

**AGENDA FOR  
CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS' "NOON" MEETING  
MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2002  
Immediately Following Director's Meeting  
CONFERENCE ROOM 113**

**I. MINUTES**

1. Minutes of "Noon" Council Members' Meeting for March 4, 2002.
2. Pre-Council Meeting Minutes - RE: Budget/State Lid Update - February 11, 2002.

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

1. DEC Meeting (Friendt) - **HELD OVER FROM MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup> "NOON" AGENDA**
2. Wilderness Park Committee Meeting (Cook/Friendt/Werner) - **HELD OVER FROM MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup> "NOON" AGENDA**
3. RTSD Meeting (Cook/Friendt/Seng)
4. Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting (Cook)
5. Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development Investor's Meeting (McRoy)

**OTHER MEETINGS REPORTS:**

**III. APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS - NONE**

**IV. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS**

1. "The Best Of The West" - You're Invited! 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Event Wild Women of the Wild West: Celebrating the Pioneer Spirit of Women featuring Joan Wells - National Cowgirl Hall of Fame recipient & trick roping artist with Leta Powell Drake and the Sabor Mexicano Dance Troupe – Meet us at the LLWC Roundup to celebrate on Friday, April 19, 2002 for the Annual Awards Presentation – At The Cornhusker Hotel – 5:30 p.m., Social hour — 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Dinner & Program – Tickets \$30.00 – RSVP by April 12, 2002 – 441-7716 (See Invitation).
2. Lincoln Council on Alcoholism and Drugs, Inc. 40 Years of Service to the Community – The Board of Directors of the Lincoln Council on Alcoholism & Drugs requests the pleasure of your company to help us celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Dinner, live music and a silent auction on Friday evening, March 15, 2002 from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at The Rococo Theatre, 140 N. 13<sup>th</sup> Street – LCAD at 475-2694 – \$50.00 per person – RSVP by March 10<sup>th</sup> (See Invitation).

3. Public Meeting on Proposed Infrastructure Financing Strategy for the City of Lincoln – On Tuesday, March 19, 2002 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. – at Lux Middle School, 7800 High School (See Invitation).
4. The University of Nebraska College of Business Administration and Woodmen Accident and Life Company cordially invite you to attend the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Address of the E.J. Faulkner Lecture Series presented by Mr. Thomas M. Hoenig, President, Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City - “Monetary Policy and the Economic Outlook” - On Monday, March 25, 2002 at 11:00 a.m. – At the University of Nebraska Student Union Auditorium, 13<sup>th</sup> & “R” Streets, University of Nebraska-Lincoln – Luncheon following – RSVP by March 20, 2002 (See Invitation).
5. You’re invited to attend the 2002 Lincoln & Lancaster County Environmental Awards Ceremony on Friday, April 26, 2002 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. – At the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education, 33<sup>rd</sup> & Holdrege Streets - Luncheon & Awards Presentation – \$15.00 per person – RSVP by April 19<sup>th</sup> (See Invitation).

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

**VI. MISCELLANEOUS**

1. Discussion on the Council Budget.
2. Discussion on the parking and towing in the downtown area.

**VII. CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MINUTES**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS' "NOON" MEETING**  
**MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2002**  
*CONFERENCE ROOM 113*

**Council Members Present:** Annette McRoy, Chair; Jonathan Cook, Vice-Chair; Jon Camp, Glenn Friendt, Coleen Seng, Ken Svoboda, Terry Werner; **ABSENT:** None

**Others Present:** Mark Bowen, Ann Harrell, Lin Quenzer (Ombudsman), Mayor's Office; Dana Roper, City Attorney; Darrell Podany, Aide to Council Members Friendt, Camp and Svoboda; Joan Ray, Council Secretary; Nate Jenkins, *Lincoln Journal Star* representative.

**I. MINUTES**

1. Minutes of "Noon" Council Members' Meeting for March 4, 2002.
2. Pre-Council Meeting Minutes - RE: Budget/State Lid Update - February 11, 2002.

Vice-Chair Jonathan Cook requested a motion to approve the above-listed minutes. Ken Svoboda moved approval of the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Jon Camp and carried unanimously by consensus for approval.

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

1. DEC (Friendt) - *Held over from March 4<sup>th</sup> "Noon" Agenda* - Mr. Friendt reported that the group had gone over the year-end financial statements and DEC is slightly ahead of projections; so they created a positive cash flow of about \$300,000 and increased their net worth by about \$50,000. Currently there are no new projects underway. They had been in negotiations with Wesleyan University doing some extensive capital fund raising and changes to buildings on the campus. They were going to create an energy district. Now Wesleyan is pulling back from those negotiations because they've decided to focus on student housing as the place to begin the buildings project.

