

Directors Meeting Agenda

Monday, March 4th, 2024, 2:00 p.m.

555 S 10th Street – City Chambers

- I. Approval of Directors Meeting Minutes from February 12th, 2024**
- II. City Clerk Advisories**
- III. Mayor's Advisories**
- IV. Director's Advisories**
- V. City Council: Commissions, Committees, and Event Updates**
- VI. Post-Meeting Council Members Calls to City Directors**
- VII. Adjournment** - Next Directors Meeting – March 11th, 2024, 2:00 p.m.

Correspondence - Online for Review

- I. Directorial Correspondence**
 - i. BP240228 - 1 Administrative Approval – Jennifer McDonal
- II. Constituent Correspondence**
 - i. Gross negligence and public safety concern – Group Therapy Bike Tours
 - ii. No more tennis at woods park – Rita Webb
 - iii. Bus Stop Relocation – Alyssa Moser
 - iv. Bus Stop Relocation – Dane O'Dell
 - v. Woods Park – Bruce Sandhorst
 - vi. Proposed Woods Park Tennis Complex Expansion – Jayne Sebbby
 - vii. Claim for Sewer Back-up Damage – Rachel Wolf
 - viii. LPR Funding – Rosina Paolini
 - ix. Woods Park – Duane Effle
 - x. Keep Woods Park Green! – Amy Struthers
 - xi. "NO VOTE" after Continued Gross Negligence – Drew Philippi
 - xii. Woods Park Keep It Green – Patricia Harper
 - xiii. Lincoln launching its initiative to replace lead pipes connecting homes to city water – Gary Caster
 - xiv. Placement of Temporary Bus Stop – Alice Philippi
 - xv. WOODS PARK Keep It Green – Sue Tillinghast
 - xvi. Proposed expansion of Woods park – Chris Stefkovic
 - xvii. Transfer station relocation – Russ Gibson
 - xviii. City bus stop relocation – Nancy Biggs

The Directors Meeting Agendas and Minutes may be accessed online at:

<https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/City/City-Council/Directors-Minutes-Agendas>

From: [Group Therapy Bike Tours](#)
To: [Council Packet](#)
Subject: Gross negligence and public safety concern
Date: Wednesday, February 21, 2024 3:43:47 PM
Attachments: [IMG_0.MOV](#)

Attached is a video from today that provides evidence that LTU/StarTran is actively trying to get somebody to fall in the hole to fit the narrative that they need to force relocate the station to 11th St. as proposed.

This is obvious gross negligence and a major public safety concern.

Please watch the video.

Group Therapy Bike Tours
402-968-2305



From: [Rita Webb](#)
To: [Council Packet](#)
Subject: No more tennis at woods park
Date: Wednesday, February 21, 2024 6:05:15 PM

Move the tennis courts out of our green space park!! Do not add any more.
Thank you

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: [Alyssa Moser](#)
To: [Council Packet](#)
Subject: Bus Stop Relocation
Date: Thursday, February 22, 2024 9:57:40 AM

Lincoln City Council:

I am Alyssa Moser, a current senior at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and a driver for Group Therapy Bike Tours. I'm reaching out today to urge you to reconsider the relocation of a major bus stop currently planned on 11th St.

Group Therapy is a small, family-owned business that seeks to draw in patrons and generate more revenue for other businesses in downtown Lincoln. We strive to give our customers an enjoyable experience so that they return to Lincoln and continue supporting businesses across the city.

Relocating the bus stop to 11th St. would cause our small business and many others to lose customers and therefore reduce the revenue we are so fortunate to see. It's already difficult to survive as a small business; adding a major bus stop in front of our shop would make it nearly impossible.

Maslow's hierarchy of needs emphasizes the need for safety and security for human beings. Relocating the bus stop to 11th St. would completely eliminate this for any customer, business owner, or employee. As a young female, I already feel unsafe in many parts of this city. I should not be scared to leave work late at night, wondering which bus passenger with a hidden past is going to choose violence each time. I should not fear for my safety when I am just trying to earn money as a college student. The same goes for our paying customers. Who will choose to support our small downtown businesses when they don't even feel safe entering or leaving our buildings? I know what I would do if I were a potential customer: avoid that area at all costs.

I strongly urge you and the city of Lincoln to reconsider the relocation of the bus stop and make a decision that will benefit your small downtown businesses rather than cause further harm. Do it for the entrepreneur; but more importantly, do it for your people.

Your city elected you because they felt you could make a positive difference in their lives. Don't let them down.

