

**AGENDA FOR
CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS' "NOON" MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2001
Immediately Following Director's Meeting
CONFERENCE ROOM 113**

I. MINUTES

- *1. Minutes of "Noon" Council Members' Meeting for October 22, 2001.
- *2. Pre-Council Meeting Minutes - RE: City Council Redistricting - October 22, 2001.
- 3. Pre-Council Meeting Minutes - RE: Traffic Optimization - October 22, 2001.
- 4. Minutes of Director's Meeting for October 15, 2001.
- 5. Pre-Council Meeting Minutes - RE: LES Combined Cycle Plant - October 22, 2001.
- 6. Pre-Council Meeting Minutes - RE: Redistricting - October 29, 2001.

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

- *1. Star City Holiday Festival Board Meeting (McRoy)
- *2. PRT Meeting (Seng)
- *3. Downtown Lincoln Bid Association Board of Directors Meeting (Werner)
- *4. Mayor's Floodplain Task Force Meeting (Report Optional)(Seng)
- 5. Special Meeting - Public Building Commission (Camp/Seng)
- 6. Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting (Cook)
- 7. Internal Liquor Committee (McRoy/Svoboda/Werner)
- 8. Joint Budget Committee (McRoy/Seng)

OTHER MEETINGS REPORTS:

III. APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS - NONE

IV. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS

- 1. After 42 years of service Joe Jaworski Retirement Coffee – Please Swing by:
On Wednesday, November 7, 2001 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. - At the
County/City Building, 2nd Floor (See Invitation).

V. REQUESTS OF COUNCIL FROM MAYOR - NONE

VI. CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

VII. MISCELLANEOUS - NONE

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

***HELD OVER FROM OCTOBER 29, 2001.**

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS' "NOON" MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2001
CONFERENCE ROOM 113

Council Members Present: Annette McRoy, Chair; Jonathan Cook, Vice-Chair; Coleen Seng, Ken Svoboda, Terry Werner; **ABSENT:** Glenn Friendt; **ABSENT FROM "NOON" MEETING:** Jon Camp.

Others Present: Mark Bowen, Amy Tejral, Ann Harrell, Mayor's Office; Dana Roper, City Attorney; Don Herz, Finance Director; Darrell Podany, Aide to Council Members Friendt, Camp and Svoboda; Joan Ray, Council Secretary.

Prior to Council addressing the Items on the 11-05-01 Council Member's "Noon" Agenda, Finance Director Don Herz came forward and passed out the attached information on the Ambulance Billings. Council, at Mr. Herz's request, agreed to a bi-monthly rather than a weekly update on this information.

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Jonathan Cook, Council Vice-Chair, requested a motion to approve the above-listed minutes. Terry Werner moved approval of the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Coleen Seng and carried by the following vote: **AYES:** Jonathan Cook, Annette McRoy, Coleen Seng, Ken Svoboda, Terry Werner; **NAYS:** None; **ABSENT:** Glenn Friendt; **ABSENT FOR "NOON" MEETING:** Jon Camp

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

- *1. **STAR CITY HOLIDAY FESTIVAL BOARD (McRoy)** Ms. McRoy reported that the parade is on-track, on schedule and moving forward. They've hired a new events coordinator, though she is not working on the parade at this point because of the lateness of getting involved. Ms. McRoy reported that they're \$18,000.00 ahead of what they had planned in their budget.

Ms. McRoy noted that there was a promotional campaign in place utilizing “parade bucks” for parade participants; the newsletter is going out; the banners are up and the parade is scheduled for December 8th. The Parade Board Breakfast has been streamlined as well by changing the format to make the awards ceremony move along a little faster. Only the Mayor will speak this year and then they will move right into the awards ceremony.

Ms. McRoy reported that, along with the City Event Team, CIC designs the graphics and buttons and banners. (The Team includes Parks & Rec, Captain Citta of the LPD, and the Mayor’s Office.) Mr. Svoboda asked if Council Members were supposed to participate in the parade under their status as Lincoln City Council Members? Ms. McRoy answered that no politicians or beauty queens are involved in the Parade [Laughter] However, it was noted that the Governor and Mayor were in the parade - as well as Santa Claus.

Ms. McRoy mentioned that there were also security concerns this year that have been addressed.

*2. PRT (Seng) - No Report

*3. DOWNTOWN LINCOLN B.I.D. ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING (Werner) - Mr. Werner reported that much of the information from this meeting had been provided at the pre-council meeting earlier this morning. He noted that a good portion of the meeting had been in regard to the assessments.