In terms of operating information for both the City/County and the State Buildings, they ran into a few places where there were momentary outages. It appears that they have a really good system for getting back on line. All positive reports.

Mr. Cook asked why they had the surplus on budget - asking if the natural gas prices had been lower than expected? Mr. Friendt responded that they had bought some gas futures quite a ways out, and they had been able to purchase at a lower rate and had been able to enter into some good contracts previously that allowed them to operate over this past winter at a rate lower than they thought. He felt a part of this was due to the fact that LES is just very experienced in this field and they make it work well.

2. WILDERNESS PARK COMMITTEE MEETING (Cook/Friendt/Werner) - Held over from March 4<sup>th</sup> "Noon" Agenda - Mr. Friendt reported that there were two key items discussed. There has been a desire to have a management plan for Wilderness Park. The "Friends of Wilderness Park" have taken some steps on a volunteer basis. They have a science committee and have enlisted some really credentialed folks from the University and other places who are interested in this sort of thing, to begin doing inventories of the wildlife at the Park (which would include birds, insects and animals). They've actually plotted out all of the potential wetland areas. But, in terms of trying to get an actual management plan for the Park done on a volunteer basis, they've finally come to the conclusion that that will not happen in this century. So, they have enlisted through Mr. Johnson, the help of two staff from the NRD to help initiate the management plan. Hopefully, within the next year, the idea is that the NRD will commit hours of time from two different individuals who, in between their NRD duties, will help put together a management plan for Wilderness Park.

Mr. Friendt noted that there had been discussion about the wetlands that have been identified and discussion regarding a burn schedule. Mr. Friendt stated that he did not know that these controlled burns had been done before in Wilderness Park. They're planning burns for this Spring and Fall in cooperation with the Southwest District Volunteer Fire Department. They've only done this once before. He noted that, from experience of doing Trail Repair with the Sierra Club after the Los Alamos Fire, you walk through Wilderness and you see that it is a major tinder box. If we ever had a combination of a serious drought, and, God forbid, an intentional fire...it would be absolutely devastating. Most forest management programs now call for either controlled burns to get rid of undergrowth, or for actual cutting up of undergrowth and hauling it out.

They also made a decision to meet on an every two month basis. Meetings had been being scheduled on the basis of 'when whomever was available'. Now they've committed to meeting every two months on a regular basis.

They confirmed the acquisition of the track south to Beatrice. The intention is that that will run through Wilderness Park. They hope to get the section that will take it right down to Haymarket Park. That will be a bit of a challenge.

He noted that there was also a rather heated discussion, prompted by the people from the NRD, to consider changing the name of the park. Their contention is that from a public point of view and broader public support, that calling it Wilderness Park is not helpful. First of all, it is not 'wilderness' and, secondly, it is not a Park. They maintain that the area was basically set aside as flood water storage in the City's flood control program. Somehow, that doesn't get enough focus when we discuss why we should retain this park and maintain it in an undeveloped state. It is a big insurance policy for the area against a 100 Year Flood. The actual naming was tabled for further discussion. The Council Members had some brief discussion and name suggestions were offered, but no serious conclusion was reached.

3. RTSD (Cook/Friendt/Seng) Ms. Seng reported that there were three agreements passed that dealt with 3<sup>rd</sup> and "A" Streets. One, of course, was that the City takes care of it after it's constructed; this is the way all RTSDs projects happen. Another was an agreement with Burlington Northern; another was with the Nebraska Department of Roads. Those were all related to 3<sup>rd</sup> and "A" Streets.

Then, there were two County Agreements that we were fortunate enough to vote on. One was for an over-pass at Firth; the other was an over-pass at South 68<sup>th</sup> and Hickman.

Mr. Friendt asked about 27<sup>th</sup> and Highway 2? Mr. Cook answered that there had been discussion on that issue.

Ms. Seng noted they had discussed the 2002-03 Budget, so we'll see more of that issue. Then we got caught up in a controversy. The first motion was on doing a little more to help ADM out Northeast, because they need to be doing something with their tracking job there. They need a little more room. Ms. Seng noted that the motion passed. Ms. McRoy asked if the City would be helping them? Ms. Seng stated that they would have RTSD's Roger Figard go out to help them. Mr. Friendt asked if money had been committed yet? Ms. Seng indicated that there had been no money committed. Mr. Cook explained that they were just working on how an over-pass at 70<sup>th</sup> and Cornhusker and that traffic flow would all interact with ADMs set-up; and what impact on the train handling for their operations might be with such an over-pass.