--

Alyssa Moser

Agribusiness - Livestock Industries

University of Nebraska-Lincoln



(402) 606-7145 | amoser17@huskers.unl.edu

Clifton Strengths Institute

Engler Entrepreneurship Program

Nebraska Beef Industry Scholars

Individualization, Adaptability, Developer, Strategic, Includer

From: [Dane O'Dell](#)
To: [Council Packet](#); [Mayor](#); [Elizabeth D. Elliott](#)
Subject: Bus Stop Relocation
Date: Thursday, February 22, 2024 10:03:00 AM

Good morning all,

I wanted to reach out with concerns regarding the recent debate over the 11th street bus stop relocation.

As a driver of Group Therapy Bike Tours over the last 4 years I have always known the risks that are implied as I navigate the streets of down town Lincoln when it comes to the character of people I encounter. A majority of my encounters are non-threatening and a pleasure. However, it only takes 1 bad apple to ruin the bunch.

With the relocation of the bus stop at the current proposed location, it brings all of our young drivers, both male and female, in close contact with individuals who could be a danger to them. Especially as we are open in later hours of the day.

I ask that you please consider the safety of all of our employees and restructure how to move forward with this relocation of the bus stop.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Dane O'Dell

Protect Woods Park: Say No to More Tennis Courts and Deforestation

Dear Parks Advisory Board,

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding the proposed plan to add more tennis courts at Woods Park, while also removing precious trees and green space. As a resident who values the natural beauty and recreational opportunities that Woods Park provides, I urge you to reconsider this plan.

Woods Park is not just a collection of amenities; it is a sanctuary for both wildlife and humans alike. The mature trees and green spaces offer a haven for birds, small mammals, and insects, contributing to the biodiversity of our city. Removing these natural elements would not only disrupt local ecosystems but also diminish the overall quality of life for residents.

Furthermore, Woods Park serves as a vital recreational area for our community. Families come to picnic, children play on the playgrounds, and residents of all ages enjoy leisurely walks or runs amidst the trees. Introducing more tennis courts at the expense of this green space would limit the options for outdoor activities and detract from the park's appeal as a place of relaxation and rejuvenation.

Moreover, deforestation exacerbates the effects of climate change by reducing carbon sequestration and increasing carbon emissions. In a time when we should be prioritizing conservation efforts and mitigating the impacts of climate change, it would be counterproductive to sacrifice our green spaces for the sake of additional sports facilities.

Instead of prioritizing the expansion of tennis courts, I urge you to explore alternative solutions that preserve the integrity of Woods Park. This could include renovating existing facilities, optimizing space utilization, or investing in other recreational amenities that complement the natural environment rather than detract from it. Is it not the responsibility of Parks and Recreation to determine the best location(s) for expanding tennis facilities on Lincoln Park land? Has this been done? If so, will you share that with us? Is Woods Park really the best location for expanding tennis facilities on public park land?

I implore you to listen to the voices of concerned residents and environmental advocates who wish to safeguard Woods Park for future generations. Let us work together to preserve our green spaces and promote sustainable development practices that benefit both people and the planet.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this matter. I trust that you will make the right decision for the well-being of our community and our environment.

Sincerely,
Bruce Sandhorst
3320 N St, Lincoln, NE 68510
bsandhorst@gmail.com

From: [Jayne Sebbv](#)
To: [Council Packet](#)
Subject: Proposed Woods Park Tennis Complex Expansion
Date: Saturday, February 24, 2024 10:34:58 AM

I'm passing on a few paragraphs from the most recent Woods Tennis Newsletter. Please note the lines that I have highlighted and underlined: Please also allow me to share both federal law and city code as they relate to these comments.

The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States requires freedom of the public to speak out, especially on matters of government actions. While a government entity can put restrictions on the time, place, and manner of speech, it can not silence that speech or imply that any speech will result in violence unless it has actual, very specific knowledge beforehand. Re: the January 6th riots in D.C. While the Woods Tennis Complex is managed by a private entity, the park grounds and most if not all of the tennis complex are owned by the City of Lincoln. Most residents are not aware of the management situation and see anything issued publicly by the Tennis Complex as coming directly from the City via the Parks and Recreation Department. Thus, it now appears to most Lincolniters that the City itself is attempting to prevent the right of the Keep It Green group to lawfully protest on the sidewalks around the NE corner of Woods Park about a government issue directly affecting them by labeling them -- without providing any facts or evidence -- as capable of violence. The intimation of a police presence requested by the Parks and Recreation Department is solely intended by the Friends of Woods Tennis to slander the marchers and their message and put the blame for their illegal actions on the City.

