MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDTABLE SUMMARY
April 11, 2016

Tracy Corr opened the meeting on Monday, April 11, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room, City/County/Building, in Lincoln, NE.

Attendance

Fifteen residents and four City staff attended:

Tracy Corr – 40th & A NA
Carl Tesch – Autumn Wood NA
Rifka Keilson – Country Club
Karen Dienstbier – Eastridge NA
Myrna Coleman – Highlands NA
Dennis Hecht – Meadowlane Area RA
Mike DeKalb – University Place CO
Jon Carlson – Mayor's Office
Russell Miller – Lincoln Neigh Alliance
Mayor Beutler
Jeff Schwebke – Arnold Heights NA
Russ Irwin – Clinton NO
Paul Johnson – East Campus CO
Ray Crisp – Eden Park NA
Scott Richert – Indian Village NA
Amanda Huckins – Near South NA
Bill Vocasek – West A NA
Wynn Hjermstad – Urban Development Dept
Adam Rhoads – Health/KLLCB

Welcome & Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves. Karen Dienstbier volunteered to take notes.

Mayor's Comments

Mayor Beutler talked about recycling in Lincoln. Compared to other cities nationally, Lincoln does not do well in recycling. A poll of those present showed that most, if not all, of us currently do recycle. The Mayor asked neighborhood reps to talk to their neighborhood organizations about encouraging neighborhood residents to do more recycling. For example, the neighborhood associations can invite a City recycling spokesperson to come and speak at a neighborhood meeting.

Mayor Beutler laid out a three-year program for improving recycling in Lincoln. In the first year, cardboard will be banned from the landfill. Newspaper would be banned in the second year, followed by paper in the third year. City staff has discussed policy changes with garbage haulers, landlords, commercial retailers, and others affected by the changes.

Recycle Lincoln

Donna Gardner, Assistant Director, Public Works and Utilities and Gene Hanlon, Recycling Coordinator, Public Works and Utilities discussed ideas to double the recycling rate in Lincoln by 2020.

One of the problems that Lincoln faces in its recycling efforts is that Lincoln has 41 different private companies hauling the community's garbage. Many other cities have municipal garbage haulers. This makes it much easier to create a coordinated recycling program. Mayor Beutler has spoken with all 41 company owners and all have agreed to sign on to efforts to increase recycling. It is imperative that the new recycling services be convenient for both the haulers and the customers.

In her slide presentation, Donna Gardner mentioned that communities that recycle save millions of dollars by recycling waste products that would otherwise be sent to landfills. See Attachment 1 for the slide presentation.

Once a city-wide recycling system is up and running, the refuse haulers will be required to send annual reports to the City. The reports will be used to monitor the success of the recycling system and help identify any needed modifications.

It was mentioned that the reason for beginning with cardboard, newspaper and other recycled paper is that 66% of what ends up in the landfill is from these products.

Gene Hanlon answered questions as they came up.

Jon Carlson talked about ways to get involved in the recycling efforts. He asked that we get feedback from our local neighborhoods about the recycling program. He also asked us to take an active role in promoting the recycling efforts in the city. He shared a handout: *Recycle Lincoln Can Build a More Sustainable Community, Save Money and Grow the Economy* (see Attachment 2)**.** Jon also suggested that neighborhood associations:

1. Support Earth Day as part of a community-wide kick off of Recycle Lincoln.
2. Invite someone from the City Recycling program to speak at their neighborhood meeting.

Additional comments from the Roundtable attendees:

- There was discussion of yard waste being turned into mulch and composting materials that the City could then provide to businesses and home owners.
- There was a suggestion to use a "village market place" concept via the Internet. For example, the City could have/sponsor a webpage where residents could go to donate or find re-useable materials, such as moving boxes, packing materials, etc.
- Someone mentioned that shredded paper can be used for animal bedding.

Announcements

- Paul Barnes, Long Range Planning Manager, Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Department, announced a proposal to change the City Theater Policy and related zoning issues. There will be citywide feedback opportunities at a later time. This will be the main agenda item in May and will provide an opportunity for discussion. See Attachment 3.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Mayor's Neighborhood Roundtable will be May 9, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. The topic is the proposal to change the City's Theater Policy.

