

# MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDTABLE SUMMARY

March 12, 2018

Tracy Corr opened the meeting on Monday, March 12, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room, City/County/Building, in Lincoln, NE.

## Attendance

13 residents and 6 City staff attended:

Tracy Corr – 40 <sup>th</sup> & A NA	Jennifer Powell – Country Club NA
Paul Johnson – East Campus CO	Myrna Coleman – Highlands NA
Dennis Hecht – Meadowlane Area RA	Mike DeKalb – University Place CO
Keith Roland – University Place CO	Bill Vocasek – West A NA
Fred Freytag – Witherbee NA	Russell Miller – Witherbee NA
Randy Smith – Woods Park NA	Marti Lee – NeighborWorks-Lincoln
Bennie Shobe – City Council	Lin Quenzer – Mayor's Office
Jon Carlson – Mayor's Office	Wynn Hjermstad – Urban Development
Gene Hanlon – Public Works & Utilities – Recycling	Donna Garden – Public Works & Utilities
Mayor Chris Beutler	

## Welcome & Introductions

Tracy Corr, Chair, led the introductions. Paul Johnson volunteered to take notes.

## Mayor's Comments

The Mayor opened a discussion about school security & safety—a topic in the headlines and on many peoples' minds. Lincoln Public Schools have never had an active shooter incident, but three questions need consideration:

- Is there is a problem in Lincoln?
- If there is a problem, how can the problem be addressed?
- Who is responsible for acting to address the problem?
- Roundtable comments:
  - The different enforcement entities and the educational organizations need to work together to develop a coordinated plan of action.
  - Social media is a newer, highly accessible way for people with an inclination to violence to get attention.
  - UNL has done a lot of forward thinking and planning for an active shooter incident. They may be a helpful resource for local planning efforts.
  - Does the City have an emergency preparedness agency? Yes. While the agency has many plans, none specifically addresses school security.
  - Lincoln Public Schools is the primary planning agency for this kind of incident. Their plans are in place and staff and students have practiced safety procedures.
  - Lincoln Police Department has also planned and practiced methods of addressing an active shooter in schools.
  - Police should have a presence in the schools so that students are comfortable with them.
  - Are there laws on the books that would allow police to remove weapons from someone who is mentally unstable?
  - A proposal to regulate bump stocks is before City Council. They are also considering questions about the types of ammunition sold legally.
  - How are school resource officers funded? 2/3 City, 1/3 LPS
  - Outside entities pay off-duty Lincoln Police officers to work security. Should the schools be solely responsible for paying for school security?
  - Does security staff need to be off-duty police or can others fulfill that role, such as school staff?

- All of the entities need to work together to plan & coordinate actions. All entities should also share the cost.
- The public needs to be kept informed. They need to know that plans are being made and that the different entities are prepared. Let people know what is going on so they are aware of proactive efforts as well as reactive plans.
- Promote anti-bullying programs and mental health programs in the community as well as in schools. Addressing problems earlier may prevent larger, more serious problems later.
- Don't wait for a perfect plan before acting. Commit to working together and taking action now – improve or adjust the plan as needed.

**Recycling Corrugated Cardboard** – Gene Hanlon, Recycling Coordinator, City of Lincoln Public Works and Utilities, Solid Waste Management Division: 402-441-7043, [ghanlon@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:ghanlon@lincoln.ne.gov).

Starting April 1, 2018, the City landfill will no longer accept clean, dry corrugated cardboard. This change has been under consideration for a long time, starting in 2010 with the Solid Waste Management planning process. Plans to manage the City's solid waste included additional recycling as a tool. A working group identified corrugated cardboard as a recyclable material that should be banned from the landfill. Other materials have been banned in the past; this is a continuation of City policy.