In the second paragraph, the Friends describe Woods Park as a "community park." However, they are again deliberately misleading the public. The term "community" in this case refers to the City's long-established delineation of the types, sizes, uses, and limitations of the various types of parks in Lincoln. A Neighborhood Park is usually under an acre in size, is designed for use by residents within walking distance, and usually has a few amenities like park benches and playground equipment. A "Regional Park", such as Pioneers Park is very large, is designed to serve as the location for large gatherings and activities of Nebraskans and anyone else who comes to the area. Areas can be permanently set aside at this level for sports installations, educational facilities, and outdoor theaters. It is set up for large competitions -- even on a national level -- and there are sufficient parking, restrooms, and other features to handle the crowds. Woods Park fits in between -- it is a "Community Park" that by city definition is designated to serve Lincoln residents within a three mile radius of the park. It was not designed nor was it equipped to hold large sports competitions, especially when they exclude for decades other uses of park land for any other form of recreation. Friends of Wood Tennis Complex is aware of this fact but continues to mislead the public into thinking that the park is an ideal location for a national-tournament level tennis complex because "community" means everyone. And again, it is relying on the public's ignorance about their management-only role to attribute this statement as coming from the City and as factual.

A NOTE FOR ALL PATRONS

Woods Park: Keep It Green "Walks" February 21 & 24

More than likely you've seen recent media about the group opposing our expansion plans. We have been made aware of protest "walks" throughout the park today,

Wednesday (21st) from 3-6pm and Saturday (24th) from 11am-2pm. **Though we certainly hope these protests would be civil we encourage you and your family members to be vigilant and not engage in comments or conversation. Parks and Rec is aware of this event and there may be a police presence.**

Our team is busy working to provide you with our game plan and speaking points to help the cause. We will send that email in the next day or two and ask that you regularly visit our website's "Phase II" tab to see how you can help. We believe in the process the city has provided but will need your support. **Woods Tennis Center is in a community park.** We are well beyond capacity, and we feel these additional courts can help us continue to grow our mission of "Taking the Game to the Community" while still providing vast amounts of open space in Woods Park. Every activity that currently takes place in the park will continue unimpeded.

If you have questions or concerns, always feel free to reach out. Thanks for your continued support.

As long as Friends can attribute their statements, no matter how false or misleading, to the City of Lincoln and its elected officials, the Council, the Mayor, and its officials will be held liable for the perception that you are attempting to smother free speech rights, and particularly the free speech rights of those most likely to be impacted directly, immediately, and for the foreseeable future by any expansion that occurs.

Jayne L. Sebby, J.D.
Woods Park Neighborhood Association Board
320 South 29th Street
Lincoln, Nebraska 68510
jaynesebby@gmail.com

From: [Rachel Wolf](#)
To: [Council Packet](#)
Subject: Claim for Sewer Back-up Damage
Date: Saturday, February 24, 2024 2:07:26 PM

Good afternoon,
I'm writing to inform you that I'll be in attendance of the City Council meeting on Monday, March 4th in regards to our claim for sewer back-up damage.

Thank you,
Rachel Wolf

Property Address:
4710 S 57th St, Lincoln, NE 68516

Phone Number:
402-802-6259

From: [Rosina Paolini](#)
To: [Council Packet](#)
Subject: LPR Funding
Date: Monday, February 26, 2024 7:19:54 AM

Thank you for your service, Council Members,

Lincoln is entering into a tough budget cycle. LPR always gets the short end of the stick when it comes to budget cuts. It has relied on a patchwork of inequitable businesses on public park land pushing out the public use of the land.

I compare the funding sources of our city services, LPD, LFR and Libraries funded by Lincoln taxpayers with some expected fees or fines that are charged to the public to how LPR is funded.

It is illogical to think that LPR can be sustainable and grow with our city with volatile, inconsistent funds like sliding fee-based programs, grants, fundraising, KENO and NET disbursements that are as unpredictable as our reliance on sales tax. Lincoln ranked 8 th in the nation for their parks. Imagine what LPR can accomplish when the department is funded sustainably.

Contracts with Pinnacle Arena for Pinewood Bowl events, leases with Tennis LLC and the zoo are inequitable and limit how the public can use public lands.