Adjournment

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

Submitted by Karen Dienstbier.

Attachment 1

City of Lincoln Solid Waste and Recycling

Donna Garden
Assistant Director of Public Works and Utilities
March 17, 2016

CITY OF LINCOLN NEBRASKA

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Recycling……

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Recycling MAKES GREAT SENSE for Lincoln……

- Lincoln consumers want convenient recycling choices
- Helps grow the local economy
- Reduces the expensive need to expand the landfill

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#1 Lincoln consumers want more recycling

- Majority of comments on the Taking Charge survey related to recycling - most wanting to do more.
- Work with our local haulers and partners to increase consumer choice and convenience

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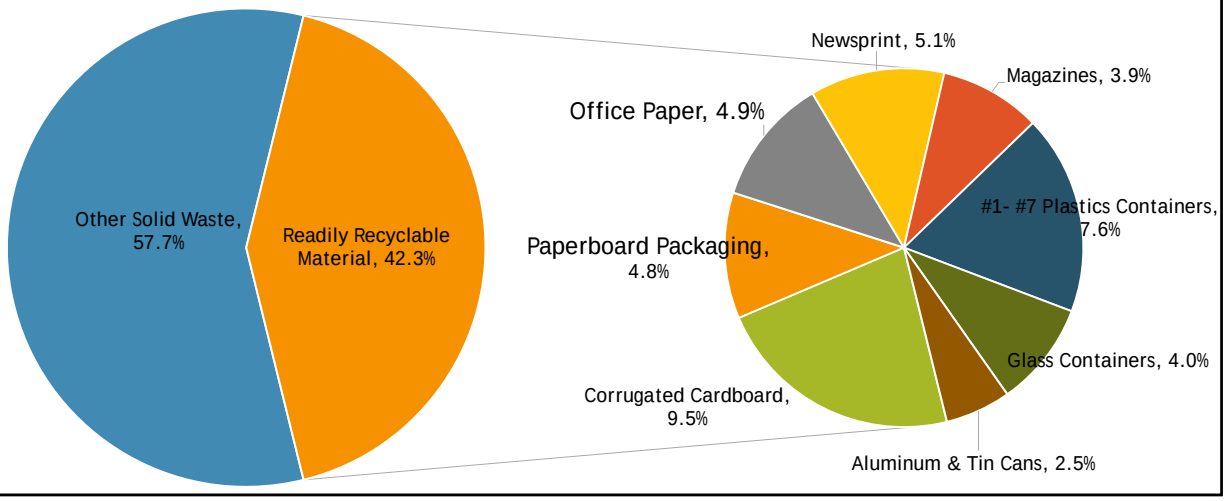
#2 Recycling is good for the local economy

About 42% of waste that goes to the Bluff Road Landfill in north Lincoln is readily recyclable.



Recycling is good for the local economy

That's over 86,500 tons of recyclable material worth an estimated **$5.5 million** to the local economy.

Currently, we PAID $1.5 million to bury it in the Bluff Road Landfill.

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#2 Recycling is good for the local economy

- Ron Gonen, fund manager of the Closed Loop Fund has said that either way you look at it, It costs money to deal with the wastes of society and **either you pay to bury it in the ground or you pay to recover it and recycle it, and possibly generate revenue** from the recycling.
- One way is a finite process with the potential for future environmental implications and one way extends the life of the commodity, saving resources, creating jobs and removing the notion that a linear manufacturing process is sustainable.

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#3 Reduce the need to expand the landfill

- **Estimated tons of material recycled in 2014 = 79,300 tons/yr**
- Estimated value of landfill spaced saved = $1.3 million

#3 Reduce the need to expand the landfill

Lincoln Electric System uses a similar philosophy:

Sustainable Energy Program uses conservation to reduce the need to build expensive new power plants.

City Solid Waste Management uses recycling to reduce the need for expensive landfill expansion

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What are we doing to support Recycling in Lincoln?