Mr. Werner stated that the streetscape project has been delayed due to the lack of revenue, but the Board was hopeful that it could be reinstated in the Spring. If not, it will be addressed again next Fall.

He reported that Block 41 continues to move ahead, with meetings scheduled for tomorrow to look at designs, etc. It was reported that negotiations should be before Council in January. Assuming approval on everything, demolition would start in February or March with an opening in the Spring or Fall of 2003.

Mr. Werner reported that the Mayor had also spoken about the Omaha B.I.D. He explained that they had requested the Lincoln DLA to meet with them again.

The only other matter addressed was the concern about the aggressive nature of towing cars in Downtown Lincoln after 7:00 p.m. He noted that cars were being towed because of “outstanding” tickets - and, in fact, in one instance, the ticket had been issued only two days earlier. Mr. Werner noted that this should not have occurred. He indicated that Chief Casady had been invited to come to the next meeting to discuss the issue. Mr. Werner indicated that he had noted to the Board that Chief Casady really needn’t come forward to discuss this, because he was just enforcing the law. Other discussion covered how we should be inviting people into our downtown for special events and football games and whether we should actively enforce some of those regulations on those event days. Mr. Werner concluded that that is, of course, a whole other discussion.

Mr. Cook thought it was a policy decision...how many tickets allowed before automatic towing...not a legal decision. Ms. Harrell stated that it should be an across the board decision covering all areas of the City - not just Downtown on Saturday night.

*4. MAYOR'S FLOOD PLAIN TASK FORCE (Report Optional)(Seng) Ms. Seng noted light-heartedly that the way the Flood Plain issues are approached for discussion involved the term "Hit the Ditch & Run"

She reported that a Corp of Engineers representative was there to talk about Flood Plain Management strategies from other localities. Ms. Seng stated that most of the Task Force members agreed that there had not been enough examples of similar sized communities as Lincoln to give the comparisons a great deal of credence. So, they had asked for more specific examples which would be closer to Lincoln in relation to size and topography to be presented at the next meeting

Some cities apparently have fees as a substantial source of revenue such as drainage fees, utility fees, stormwater fees. Some had different regulations on public parks which are used for flood water storage.

There had been a great deal of discussion on insurance rates and whether or not Lincoln was being judged accurately in that. She noted that Lincoln had a Category 8 rating which allows a 10% premium reduction. Several of the Task Force Members were concerned about our lower to moderate income areas - that it is really harming our neighborhoods.

They had also discussed the 0% increase in flood plain elevations. After this presentation, the Task Force divided into smaller sub-committees and talked. At the close of these smaller sessions, each sub-group's recorded comments were turned back in to the larger group. These comments will be addressed at the next meeting.

Ms. Seng requested that the Mayor's Office find out who the County representative was for this Task Force, because the County representative has not been attending. Mr. Bowen noted that they had begun the session with Mr. Heier as the County representative, but later switched to Mr. Workman. Ms. Seng requested the Mayor's Office to contact the County and encourage their attendance, because whatever we discuss, it will effect and include the County. She noted that the make-up of the Task Force was very diverse and she felt quite good about that. She complimented whomever put the group together.

5. SPECIAL MEETING - PUBLIC BUILDING COMMISSION (Camp/Seng) Ms. Seng handed material out to the Council Members. She briefly explained the Master Plan which the Public Building Commission had instated about 11 years ago. The 10 Year Plan has expired and so, there should have been a new study undertaken about a year ago for a Master Plan on these buildings. That was not done, but we are beginning now.

We've hired Jim Hille, who was the architect of the original Plan, and asked his firm to create another Master Plan. Ms. Seng explained that because Mark Bowen had given Mr. Hille a little push, we've gotten the time-frame reduced down to what we originally had requested. The actual cost of doing this is less than the cost was 10 years ago, which Ms. Seng felt was good.

Ms. Seng noted that the vote was four to one to hire Mr. Hille to do this. (The dissenting vote had been cast because of monetary concerns, not concerns regarding the need for a study, or Mr. Hille or the firm.)

Ms. Seng reported that Mr. Rick Haden was at the meeting to present the results of the parking study. Ms. Seng noted that they were trying to make sure that the parking study and the spacing study are coordinated and brought forward together.

Ms. Seng outlined the placement of other agencies in other buildings that had been discussed. Also discussed was the 3rd floor expansion plans, which all hinge on the vacation of the Old Federal Building. Ms. Seng noted that the County still has Trabert Hall holding; and reported that the Health Department and their space needs were also discussed.