Ms. Seng continued, noting that the other issue on which the County folks were split, was the road and crossing out by Kawasaki. She noted that Mr. Workman and Mr. Hudkins did not agree on the issue, so there was a split vote on approval, 4-1.

Ms. Seng reported that the Budget was discussed. Also an over-pass structure along Highway 2, especially at 14<sup>th</sup> Street. The train schedule was discussed. The railroads have agreed not to run trains during the rush-hour traffic times between 7:00 - 9:00 a.m. and 4:00-6:00 p.m. They say there are only six to eight trains per week through the area, which doesn't seem accurate. Mr. Friendt stated that he would like to have the figures notarized; he felt that wasn't an accurate figure. Mr. Cook stated that the question was 'could the RTSD participate in funding an over-pass should one ever be built at 14<sup>th</sup> and Highway 2'. Mr. Figard had said that they would participate, but would only pay a portion because the railroad issue is not great there...other issues would be the main drive behind such a project. Ms. Seng noted that it is very difficult to work out a schedule.

4. PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD (Cook) Mr. Cook reported that the pools fees increase was discussed. The Board voted to NOT increase pool fees next year because we're cutting back pool operating hours. Mr. Werner asked if it was an either/or situation? Mr Cook responded that the biggest money savings was from cutting back the hours and closing some of the pools earlier. It was felt that adding a fee increase on to that would a double whammy and would look really bad. The fee increase didn't bring in that much more money by comparison.

The Stranski Park update: The Park is at about 17<sup>th</sup> & Harrison. They're going to put a water feature in, but it may require the removal of more trees than we had

originally envisioned. Not all those trees are necessarily in great shape, but there might be some controversy to watch out for. Mr. Friendt asked what a water feature was? Mr. Cook indicated that he had not seen the plan, and was not sure. He noted that they'll be having a meeting soon about that. Mr. Svoboda offered that it was similar to a waterfall. Ms. Harrell indicated that it is like a tumbling waterway downhill, over rocks. Ms. Harrell noted it is meant to be a visual amenity and not a toy, or an entertainment addition.

Mr. Cook noted that the Park meeting would be held on Thursday March 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the Irving Rec Center. They will be providing updates to the neighborhood. He noted that would be his chance to see the 'water feature.'

Mr. Friendt asked if this was a City CIP project? Mr. Svoboda answered that it was being done with private donations. Mr. Cook added that Ms. Stranski had made a large donation to the Parks Department for the installation of this feature, noting that she likes water features.

Mr. Bowen interjected that Ms. Stranski had also donated the money for the Elk statue at Pioneers Park this last year. He noted that Ms. Stranski was doing this park to honor the name of her husband.

Ms. Seng added, once again, that she felt fountains should be incorporated into landscape schemes throughout the City.

Mr. Cook continued his report, stating that the next item of discussion at the meeting had been the future park property at West Van Dorn and Coddington. He noted that the Bison Trail as it runs from Van Dorn over to the entrance to Pioneers Park is where the park land would lie. It would be in that area...on either side of the trail. It's State property now and we were told it was zoned AG. The current assessment is about a quarter of a million dollars. The Public Works Department needs a pumping station and they thought this area would be good land for that. The Parks Department wants to buy it now, even if we're not going to be able to develop it right away. It's a very good spot along the trail and in the Capitol View Corridor. That money is coming from the Talent+ sale, amazingly enough. Mr. Cook noted that he had thought that money was all used, but, no....that money seems to move around a lot. The Antelope Valley expenditure of that money has been taken away and something else is substituting for that and Talent+ money is going for this. So, the Board made a motion that we approve that purchase at that assessed value. We don't necessarily approve at a higher price, but this is \$5,000 per acre.

Mr. Cook felt that this will be a nice place. They're hoping they can do some more active recreation at that spot, because they don't want to do that in Pioneers Park because that's not appropriate. So, near Pioneers Park along that trail...doing something there.

The impact fees were discussed. The issue of Neighborhood vs. Community Parks were discussed. The current plan talks about just financing Neighborhoods Parks. The numbers we were given were \$313 for Parks & Trails...per equivalent dwelling unit. They had to lower that from an earlier number because they were told that any amount received in grants, Federal or otherwise, they can't be charging developers for. This grant money is hardly a sure thing and so it seemed to Mr.

Cook that it is a mistake to be cutting back so early in this process. But, that's where they are. It's for Parks Acquisition Development and Trail Development. (Not Trail Acquisition, but Development. They think the easements for the trails can be acquired a different way - by getting them from the developers at the time of the plats, just as they do streets.) That will raise about a half-million dollars a year.