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Recycling in Lincoln

- Residential Recycling
  - Curbside Recycling
  - 28 – Recycling Drop-off Sites
- Commercial Recycling
  - Contract with Private Hauler
  - Self-Haul
- Private Material Recovery Facilities
  - Firstar Fiber
  - Mid-America Recycling
  - Recycling Enterprises
- Composting Facilities
  - Publicly Operated Bluff Road Yard Waste Composting Operation
  - Prairieland Dairy Organic Waste Composting Program
  - Nebraska Farmers Union Vermi-Compsting Program

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What more could we do to support Recycling in Lincoln?

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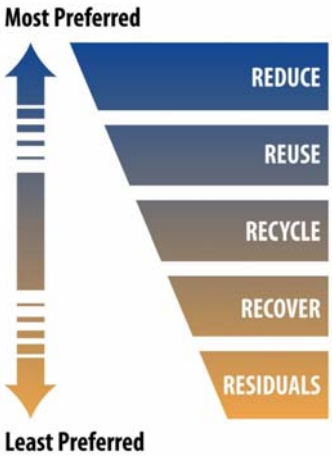
Solid Waste Management Plan 2040

- 20 Member Citizen Advisory Committee
- Overall Goal
  - Reduce the per capital rate of municipal solid waste disposed of in landfills to:
    - 1,895 pounds per capita per year by 2018
    - 1,720 pounds per capita per year by 2025
    - 1,475 pounds per capita per year by 2040



Metric: Base year of 2011 is 2,105 pounds per person per year and each goal is calculated on a 10%, 20% and 30% reduction in the base year.

SWMP 2040 was published in November of 2013.

Key SWMP Recommendations

- Education/Behavior change
  - Targeted educational programming be developed dealing with each Preferred Path Recommendation
  - A financial commitment be made by the City to provide staffing and resources to educate individuals and businesses as part of the implementation of the plan recommendations.
- Toxics Reduction
  - Expand toxics reduction program and create a place to provide year round access.
- Residential Recycling
  - Residential curbside recycling to be provided to all single family and duplex dwellings City-wide
- Commercial Recycling
  - Commercial recycling to be provided to multi-family dwellings, businesses and institutions.
- Reporting and Data – Continual improvement

Stakeholder Recycling Work Group Formed

- 10 Member Work Group
  - Waste Haulers
  - Recycler
  - Businesses
  - Property managers
  - Public Works & Utilities Staff
  - August 2014 – May 2015

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Residential & Commercial Recycling - Recycle Work Group Proposal…

- Phase I:
  - All haulers offer recycling to residential and commercial customers
    - Voluntary Subscription– allows use of drop-offs or choice of refuse/recycling collection company.
  - Comprehensive educational / behavior change program.
  - Data retrieval as part of hauler license to determine progress.
- Phase II:
  - Disposal ban of corrugated cardboard from residential and commercial waste generators.
- Phase III:
  - Consideration of future material disposal bans
  - Continuing education program updated with new material disposal ban.

Education Program

- Residential and Commercial Behavior Change/Public Education Campaign. Consultant: Develop, messaging and theme for rebranding effort
  - Education Campaign Elements:
    - "Toolkit" for solid waste and recycling collectors
    - Direct mailing (residential and commercial)
    - Articles/press releases (Neighborhood and business organizations)
    - Radio and television ads
    - Speaking engagement/speaker bureau
    - Social Media: facebook, twitter, Instagram etc.
- Outreach and Engagement with Commercial Businesses.

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Why Target Corrugated Cardboard, Newspaper and Other Recyclable Paper?

