

**AGENDA FOR  
CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS' "NOON" MEETING  
MONDAY, APRIL 16, 2001  
Immediately Following Director's Meeting  
CONFERENCE ROOM 113**

**I. MINUTES**

1. Minutes of "Noon" Council Members' Meeting for April 9, 2001.
2. Pre-Council Meeting Minutes - RE: Presentation on "Public Health Week" - April 2, 2001.
3. Pre-Council Meeting Minutes - RE: Animal Control Ordinance - April 2, 2001.
4. Pre-Council Meeting Minutes - RE: Open Market Discussion - April 9, 2001.

**II. COUNCIL REPORTS ON BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS AND CONFERENCES**

1. Public Building Commission (Camp/Seng)
2. Parking Committee Meeting (Camp)
3. ISPC Meeting (Cook/Fortenberry)
4. Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting (Cook)
5. Board of Health (Johnson)
6. Multicultural Advisory Committee (McRoy)
7. Joint Budget Committee (McRoy/Seng)

**OTHER MEETINGS REPORTS:**

**III. APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS**

1. Memo from Jennifer Brinkman - RE: Boards and Commissions Upcoming Appointments (See Memo).
2. Memo from Jennifer Brinkman - RE: Boards and Commissions Upcoming Appointments (See Memo).

**IV. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS**

1. You are cordially invited to join Eastmont Towers for the Union House Groundbreaking Ceremony on Friday, April 27, 2001 at 10:30 a.m. at 78<sup>th</sup> & Pioneers Blvd. - This new Assisted Living Community will be committed to the care of the terminally ill (See Invitation).

2. You are invited to attend the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual School Health Fair Awards Banquet as a special guest of the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department. The Banquet will be held on Monday, April 16, 2001 at the Auld Recreation Center located in Antelope Park at 3140 Sumner Street. The evening's festivities will begin at 6:00 p.m. and will include dinner, entertainment, and a special recognition ceremony to honor the winning students. The theme for this year's School Health Fair is "Healthy Air =Healthy Kids" - RSVP to Jane Schmid at 441-6285 by Friday, April 13, 2001 (See Letter of Invitation).
3. The Nebraska Coalition on Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention 2001 Spring Conference - **Monday, April 23, 2001** - Edwards S. Mahoney State Park - Ashland, Nebraska - (See Brochure for more details).
4. The occasion is to celebrate National Volunteer Appreciation Week, April 22-28 - Matt Talbot Kitchen is hosting an Open House at the Kitchen on Sunday, April 22, 2001 - At 1911 R Street - (See Letter of Invitation).
5. Open House of Lincoln Action Program's Crime Victims Youth Center -You re cordially invited to an Open House celebrating the inception of the Crime Victim's Youth Center at Lincoln Action Program - This Open House is a celebration of the youth, volunteers and partners that have united to create the Crime Victim's Youth Center - Please join us at Lincoln Action Program (210 "O" Street) on Tuesday, April 24, 2001 at 4:00 p.m. to recognize their efforts of the youth and community groups that make this program successful - RSVP 471-4515 to Jim Ext. 142 Or LeeAnn Ext. 220 (See Letter of Invitation).

**VI. REQUESTS OF COUNCIL FROM MAYOR - NONE**

**VII. MISCELLANEOUS - NONE**

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MINUTES**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS' "NOON" MEETING**  
**MONDAY, APRIL 16, 2001**  
*CONFERENCE ROOM 113*

**Council Members Present:** Jerry Shoecraft, Chair; Jeff Fortenberry, Vice-Chair; Jon Camp, Jonathan Cook, Cindy Johnson, Annette McRoy, Coleen Seng.

**Others Present:** Ann Harrell, Jennifer Brinkman, Mayor's Office; Dana Roper, City Attorney, Darrell Podany, Aide to Council Members Camp and Johnson; Karen Shinn, Aide to Council Member Fortenberry; Joan Ray, Council Secretary; Chris Hain, *Journal Star* representative.

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Mr. Shoecraft, Council Chair, requested a motion to approve the above-listed minutes. Cindy Johnson moved approval of the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Annette McRoy and carried by the following vote: AYES: Jonathan Cook, Annette McRoy, Cindy Johnson, Jerry Shoecraft, Jeff Fortenberry, Coleen Seng, Jon Camp; NAYS: None.