**Attachment 1** illustrates and defines corrugated cardboard. Currently, 9.5% of the waste going into the landfill is corrugated cardboard. Annually, that would fill 2,140 garbage trucks in an 18-mile long parade of trucks. Alternatively, recycled corrugated cardboard has value, so it makes more sense to collect & sell it than to bury it. Recycling corrugated cardboard has other positive effects, including reducing tree harvesting and greenhouse gas production. In the past, the primary producers of corrugated cardboard “waste” were businesses, some of whom already sell their cardboard for recycling. With the rise of online shopping, retailers are shipping more corrugated cardboard to residential consumers, many of whom have been discarding it. The new landfill ban and related changes will both facilitate and require everyone – commercial and residential – to recycle.

Lincoln garbage haulers are now required to provide recycling services. They also have reporting requirements so we will know how much is being recycled. Experience has proven that curbside recycling gets the most material recycled. The cost of providing curbside recycling is about \$2.50 per week depending on which provider is used.

For businesses, recycling corrugated cardboard can be challenging. The volume of cardboard generated can overflow available space. There are many resources on the City's recycling website to help businesses manage their recycling program. Businesses can also receive a leadership award to recognize their recycling efforts. Grants and rebates are available to help businesses and institutions to reduce their waste stream.

Apartments & property owners can also get into a rebate program. Century Management is involved in the program. There are resources available to assist rental property owners as they notify their tenants.

Enforcement of the new ordinance will be indirect. Haulers will be prohibited from placing recyclable cardboard in the trucks they send to the landfill. Landfill staff will monitor the waste in the trucks and require the hauler to remove any clean, dry corrugated cardboard.

- Loads will be checked & fees can be assessed
- Haulers are encouraged to contact customers to make sure that they are aware of the program

Question – Is there a concern that contaminated material will be a significant problem? Single-stream collection has been analyzed for foreign material. Next step is to bring the foreign material to the public's attention

Glass – encourage bringing to drop-off sites for recycling

Containers at the drop-off sites – additional containers will be at the sites for the additional volume. Sites are for residential use, not commercial

Drop-off sites – has there been an increase or loss of drop-off sites? There has been a decrease in sites. Challenge to find sites.

Illegal dumping – 5% of households do not have garbage service. Trash containers at drop-off sites have been removed because they were being used for illegal dumping

Waste Haulers – Most haulers have been working well on the program, but not all.

Will be doing waste assessment in the fall to analyze how the program is reducing the material in the landfill.

Drop-off material is sold on the market. With advent of single-stream recycling, the recycling material is less valuable. China has banned some of the mixed paper & plastic. Prices have decreased & recyclers are charging for the material.

Businesses are being encouraged to see how much of the current material is recyclable & if waste containers can be exchanged for recycling

Gene or staff are willing to come to talk at neighborhood meetings.

## **Announcements**

- Urban Development Department has begun work on the **2018-23 Strategic Plan** which will guide Lincoln's use of federal CDBG, HOME and ESG funds. The department is asking neighborhood associations for suggestions about their needs.
- The City of Lincoln, the Downtown Lincoln Association and consultants are working on a new **Downtown Master Plan**. As part of the planning process, they will consider a wide spectrum of topics affecting Downtown: Economic Development, Innovation, Business Opportunities, Transportation, Connectivity, Housing, Amenities, and Services. Community involvement is very much desired and encouraged. The public is invited to a **community open house on April 10th, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the Rococo Theater**, 140 N. 13<sup>th</sup> Street. The open house will begin with a presentation, "Global Trends Affecting Downtowns," at 6:00 pm. After the presentation, attendees will be encouraged to share their perspectives and ideas at interactive stations for each topic.
- The Railroad Transportation Safety District (RTSD) and the City of Lincoln want to improve the safety and efficiency of **railroad crossings in the 33<sup>rd</sup> & Cornhusker area**. They also want improvements to fit the needs of the northeast Lincoln – now and in the future. Please visit **33rdcornhusker.com** for ways to get involved with the planning process -- on Facebook and Twitter, public meetings and design charrettes, email updates, and/or a survey (online or downloaded). Your input will help define the priorities and vision for the area. **See Attachment 2.**
- Donna Garden, Assistant Director of Public Works and Utilities, announced a new effort called "**The Rounds**." Department representatives would like the opportunity to meet with neighborhood associations to discuss on-going projects and get input on ways they can help with identified needs. **See Attachment 3.**
- NeighborWorks Lincoln is trying to meet with neighborhood associations. The Neighborhood Policy Network, hosted by NeighborWorks Lincoln, meets quarterly. NWL are trying to get some grants for neighborhoods and will be hosting quarterly neighborhood forums.
- The University Place Community Organization will sponsor their 27<sup>th</sup> annual Easter Egg hunt in UPCO Park on Saturday, March 31. Egg hunters need to be 3<sup>rd</sup> graders or younger.
- The Meadowlane Area Residents Association will hold their annual meeting on Tuesday, April 17 at 7:00 p.m. at the new Cornhusker Bank at 84 & O streets.
- Lin Quenzer, City Ombudsman, asked people to provide any comments on UPLNK. Contact Lin at [lquenzer@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:lquenzer@lincoln.ne.gov).