- It is the largest segment of readily recyclable commodities being disposed of in the landfill
  - Corrugated Cardboard 9.5% – 19,400 tons
  - Newspaper 5.1% – 10,500 tons
  - Other Recyclable Paper * 13.5% – 27,600 tons
- It has a relatively strong and stable market from recycling mills
- It is readily identifiable from other wastes

*Office paper 4.9%; Paperboard/Linerboard packaging 4.8%; Magazines 3.9%

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If the 57,500 tons of recyclable paper fibers were recycled instead of landfilled, we would…

- Save 82,000 cubic yards of landfill space annually valued at $1 million.
- Recover close to $2.7 million in the economic value of the recyclables.
- Conserve close to 757,000 million BTU's in energy.
  - This is equivalent to the annual energy consumption of 6,730 homes or over 6 million gallons of gasoline.
- Create new jobs to collect and process the recyclables.
- Serve as a model for resource conservation to other communities in the region.

Recycling MAKES GREAT SENSE for Lincoln……

- Lincoln consumers want convenient recycling choices
- Helps grow the local economy
- Reduces the expensive need to expand the landfill

Questions?

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Attachment 2

Recycle Lincoln!

Lincoln Can Build a More Sustainable Community, Save Money and Grow the Economy.

The Challenge

42% of all waste (about 86,500 tons per year) that enters Lincoln's landfill is readily recyclable.

Depositing recyclable material in the landfill is an expensive means of handling Lincoln's waste. Recycled material has great value—those 86,500 tons of recyclable waste are worth an estimated **$5.5 million in value**. Currently, City residents **pay $ 1.5 million** to bury these materials in the landfill. **That doesn't make sense.**

Recyclable materials that enter the landfill increase pressure to expand the landfill. If the 86,500 tons were NOT buried at the City landfill, the estimated value of **the space saved is $1.5 million**.

Of course, sorting and processing recyclables has a cost also. The question for the community is: **do we spend our money burying materials in the ground OR spend our money recycling them back into the local economy?**

Increasing the City's recycling rate **saves money** and is **good for the local economy**.

Citizen Review

A 20-member citizen advisory committee was appointed by Mayor Beutler to review and recommend options to increase Lincoln's recycling rate. The group included people from all walks of life and the waste haulers that serve the community. They recommended a goal of gradually reducing the amount of waste entering the landfill.

The Solution

A stakeholder Recycle Work Group recommended several ideas to increase recycling that balances the needs of the residents, waste haulers, and local businesses:

1. **Education / Behavior Change**
   Educating people on what can be recycled and how is a key to changing behavior and keeping recyclable material out of the landfill. The committee recommended a financial commitment by the City to provide the staffing and resources to educate residents and businesses.

2. **Keep Recyclables Out of the Landfill**
   The committee recommended that corrugated cardboard no longer be accepted in the landfill (nearly 20,000 tons of corrugated cardboard is thrown away in the landfill each year). City leaders are also recommending that after the cardboard prohibition is in place, other fiber based material like paper and newspaper be gradually diverted from the landfill. These actions could double the City's recycling rate when fully implemented.

3. **Expand Curbside Recycling**
   Waste haulers would have to offer curbside recycling available to all single family residences and duplexes. However, it will still be up to the residents if they want to pay for recycling service. No one will be required to hire a recycling service. In fact, most Lincoln residents choose to haul recyclables themselves to one of the City's convenient 28 recycling drop-off sites.

4. **Expand Commercial Recycling**
   Waste haulers would have to offer curbside recycling available to all multi-family units, businesses and institutions. Again, it will be up to the consumers whether or not to take advantage of the service.

It just makes sense.
Recycle Lincoln!

Attachment 3

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor's Neighborhood Roundtable

FROM: Paul Barnes, Long Range Planning Manager

SUBJECT: Theater Policy Amendment

DATE: April 11, 2016

The purpose of this memo is to provide information to the Mayor's Neighborhood Roundtable on the proposed amendment to Lincoln's Theater Policy.

Lincoln has had a 'Theater Policy' in some form since 1984. The policy has supported the Downtown as an entertainment district by limiting the number and size of theaters allowed in other commercial districts outside of Downtown. The largest theater, with 14 screens, is located Downtown (B-4 district), and there are 3 other theaters in Lincoln with 6 screens each. The Zoning Code allows theaters with no more than 6 screens in the B-5 Planned Regional Business District. Marcus Theaters owns all first run theaters in Lincoln.