**II. COUNCIL REPORTS ON BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS AND CONFERENCES**

1. PUBLIC BUILDING COMMISSION (Camp/Seng) Ms. Seng started her report with comments on the space heater issue. She noted that Omaha had done a total ban on space-heaters in their public buildings. She reported that Lincoln is waiting to see what the State has on record as a sample for regulations on the safety of space heater use. Ms. Seng commented that the State is really concerned after the fire in the Labor Department office which was caused by a space heater. She noted that there were a huge number of the heaters in operation throughout the City/County government buildings complex.

Ms. Seng reported that the Old Police Building is all leased out now with State offices occupying both the 1<sup>st</sup> floor and basement areas.

Ms. Seng reported that the PBC had been given a 30 day notice on the parking facility across the street, by the Smith's. Apparently, they got very worried after they had read about the North Parking options. Ms. Seng informed Council that John Layman was actively working on titles for everything north, and had done a lot of talking about parking

analysis with both Don Herz and Dave Kroeker present. They feel that all the rent that is coming in...that's being paid for parking now...could service a new parking facility. Ms. Seng noted that during further discussion, it was determined that going east had no significant advantage to the City, though some of us still think that we'd like to have it; but, we can't get anything there.

Ms. Seng reported that the information desk in the County-City Building lobby will relocate the building map (which is currently on the east side of their counter) to the wall along the stairwell, leaving more space for brochures.

She reported that PBC approved a resolution to have the Police Department monitor the County-City Parking Lots. There are details to be worked out, but approval for the agreement was made.

Ms. Seng reported that there had also been discussion regarding the Gas Company and flat rates. Mr. Camp noted that there is a contract for next November and that did help substantially from the City standpoint. Mr. Camp made further comments regarding the supposed expiration date on the agreement, but his remarks were largely inaudible.

Ms. Seng requested Mr. Camp to report on the discussions held on the temperature regulations in the CIC TV area affecting the TV equipment of the 5 City Television studio. Mr. Camp noted that apparently that area is on a different system than even this room and they're going to do some things that will work better

Mr. Camp reported on another contract regarding the Old Police Building, but his comments were inaudible.

Ms. Seng concluded the report by sharing that the elevator contract for the "K" Street complex was also approved.

Mr. Cook remarked that the map in the County-City Building lobby is currently rotated from the actual orientation of the building, so when one looks at it, one just gets lost. He asked if they would be careful to put that in the correct orientation when they move it? Ms. Seng did not know. Mr. Cook felt this was something to suggest.

Mr. Cook also remarked on the space heaters issue. He asked if it wasn't possible to get "safe" space heaters that have a different type of heating element rather than the traditional ones? He felt that if that were a possibility, maybe there would be just certain kinds that they could allow, knowing that those kinds would not ever catch on fire. Mr. Camp commented that they felt they would follow the State's lead on the issue.

2. PARKING COMMITTEE (Camp) - Meeting Cancelled - Mr. Camp did not attend.
3. ISPC (Cook/Fortenberry) Mr. Cook nor Mr. Fortenberry attended
4. PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD (Cook) Mr. Cook reported that there had not appeared to be anything major on the agenda and he did not attend.

5. BOARD OF HEALTH (Johnson) Ms. Johnson reported that it was a pretty typical meeting. She noted that they had gone over the basic responsibilities and reviewed the accomplishments of the last month in the Department.

They did discuss the “Kids Connection”, focusing on the children’s insurance issue for children who are uninsured. She noted that more and more children are getting on board with this under Medicaid, and reported that it is just working really, really well. She stated that there is lots of information available and the presentation showed how well all the different organizations are working together to help the children.

Ms. Johnson reported that they had discussed the low birthrate in the pre-mature infant program. They’re doing more and more data collection on what’s happening to our premature babies, which ones are surviving and how pre-natal care can help prevent problems from developing.

She reported that they had discussed some of the Board’s policies. They’re working on that. They’ve set a strategic plan meeting for all of the out-going Board members and the in-coming Board members on May 12<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Johnson suggested to Mr. Shoecraft that he might want to be there for that, since Mr. Shoecraft had expressed interest in assuming the Health Board committee assignment.

Ms. Johnson was not sure when the new Board of Health Members will be approved. She asked Ms. Harrell if she knew. Ms. Harrell indicated that she did not know, but thought it was a matter of weeks, with the existing members staying on until such time as the new members’ appointments are approved.

Ms. Johnson noted that when they were setting the date for the strategic planning meeting, they had the understanding that all of the approvals would be taken care of by that date. They were unsure at the meeting, but were told that everything would still be fine and that the appointments would be before the respective bodies for approval prior to that meeting, so it would be convened as a legitimate Board meeting.