A look at Impact Fees structure to fund all the parks, rather than just new areas Lincoln residents tout their parks, trails and schools as the reason people move to Lincoln. LPR needs to be funded equitably like LPD and LFR. Asking the developers to cough up 1-2% to enhance the budget will allow for repairs of existing parks. Since KENO funds are down, a look at the Warhorse pot of money that seems to be undesignated may be a solution. Parks needs consistent funding rather than to depend on philanthropy that is tied to the donors preference making the funding inequitable.

A revision of how LPR is funded and a reminder of who the parks servew will thwart the issues you are having with the Woods Park Complex.

I hope to be there in person, and thank you for being present!

A good day for us all,
*rosina

From: [Duane Effle](#)
To: [Mayor](#); [Council Packet](#); [Parks Counter Registrations](#)
Subject: Woods Park
Date: Monday, February 26, 2024 8:46:35 AM

Urgent plea for you and city council to NOT go ahead with the project to make more tennis courts in this area. Despite construction costs and congestion this would cause, isn't there a better place for this to happen. This park is the center point for a lot of walking paths and freedom for outdoor activities such as flag football and just kicking a soccer ball around. Don't become like New York and take away the areas where people can enjoy the park. I have lived in my same location for 40 years and would consider moving if this bad decision happens for this area and this town. Common sense would dictate a better area where it wouldn't disrupt the beautiful area we have in the center of this town. I would not like for my J street to become a traffic nightmare. Please WOODS PARK – KEEP IT GREEN!!!!

Duane Effle
Roxanne Effle
2924 J Street
Lincoln Nebraska 68510

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From: [Amy Struthers](#)
To: [Council Packet](#)
Subject: Keep Woods Park Green!
Date: Monday, February 26, 2024 9:56:00 AM
Attachments: [WoodsParkCityCouncilLetterSTRUTHERS.pdf](#)

Dear Council Members,

I'm writing in opposition to further expansion of parking lots and tennis courts in one of Lincoln's community gems, Woods Park. This urban green space is used and enjoyed by a wide variety of folks from all over town for family picnics, disc golf games, dog walking, fitness activities, pickup basketball, baseball practice and games for all ages, and the simple pleasures of strolling past both new and mature trees and areas of native prairie grasses.

Tennis is just one of the many activities enjoyed at Woods Park. To privilege one element of the park at the expense of others disenfranchises many of the populations that seek outdoor fun and solace in green spaces. With climate change an increasing concern, the importance and value of this community park's green space only increases. The expansion project discriminates against those who do not choose to participate in racquet sports. For those who do, Woods Park already features an adequate number of courts, a number of which are new and many of which stand empty much of the time.

I have lived one block from Woods Park since 1985 and have seen the erosion of public use in the park, from privatizing use of the baseball field to huge swim meets that close the pool for at least six weekends every summer. I've also watched the grounds of the park become increasingly unkempt, new plantings left untended and new trees suffering from lack of care. Let's invest budget in maintaining this Lincoln gem rather than paving over it.

Sincerely,

Amy Struthers, Ph.D.
700 South 32nd Street

Attaching a copy of the above text as a pdf





From: [Patricia Harper](#)
To: [Council Packet](#)
Subject: Woods Park Keep It Green
Date: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 8:18:42 AM

We need to keep the green spaces at Woods Park. We often take out of town visitors there and they are always impressed to see such an oasis in the middle of a city.

Patt Harper

From: castergl@aol.com
To: [Tom Duden](#); [Margaret Reist](#); [Council Packet](#)
Subject: Lincoln launching its initiative to replace lead pipes connecting homes to city water
Date: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 9:38:49 AM

Good Morning All,

While replacing the lead pipes is definitely a worthwhile project, financing of all with a blanket approach seems overly generous to non-resident/landlord owners.

With \$36M+ being spent on 6000 services, that's around \$5,000 to \$6,000 per unit. How many of these services are owned by non-profits, companies, corporations, non-resident landlords or wealthy owners who could well afford repairs other home-owners must pay if their service breaks. The \$400,000 slush fund is likely to be used/abused early on.

Could be as many as 40 to 50% or more homes taxpayers are funding with taxes or interest/ debt for Federal funds that rightfully should be paid by non-resident owners.

I hope I'm wrong and 95% goes to deserving owners. Are any statistics available?
Could income level be utilized to determine benefit level?

Thanks,

Gary Caster
Lincoln

From: [Alice Philippi](#)
To: [Council Packet](#)
Subject: Placement of Temporary Bus Stop
Date: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 9:40:54 AM

Dear Council,

I am opposed to moving the temporary bus stop to 11 St. There are 6 other proposed locations which have been mostly ignored. The proposal for the location on 11th St. is ignoring the fact that trolleys load people at 5 different times a day already at that location and the proposal is adding buses each hour to that very same location. The traffic would be a nightmare! There are no restrooms proposed and you have bus riders waiting with no facilities or a place to get water. I urge you to look at the other locations!!