## **Next Meeting/Agenda**

The next meeting of the Mayor's Neighborhood Roundtable will be April 9, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. The topic is to be determined.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at about 6:40 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted, Paul Johnson*

# RECYCLE LINCOLN

## CORRUGATED CARDBOARD DISPOSAL BAN FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### When is corrugated cardboard no longer allowed in the landfill?

Starting April 1, 2018, clean and dry corrugated cardboard will not be accepted in the landfill, per Lincoln Municipal Code 8.32.040\*.

### What type of cardboard is not allowed for disposal in the landfill?

Clean, dry corrugated cardboard will not be accepted in the landfill. Corrugated cardboard that is soiled with food waste or is completely wet is accepted in the landfill.

### Why corrugated cardboard?

Corrugated cardboard makes up about 9.5% of the garbage that collectors take to the landfill. It is the largest single recyclable material disposed of in the landfill. Cardboard has both a high commodity value and is in high demand by paper mills.

### What should be done with clean, dry corrugated cardboard?

- Reuse it, if possible.
- Flatten and recycle it for free at a public recycling drop-off site.
- Use a recycling collection service.

### Who will be affected by the corrugated cardboard disposal ban?

All Lincoln and Lancaster County residents and businesses who have their garbage collected and delivered to the landfill will be affected by the ban.

### Can businesses take corrugated cardboard to one of the City's public recycling drop-off sites?

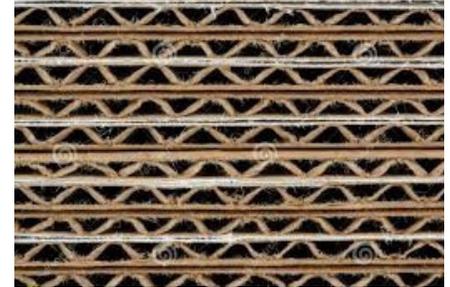
The City's recycling drop-off sites are provided for Lincoln and Lancaster County residents. Businesses should contact recycling collectors to subscribe to services, or take corrugated cardboard and other recyclables directly to recycling processors. In some circumstances, businesses can be compensated for their recyclable material.

### How will the corrugated cardboard disposal ban be enforced?

Garbage collectors will be prohibited from placing recyclable corrugated cardboard in the trucks they send to the landfill. Landfill staff will monitor the waste in vehicles and require any recyclable corrugated cardboard to be removed. Residents and businesses must ensure that clean, dry corrugated cardboard is not placed in trash containers.

### Will residents be penalized for placing clean, dry corrugated cardboard in the garbage?

No. Lincoln and Lancaster County residents will not be ticketed by the City for failure to recycle corrugated cardboard. Residents should check with their garbage collectors to confirm whether they will be charged additional fees if recyclable corrugated cardboard is found in their trash.



### What is corrugated cardboard?

Corrugated cardboard is defined as three or more layers of paper with a rippled or corrugated middle layer.



