will be engaged in LEAP policy category subcommittees to support community engagement and rollout of the plan. The subcommittees will meet during the last 30 minutes of each METF to ensure progress, and respect the time of our Task Force members. Next meeting, we will invite signups, and also suggestions for subcommittee additions to fill gaps in expertise.
- **Next steps + role of the Task Force** by Frank Uhlarik and Jamie Carson
 - Re-engage subcommittees to support community engagement for City-Council-approved LEAP policy categories
 - LEAP subcommittees will meet during final 30-minutes of regularly scheduled METF meetings for next six months
 - Additional members may be invited to join LEAP subcommittees to fill gaps in expertise
 - Think about your area of interest; next METF meeting we'll distribute the subcommittee signup link



"OUR HOME, OUR FUTURE, OUR CHOICE"

Ken Winston and Melissa Baker raised concern about the Costo poultry operation's affect on Lincoln and Lancaster County's water quality, and asked that the topic be discussed in a future Task Force meeting.

Closing remarks from Mayor Beutler

METF Committee Member Action Items

- Think about which Lincoln Environmental Action Plan subcommittee you'd want to join, and discussion and sign up will take place next meeting.
 - Energy
 - Land Use
 - Transportation
 - Waste
 - Water
- Consider the following questions:
 - How has the Mayor's Environmental Task Force been valuable to you in your work as well as moving the needle in Lincoln?
 - What communication tools and resources would be valuable to you in your work in the environmental and related/connected sectors?



Attachment A



"OUR HOME, OUR FUTURE, OUR CHOICE"



Mayor Beutler's Environmental Task Force – August 2, 2018

Name	Representing	E-mail	Phone
SIGN ONLY IF FIRST TIME ATTENDEE!!			
HP Singh	Evolution Advisory NEANA CloudCharger	hpsingh@evolutionadvisory.co	(402) 318- 9440
PENNY COSTELLO	Friends of Wilderness Park	penny.costello@gmail.com	402-432-0605
Tereniuk Picar	Big Red Worms	worms@bigredworms.com	402-476-9340



Attachment B



LPS Sustainability Office

Green Schools Recognition Program

The Lincoln Public Schools Green Schools Recognition Program is designed to help schools provide environmental education opportunities for their students while exploring ways to reduce the environmental impact of their building. The goal of this program is to instill a culture of environmental stewardship at our schools.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- School sustainability champions, staff, and families visit our website to view the menu of sustainability activities
- After an activity is completed, an online form is submitted and the Sustainability Office awards points
- Schools strive to meet one of three point thresholds associated with earning sustainability funding
- Schools are recognized for their green efforts and awarded funding in May

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

To make this program a success, we're looking for partners to provide activities for schools to do as part of the program:

- Offer activities suitable for K-12 schools that relate to a sustainability topic (water, energy, waste, transportation, natural resources) Types of activities include: assemblies, field trips, curriculum, classroom presentations, events, etc.
- Provide a brief description of the activity with your organization's logo
- Coordinate directly with schools to schedule activities (as necessary)

If you have an activity that fits with our program, please submit the information by filling out this [Partner Activity Registration Form](#).

This is our third year of the GSRP and we have already seen increased excitement and participation in green schools activities. We look forward to working with you to expand the program's impact and truly encourage a culture of sustainability in our schools!

Questions? Contact the LPS Sustainability Office
Email: balbin@lps.org Phone: (402) 436-1072 ext. 82007



Attachment C

THE WORK THAT *Reconnects*

Moving from Despair to Empowerment in the Age of Planetary Distress

October 12-14, 2018 / Spring Creek Prairie
With Mary Pipher, Kim Morrow and Judy Greenwald

As the climate changes, injustices erupt, and decency slips away from the public square, many of us are feeling increasing isolation and despair. It is hard to know how to be grounded and hopeful in this world, or where to even begin. This retreat builds off the work of pioneering eco-philosopher and Buddhist scholar, Joanna Macy, to lead you into a transformative journey that will reorient your perspective on our current crises and give you the tools to become a bearer of hope for future generations. With backgrounds in psychology, sustainability, ministry and environmental justice, our three seasoned workshop leaders have the tools to take you on a journey of healing, joy, and empowerment. Join us for a weekend of renewal in the beauty of a Nebraska prairie.

Friday, October 12th - 7:00-9:00pm

Saturday, October 13th - 9:00am-4:00pm

Sunday, October 14th - 9:00am-3:00pm

The retreat leads participants on a cohesive journey, and thus registration is available only for those who can attend the entire retreat. Cost: \$65. Please register by September 15th by visiting: <https://wtr-prairie.eventbrite.com>.

Mary Pipher is a psychologist and the author of *The Green Boat: Reviving Ourselves in Our Capsized Culture*.

Kim Morrow is a minister and sustainability consultant who has worked at the intersection of spirituality and ecology for many years.

Judy Greenwald is a retired school social worker and teacher of ELL students, and currently volunteers as a mediator with the Lincoln Mediation Center.