Ms. Johnson reported that open burning permits had also been discussed, noting that the Board was trying to close some loop-holes in that process. There were questions regarding rural communities and she noted that the process needed to be refined to take care of that.

Ms. Johnson stated that the out-going members had all received plaques.

6. MULTICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (McRoy) Ms. McRoy reported that the update on the Affirmative Action Officer recommendation has been sent to the Mayor’s Office. She stated that they hadn’t heard anything on the four recommendations submitted to the Administration, noting that it’s in the Administration’s hands now.

The early census numbers were also discussed. She said that Kent Morgan from Planning made a presentation. Ms. Seng asked if the information was different from the information they’d received at the Common. Ms. McRoy wasn’t sure since she had not attended the Common meeting, but felt the information received had been time well spent, learning what the numbers mean for Lancaster County and the State.

They had also discussed the idea that, when incidents happen in the community, the Multicultural Advisory Committee would like to take a little more public role in denouncing or commenting on certain ones. She noted that members at the meeting decided to have a kind of open session to allow discussion about `whatever'. A lot of things that have happened lately were brought up. They were wondering if MAC couldn't write a letter when an incident occurred stating that they did not approve such behavior. So that request will be before the Mayor's office for consideration - since MAC is only an Advisory Committee.

Mr. Shoecraft asked if the Mayor's office agreed with that. Ms. McRoy stated that agreement was just on a case by case basis, because sometimes it may not be appropriate for an Advisory group to make public statements. There were MAC members who were concerned about other issues, so it will be considered case by case.

But some of the members did want the Multicultural Advisory Committee to be more publicly active. What brought it up was the incident a few weeks ago concerning the lady who was refused neo-natal care at a physicians clinic because she didn't speak English, even though her husband did. The members wanted to take more of a `positive re-enforcement' approach to make the public aware of their options through the dispensation of knowledge...something more pro-active than what MAC has been doing.

They also worked on the Diversity programing for the Fall - and Human Rights. These are things we worked on for the Multicultural Sharing Day.

Mr. Fortenberry noted that a year or so ago, there had been a very nice presentation by the Lincoln InterFaith Council on Human Services [inaudible] refugee resettlement [inaudible]. Mr. Fortenberry thought the presentation was very good positive because he has noticed comments from people who talk about the burden these people place on the systems. He stated that it just disturbed him and he wondered if the Multicultural Advisory Committee could host a similar forum, because that would go a long way toward educating the citizens as to the contributions that these new people are bringing to the community.

Ms. McRoy stated that the reason they want to do this program now is not so much for the dominant culture, but for traditional minorities, new refugees and immigrants to get to know one another and relate to one another as equals and peers; because a lot of times, they only relate to the dominant culture and educational outreaches only affect the dominant culture as opposed to inter-action between the diverse groups. Ms. McRoy felt the Diversity Program will be made into something very special.

Mr. Cook commented on the woman who was denied medical service. He stated that he knew nothing about the circumstances, but it seems like there might be an explanation, for why there would be concern and it wouldn't be just some sort of [inaudible] discrimination. He felt there might be concerns that there have been problems in the past with not getting a message through to the patient because they have to go through a husband. It's not always clear that the husband will transmit the message that the doctor gives. If there is any liability issue there, with failure to get the proper treatment, who is responsible if you can't have that direct communication with the patient? Ms. McRoy noted that, ironically, the husband is a doctor. Mr. Cook thought, even so, there may have been cultural gender

issues involved.

7. JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE (McRoy/Seng) Ms. Seng reported that there are 28 agencies, 52 programs, and initial requests are for over \$2,000,000. Of those, \$240,000 are brand new programs. We have a little work ahead of us.

Ms. Seng noted and remarked on information from the University Policy Center which Council members received in their Thursday packets. She reported that the Center has been retained to do the follow-through on the Hanna-Keelan report. What she really wanted Council Members to look at was the diversity of the coalition co-chairs. These are the areas that JBC will be looking at for funding, and all of these have co-chairs and there is also a steering committee which has all been put together and represents a good mix of people. She wanted to point that out to Council.

Ms. Seng reported that Ms. Linda Steinman is leaving. The Committee also discussed the gas dollars. The County is still shaking their heads as to why they weren't invited. That was pretty much it. Ms. Seng noted that there is a two-three hour meeting scheduled on the budget distribution.