### Corrugated cardboard

is the largest single recyclable material disposed in the Bluff Road Landfill.

\*LMC 8.32.040, Section C / Recyclable cardboard\*\* shall not be accepted for disposal in the City's public sanitary landfills effective April 1, 2018. (\*\*Clean and dry corrugated cardboard.)

# RECYCLE LINCOLN™

## CORRUGATED CARDBOARD DISPOSAL BAN FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Will landlords and businesses be ticketed if corrugated cardboard is placed in trash containers at properties or worksites?

No. Landlords and businesses will not be ticketed by the City for failure to recycle corrugated cardboard. They should contact their garbage collectors to confirm whether they will be charged additional fees if corrugated cardboard is found in their trash containers. Residents of apartments whose buildings do not offer recycling programs can take their recyclables to one of the many recycling drop-off sites for no fee.

### Is there a fee to recycle corrugated cardboard?\*

No. There is no fee to recycle cardboard at a public recycling drop-off site. To find a site nearest you, visit [recycle.lincoln.ne.gov](http://recycle.lincoln.ne.gov). *\*For recycling collection service at a residence or business, the cost varies. Check with your garbage collector or a recycling service for pricing.*

### Can greasy pizza boxes be recycled?

Yes. Pizza boxes that have pizza grease stains can be recycled, as long as there is no solid food residue.

### Can corrugated cardboard that has wood or Styrofoam attached to it be recycled?

No. The wood or Styrofoam must be separated from the corrugated cardboard before recycling.

### How does the City of Lincoln benefit from recycling corrugated cardboard?

Recycling promotes greater environmental stewardship in the community, delays the development for a new landfill, conserves resources, creates new jobs and improves the local economy. The sustainability and social responsibility culture within a community are increasingly important to its growth and economic expansion.

### Do other communities prohibit cardboard disposal in their landfills?

Lincoln is the first community in Nebraska to prohibit disposal of corrugated cardboard in landfills. Other regions with similar cardboard disposal laws include Linn County (Cedar Rapids), Iowa; Iowa City, Iowa; Fort Collins, Colorado; Sioux Falls, South Dakota; California, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Wisconsin and Vermont.

### How can I learn more about the corrugated cardboard disposal ban and recycling?

Please visit [recycle.lincoln.ne.gov](http://recycle.lincoln.ne.gov) for additional educational materials and videos in multiple languages.



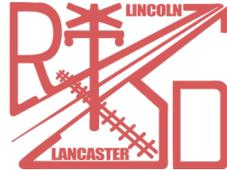
A resident recycles cardboard at one of the City's public recycling drop-off sites.



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March 2018

RE: MAKING THE ROUNDS

Greetings Friends and Neighbors!

The City of Lincoln Department of Public Works and Utilities is making "The Rounds." We would love an opportunity to meet with you and members of your neighborhood association to discuss the exciting things happening in our city. We appreciate how much you care for your neighborhood and want to establish a connection, open lines of communication and develop a strong partnership for the bright future we all share. We know that you are equally dedicated to making our neighborhoods the very best they can be and want to work with you to ensure that happens.

Our department team would like to spend an hour hearing from you!

- What's important to you and your neighbors?
- What goals, objectives or aspirations do you have for your neighborhood?
- How can we help each other?

This is an opportunity to tell us about yourselves, learn a little bit about the Department, update you on projects in your neck of the woods as well as share ideas for how we can continue to make Lincoln the greatest place to live, work and play!

If you are interested in scheduling a meeting, please send an email request to Michele Abendroth at [mabendroth@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:mabendroth@lincoln.ne.gov). We will do our best to accommodate your schedule and preferred location.

We look forward to hearing from you soon!

Sincerely,

Miki Esposito, Director  
Public Works and Utilities

cc: Donna Garden, Asst. Director – Utilities  
Lonnie Burklund, Asst. Director – Transportation  
Wynn Hjermsted, Livable Neighborhoods