Ms. Seng shared with Council that a great concern had been the date that the Old Federal Building would have to be vacated. Mr. Bowen stated that they had discussed this with the County Board and had given them a feel for at least the time of year it would be, noting that it would be a year from next Spring. He said that the Board seemed more comfortable knowing that much.

Ms. Harrell explained the paper work (lease and redevelopment agreement) would be coming forward to Council and Building Commission in April or May of this coming Spring.

Ms. Seng announced that the Public Building Commission had a brief presentation scheduled on the Agenda of the Common Meeting set for tomorrow morning. This Thursday, Ms. Seng explained, the Public Building Commission will be going to meet with the Omaha Building Commission, noting that this should be interesting! She concluded with the note that November 13th will be the date of the next scheduled PBC meeting.

6. PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD (Cook) Mr. Cook reported that the golf courses would be getting 81 new markers for the holes. He noted that the markers were made out of granite - pretty fancy and quite expensive. However, we don't have to pay for them, because they're being provided by an advertising firm that will then sell advertising (15" x 15") on the bottom of each one. They'll do that for a number of years. After that time, the City will take control and they'll be ours. At that time, if we decide to sell advertising, or take the advertising off, it will be our option.

Ms. McRoy asked how much revenue that would afford the City. Mr. Cook stated that he had asked, after the City takes control, approximately how much the City would be getting. The estimate was \$500.00 per year per hole in potential revenue, times 81 holes. So, this would be a considerable sum [~~\$~~40,500/YR] from that - after their contract expires.

Mr. Cook reported that they had discussed trust funds money to be used to install irrigation landscaping around the new Elk statue in Pioneers Park.

He reported that they had changed the wedding reservation schedule so you can reserve a space for weddings up to a year in advance. Other reservations policy is that the applicant must wait 'til after January 1st of the year that the events are held. He explained that they do that so someone can't just easily take the same spot and date year after year. They felt, for weddings, there would be only one date. [Laughter]

They had discussed planting prairie grasses in the Parks. This program would make upkeep easier. There would be approximately 30% of the parks land set aside for native and prairie grasses. There would initially be some colorful, flowering plants included, but these are usually crowded out by the grasses over time. This would cut down on maintenance costs; but since some people might not like the non-manicured look of the prairie grasses, they want

to make sure that the landscaping is clear cut with sharp lines where the mowing is being done so people will know that the landscaping isn't an accident. The biggest problem will be ensuring that they are coordinating the program with the "weed people" to get clearance to do this.

Mr. Cook reported that the CIP projects which were on hold were discussed. The Parks Department brought in their list of priorities. The way it's been in past budget years is that there is a list of projects and a list of funding sources & you try to match them up. There is now the concept that the projects funded by Keno Funds are prioritized over the General Revenue funded projects. Keno was never thought to be a reliable source....it has turned out to be more reliable than sales tax monies, certainly. So, though it wasn't the way it was originally done, the Board felt it may be necessary to re-prioritize - stating that they wanted to shift the Keno expenditures, since that money is not in short supply necessarily, and may ultimately be released. In this re-prioritization, the Board wants to shift the priority so the Keno money goes from the lower priority items up to the higher ones which *were* General Revenue funds. It's just an interdepartmental shift.

One of the high priority projects was the tree inventory. The inventory will help greatly in determining priority plantings and trimmings. This will, of course, require a Mayoral approval and City Council vote on the Keno funding.

Mr. Cook reported that he had brought up Council's pool discussion. He stated that the Board had responded by noting that they are having enough trouble maintaining existing pools and that resources need to be dedicated to keeping what we have running, given the short supply of money available. They would still like to look at any kind of partnered uses with schools or even an indoor facility.

7. INTERNAL LIQUOR COMMITTEE (McRoy/Svoboda/Werner) Ms. McRoy reported that they had discussed SDLs. The two criteria that were finally agreed upon were 1) Existing Business; and 2) Adjacent to the Building. She emphasized that this was concerning football SDLs only and not the overall City-wide policy. Ms. McRoy explained that she had had Ms. Ray do some research on other football cities in the 'Top 10' that have the same football environment that Lincoln has. She noted that it is a lot different in other areas. She stated that she would get a report together to share with Council the findings of the Committee regarding this issue.

What came out of the Committee meeting discussion was that Bob Jergenson, the head of the Responsible Hospitality Council, will be inviting the Internal Liquor Committee (and Council Members will be welcome, too) to a meeting with the effected bar owners and get some input, so we'll have a public process with the industry. The estimated time-frame would be either January or February.

Ms. McRoy noted that the other items discussed had been the usual bar reports which she would cover if any Council members had questions.