Mr. Shoecraft commented, in regards to JBC, that he had been on the Council for seven years and had given up his turn to be on the Committee, just to be co-operative, but would like to make a point now. He commented that there has been, for all these seven years, the same cultural mind-set in regards to our community centers. He stated that he felt we need to be funding our community centers more than the \$13- or \$15,000 annually. We treat them all the same as far as the amount of money we give them. He did not think this was right, because some of them deal with different aspects [of social concern], and different ethnic groups.

He stated that he is still convinced that community centers can relieve a big burden off of government. He noted that if we give the various community centers, (from the Indian, the Asian, to Willard, to the Malone Center, etc.) more resources to do more, that would be a burden off of government. That is one reason why you see President Bush now putting forth the concept of faith based initiative, because churches come in contact with people so much and deal with a lot of social problems; so this is a concept that is being explored. Mr. Shoecraft noted that this is a concept none of the Council Members have said whether or not they support, but it is something that should be explored. The President has realized that the churches can do more to help with some of our social ills.

Mr. Shoecraft, while conceding that everyone believed in the separation of church and state, he also believed that the community services could do more if we enabled them with more resources. For seven years, Mr. Shoecraft noted, we've been giving the same amount each and every year...no more, no less. He stated that he totally disagrees with that.

He stated that the United Way has totally changed the way they fund now. For many agencies, money has been slashed and they don't have access to United Way funds. He felt we ought to fund our community centers more. Ms. McRoy thanked him for his input.

OTHER MEETINGS REPORTS: - None reported upon.

**III. APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS** - Mr. Fortenberry commented on the notification process on these appointments. He noted, that of late, a few of these have been introduced as we get notification, which doesn't allow Council input. Ms. Harrell responded that she was not the one with whom to discuss this. (Ms. Brinkman had left the meeting). Mr. Fortenberry just noted that the calendar is "off". So, Ms. Harrell observed, they're coming just a step too late. She stated that she would pass that concern along.

**IV. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS** - Noted Without Comment

**V. COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**JONATHAN COOK** - Mr. Cook stated that he would like to get flat-screen monitors for the dais, but would discuss that later. Mr. Cook, at Mr. Fortenberry's inquiry as to his position on the issue, brought the sign ordinance forward for discussion, briefly discussing the O-3 and Residential zoning issues involved.

**ANNETTE McROY** - Ms. McRoy commented, regarding the Ashley Heights issue and the legislative procedure. She noted that it didn't sit right with her to change procedure in the middle of the game. Mr. Cook thought the best approach would be for the attorney to provide the letter far enough ahead of time, with a note on the agenda that there is a request for a third reading...then people would know and be aware of the change.

**CINDY JOHNSON** - No Further Comments

**JERRY SHOECRAFT** - No Further Comments

**JEFF FORTENBERRY** - No Further Comments

**COLEEN SENG** - Ms. Seng asked if the Council had seen this article on signs in the "American City and Town" magazine. She thought it might be of special interest to them.

She also commented that at one point, a long time ago, she had asked for a Pre-Council to listen to the 911 tape about the fire on New Year's Eve [Apartment Complex Fire south of 48<sup>th</sup> Street in Uni Place] and that Pre-Council has never been scheduled. She was wondering if we could do that. She stated that she felt it was really something that everyone should hear. That's why she thought that we should set up the Pre-Council. It was the 911 response that kept the woman on the phone. Ms. Seng believed that some of the officers and firemen involved had been honored earlier this year. Mr. Shoecraft requested that Staff set this up. *[Ms. Righter has been contacted and is trying to schedule a presentation for either May 7<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup>, noting that it might be difficult to schedule time with*



*the officers involved]*

**JON CAMP** - No Further Comments

ANN HARRELL - No Further Comments

JENNIFER BRINKMAN - No Further Comments

DANA ROPER - No Further Comments

**VI. REQUESTS OF COUNCIL FROM MAYOR** - Ms. Brinkman was not able to present the Legislative Update on bills that might be of concern to Council that are currently before the Unicameral. Ms. Ann Harrell noted that Ms. Brinkman would have the information for Council as soon as possible.

Mr. Fortenberry asked if the Mayor's Office had been receiving a large number of constituent concerns on the animal control ordinances. Ms. Harrell stated that the Mayor's Office probably had not received the number of phone calls as compared to the number of e-mails that Council has received.

**VII. MISCELLANEOUS** - None

**VIII. MEETING ADJOURNED** - Approximately 12:56 p.m.

CM041601/jvr