Alice Philippi

From: [Sue Tillinghast](#)
To: [Council Packet](#)
Subject: WOODS PARK Keep It Green
Date: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 12:23:14 PM

Dear City Council Members,

I am writing to share my thoughts regarding the proposed tennis expansion in Woods Park. My husband and I are completely opposed to this proposal. We use Woods Park almost daily. We walk and enjoy the open green areas. Our grandchildren have many fun days with us using the playgrounds.

We feel it would be detrimental to our family, our neighborhood and our community if this proposal proceeds.

KEEP WOODS PARK GREEN!!!

Sue and Karl Tillinghast
811 Elmwood Ave
Lincoln

From: [Chris Stefkovich](#)
To: [Council Packet](#)
Subject: Proposed expansion of Woods park
Date: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 1:28:11 PM

I am strongly opposed to the expansion of the Tennis association in Woods park.

Having lived in the neighborhood for over 40 years I have seen the impact of the loss of the green space in the park, and on the neighbors surrounding it. The current proposal would bring parking and additional tennis courts a few feet from J St. I feel that facilities bringing in multi state events would be better located outside of a large neighborhood. Thank you for your consideration.

From: [russ gibson](#)
To: [Council Packet](#); [Mayor](#); [Elizabeth D. Elliott](#)
Subject: Transfer station relocation
Date: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 10:52:18 AM

Good morning,

I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding the proposed transfer station adjacent to our business premises at 11th Street. As the Operations Manager for Group Therapy Bike Tours, I have a vested interest in the safety and well-being of our employees and customers, as well as the continued success of our business.

Over the years, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges posed by individuals utilizing Star Tran services, particularly those who exhibit disruptive behavior due to mental health issues or substance abuse. These incidents have escalated to the point where our staff and property have been subjected to verbal abuse, attempted break-ins, and vandalism. Moreover, the proposed location of the transfer station, next to a poorly lit alley known for illicit activities, raises serious safety concerns for our employees and customers alike.

Furthermore, the influx of approximately 2,500 people per day to the area, coupled with the chaotic rush hour traffic and the reckless behavior of bus drivers, poses a significant risk of accidents and injuries to cyclists and pedestrians. As an avid cyclist myself, I can attest to the disregard for traffic laws exhibited by some bus drivers, which could result in tragic consequences for our customers and staff.

Given the uncertainty surrounding the timeline for the construction of the new multimodal station, I urge all parties involved to reconsider the current proposal and involve 11th Street business owners in the decision-making process. We have the most to lose from this deal and should have a say in its outcome.

Additionally, I would appreciate clarification regarding the lease payments to REV Development/NGC for the utilization of the Settells print shop. Transparency in this matter is crucial for us to assess the potential financial implications of the proposed transfer station on our business operations.

I strongly urge you to vote no on the relocation of the transfer station. I look forward to your prompt response and a constructive dialogue to address these pressing concerns.

Sincerely,

Russ Gibson

Operations Manager

Group Therapy Bike Tours

From: [Nancy Biggs](#)
To: [Council Packet](#)
Subject: City bus stop relocation
Date: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 9:46:14 PM

I have been watching the news stories about relocating the downtown city bus stops from the current Golds building. The proposed location in front of a number of small businesses seems unrealistic and poorly planned. Surely there is a location that has less foot traffic and will interfere in a lesser way with small businesses.

I hope you will consider other options.

Nancy G Biggs, PHD

Memorandum

Date: February 28, 2024
To: City Clerk
From: Clara McCully, Planning Dept.
Re: Administrative Approvals
cc: Shelli Reid, Planning Dept.

This is a list of City administrative approvals by the Planning Director from February 20, 2024, through February 26, 2024:

Administrative Special Permit 24001 was approved by the Planning Director on February 16, 2024, to permit the operation of a temporary concrete paving plant until December 21, 2026, generally located at NW 56th Street and south of West O Street.

Administrative Amendment 24011 to rescind Special Permit 1815, was approved by the Planning Director on February 22, 2024, for reducing the required rear yard setback of 20 feet to an existing nonstandard single-family dwelling with a rear yard setback of 26.5 feet, due to a 1999 zoning ordinance amendment which reduced the required rear yard setback, located at 1845 Van Dorn Street.