She added, FYI, that Detox is quite full quite a few times after home football games. They have to close to further intake after they're full. This gives rise to the concern about how many drunks are running around who don't get picked up because Police have no place to take them after Detox, at capacity, is closed.

8. JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE (McRoy/Seng) Ms. Seng commented that on Center Point, they're changing direction because of their funding source. They had been getting their money as a drug rehabilitation facility. Those dollars are not coming through and will not be coming through in the foreseeable future, so they are changing their direction to focus more on psychological and mental health concerns. Ms. Seng noted that some of the folks that end up at Detox could probably use those services, but with Center Point changing their direction, purely from a financial position, it will be a concern.

Another agency that is really concerned about their future is the Catholic Social Services. There has been a hold-up on refugees coming into the country, which is what the Catholic Social Services has been handling. So, there is a whole other focus that they will have to assume.

Mr. Werner asked, in reference to Center Point, if this wouldn't leave a void in the community on drug rehabilitation? Ms. Seng noted that it would. Mr. Werner asked how that would be answered. No one knew for sure.

Ms. Seng noted that the Committee had also discussed, at some length, the Malone Center and another Center and the contrast between the two. The Process Plan used in crisis situations, such as we are seeing played out in the press with the Malone Center, is being sent to both the County and City legal departments and to the finance departments to see if they want to add anything to the Plan. Then, we'll probably discuss it at a Common meeting so we can get some approval. We may use this process with other agencies.

Funding categories were reviewed. We looked at the ones The United Way is dealing with and the ones that the City/County will be dealing with. The United Way is really concerned about their fund raising drive they're conducting right now. There are probably some changes going on with the "New Horizons". That was briefly discussed by Marc Wullschleger. The homeless count will be done Thursday night, November 15th at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Bowen explained in a bit more detail what the Process Plan would be when dealing with agencies applying for funding. He noted that the discussion indicated that at some point it would be added as part of the original documents when agencies apply for grants so that everybody would be aware from the beginning that if the agency got into trouble, this would be the process that would be initiated to help remedy the problems. This issue was briefly discussed by Council.

OTHER MEETINGS REPORTS: - None

III. APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS - Noted Without Significant Comment

IV. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS - Noted Without Significant Comment

V. **REQUESTS OF COUNCIL FROM MAYOR** - Mr. Bowen proposed the date of December 20th for the Council's Budget Retreat, explaining that this date was chosen because the Budget Office receives the figures on the sales tax revenue from the State on December 18th or 19th and Steve Hubka wanted to present this using the latest numbers.

Council determined that Thursday, December 20th from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Haymarket Park, if available, would be an acceptable date for their Budget Retreat. If the Haymarket Park Skybox facility was not available, it was agreed to hold the meeting at the Parks & Recreation Department's Nature Center at Pioneer Park.

VI. **COUNCIL MEMBERS**

JON CAMP - Absent from Council Members' "Noon" Meeting

JONATHAN COOK - No Further Comments

GLENN FRIENDT - Absent

ANNETTE McROY - No Further Comments

COLEEN SENG - No Further Comments

KEN SVOBODA - No Further Comments

TERRY WERNER - Mr. Werner asked Mr. Roper if he had checked on the request for Council endorsements from U.S. Flag Program. Mr. Roper answered that he had and that Council members could participate if they wanted to do so. Mr. Werner asked if it was being done as a Council? It was stated that each Council Member had been asked individually to support the program. Each Council Member had responded individually. Mr. Werner requested that his signature be added in support of the program. [All Council members participated in the expression of support for the program]

AMY TEJRAL- No Further Comments

MARK BOWEN - No Further Comments

ANN HARRELL - No Further Comments

DANA ROPER - No Further Comments

VII. MISCELLANEOUS -

ADDENDUM

1. Discussion on Council guidelines regarding providing interpreters when requested for Public Hearings. Also, a broad guideline on the use of Council Members discretionary funds.

After discussion, the Council agreed that a policy needs to be put in place when situations like the current one arose. If someone calls in and requests an interpreter - what should the policy be. The fear was expressed that a request might be received from the non-English speaking portion of our population that says they want an interpreter there every week. It was agreed that no Council Member should have to pay for this service from his/her discretionary fund, but that, if necessary, it should be a Council Budget expense.

The final determination was that Mr. Roper would complete some investigation into what the State and the City of Omaha do with this situation at their public meetings. After that information was gathered, and presented to Council members, this discussion would be continued at the "Noon" meeting of November 19th, 2001. The intent at that time would be to formulate a City Policy on the issue.

VIII. MEETING ADJOURNED - Approximately 1:08 p.m.

CM110501/jvr