The Planning Department received an application from Councilman Christiansen who is proposing to remove the theater policy language from the Comprehensive Plan and to remove the size restriction for new theaters in the B-5 district. The proposal would also allow smaller theaters (4 screens or less) in the B-2 and B-3 commercial districts.

When the Grand Theater was built in Downtown Lincoln there was strong community support for the new facility. The hope was that the theater would continue to provide entertainment options in Downtown and would be a draw for residents from across the community. Since then Downtown construction activity has continued including the new arena, new residential developments and numerous restaurant and bar options. Downtown is a successful entertainment district and is very active.

The current theater policy also supports smaller theaters (up to 6 screens) in B-5 zoned commercial centers. A secondary impact of the Theater Policy is that these smaller "neighborhood" theaters are located closer to residential neighborhood areas.

At this time we are reaching out to interested groups including the Mayor's Neighborhood

Roundtable, the owners of B-5 zoned shopping centers, Marcus Theaters, Downtown Lincoln Association and others to gather input on the proposed changes. We are attempting to obtain input from an industry expert as well to be informed about the current and projected trends in the theater industry.

This item will be scheduled as a discussion item on the May Neighborhood Roundtable agenda. The amendments will then be forwarded to the Planning Commission and City Council, but those dates have not yet been scheduled.

Please contact me by email at pbarnes@lincoln.ne.gov or by phone at 441-6372 if you have additional questions.

That Chapter 5 of the 2040 Lincoln/Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan be amended as follows:

1. Under Downtown on page 5.3 revise the second full paragraph by striking the language indicated below:

> Among existing Regional Centers, Downtown Lincoln stands as a unique community resource. Downtown is the County's most intensive center of activity, offering a broad mix of retail, office, industrial, residential, and governmental uses. It is home to numerous public facilities — including the Nebraska State Capitol, the University of Nebraska- Lincoln's main campus, and the County-City Building — as well as private endeavors— including financing, insurance, and other business services. Downtown Lincoln has historically served as the community's dominant center of entertainment. ~~A key element to this role has been the long standing and successful "theater policy." This policy has allowed Downtown to retain an appreciable share of the area's movie theaters. It is intended that this policy will continue as part of LPlan 2040.~~ Downtown is also an important node for mixed use redevelopment that is more fully described in the *"Mixed Use Redevelopment"* chapter.

2. Under Strategies for Downtown on page 5.4 strike the language of the third bullet point as follows:

- ~~Maintain and reinforce Lincoln's successful *Theater Policy*; encourage new entertainment attractions to locate in the Downtown.~~

27.63.630 Theaters, Indoor.

Indoor theaters may be allowed in the B-2, B-3, and B-5 Districts by special permit under the following conditions:

(1) Conditions applicable to the B-2 and B-3 Districts:

(a) Not more than one indoor theater shall be allowed for each B-3 District consisting of not more than 4 screens;

(b) Not more than 250 seats shall be available for patrons of the theater throughout the entire theater;

(c) A restaurant must operate within the theater and offer patrons a full-service menu; and

(d) The theater shall have one direct point of ingress/egress from an adjoining public street. The point of ingress/egress shall be located in a manner that minimizes detrimental traffic impacts (both pedestrian and vehicular) on any surrounding residential neighborhood.

(2) Conditions applicable to the B-5 District:

(a) A use permit for 400,000 square feet or more of commercial floor area has been issued; and

~~(b) A Certificate of Occupancy has been issued for 300,000 square feet or more of commercial floor area; provided, however, that the City Council may decrease or waive this requirement upon a finding that the proposed theaters will have no significant adverse impact upon the property values and existing uses in the B-4 Lincoln Center Business District, with particular emphasis upon the effect of such proposed indoor theaters on the entertainment and cultural uses in the B-4 Lincoln Center Business District~~; and

(~~c~~b) Not more than one indoor theater complex shall be allowed for each B-5 District~~,~~. ~~consisting of not more than six movie screens~~. (Ord. 19733 §31; June 25, 2012: prior Ord. 17111 §1; December 9, 1996: Ord. 16075 §3; March 16, 1992).