Separate from that is the Community Park issue. The other is just for Neighborhood Parks - the park that is one for each square mile. Mr. Camp suggested that a cost break-down per square lot would be helpful for Council. Mr. Werner asked how the land was purchased. Mr. Cook answered that the land was purchased after it was re-zoned, which increased its value. Therefore, the new value is expected to be what we've been paying - \$130,000-\$150,000 an acre. He continued with pricing information, noting that the amounts are less when grants are involved, including trail grants. There is no funding for easements because that's being handled separately.

Mr. Friendt asked when the park land would be designated and sectioned. Mr. Cook said that was a difficult thing. If a part of a square mile fills out and the rest doesn't for years...what shall we do? Should we build the park; how should we use this money? Rather than being restricted to using the money collected in a square mile on that square mile, we were talking about doing it on a quadrant basis. Any money collected in a quadrant could be spent on any neighborhood park in that quadrant. At this last meeting, they were talking about even more flexibility by dividing it North and South, but someone suggested that might re-ignite the whole North/South thing.

Mr. Werner asked then if a section might not have a park? Mr. Cook answered that each section would have a park, with flexibility on the timing and location. Council discussion continued with concerns expressed that some neighborhoods might be over-looked in such a program.

Mr. Cook explained the three categories of Parks: Neighborhood, Community and Regional Parks. Regional Parks should be paid for by the community at large. Mr. Camp asked for a list from the Parks Department showing the parks in their categories throughout Lincoln. Mr. Cook stated that there would be more discussion in committee on the Futures Committee of the Parks Board on funding under bonding. Currently the proposal doesn't include any developer financing of Community Parks at all. Mr. Werner stated that he thought the committee should look into how the land is acquired, because he would hate to see the City pay \$150,000 for land that is just a drainage ditch. Mr. Friendt stated that in that light, he would rather have the land sited, take it when it's a donation of land from the developer. Then have a way to compensate as other development happens. Mr. Cook stated that land-banking had even been suggested.

Ms. Seng reminded Council that in the older neighborhoods, the park land had been donated by the business community and by individuals. Mr. Friendt noted that he would like to see what the park usage is city-wide. Mr. Werner noted that aesthetics are an important part of the park experience. Council felt the small European-style parks maintained by individuals and neighborhoods were possibilities consideration as well.

Mr. Cook finished his report, noting that the mission statement was amended to add a broader scope. There was a budget presentation with CIP summary, including renovation projects also including a Lincoln in-door ice arena in 2002-03.

5. LINCOLN PARTNERSHIP FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INVESTOR'S MEETING (McRoy) Ms. McRoy reported that they had met last Tuesday morning. They had gone through their committee reports. They're working on a Business Development Council; the New Ambassador Program where a business traveller from Lincoln would take packets about the City of Lincoln and leave them with the client or with whomever the traveler would be meeting. That's what they would encourage business travelers to do - especially those who travel a great deal. They discussed Marketing Strategy 2002, defining the 'business friendly community'. They had discussed entrepreneurial and technological resources and a marketing strategy to have those resources brought to public attention. The work force was discussed including concerns about the ethics and the labor rates.

Ms. McRoy reported that we also reviewed several projects being worked on: ADM/RTSD joint project; the AFLAC project; a phone center with \$12.00 per hour jobs. That is still under negotiations. They're working with the State to get re-training dollars for Goodyear's displaced workers. Urban Development is looking at a tech district. A Manufacturer's program is being developed which includes a letter under the signatures of the Mayor and Paul McCue offering assistance to manufacturer's before it's too late. This is a program working closer with the Nebraska Manufacturer's Entrepreneurial Program group who will be holding a conference in April.

Ms. McRoy mentioned several other programs underway that would be directed at manufacturing industries in the Lincoln area. She reported that small businesses had also been discussed.

Mr. Werner asked that another LPED Pre-Council be set up. Ms. McRoy stated that she would like to have some direction for them regarding another presentation and requested Council members to submit some specific concerns to give to the LPED representatives in order to give them some direction for their presentation.

Ms. Lin Quenzer, Mayor's Office came forward and presented information on a claim against the City which would be considered at the Formal Meeting this date. She gave specifics of the claim and Mr. Roper explained why the original claim had been denied. Council agreed that the extenuating circumstances outlined by Ms. Quenzer would warrant payment and agreed to approve the claim at the Council Meeting today with direction to the Law Department to prepare a suitable release and waiver of all liability - which action should settle the matter satisfactorily for everyone.

OTHER MEETING REPORTS - None



**III. APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS** - Noted Without Significant Comment (having only a brief discussion regarding the nominating process with the observation that people have, within the last few weeks, been submitting verifiable credentials with their applications)

**IV. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS** - Noted Without Significant Comment, except to note that Ms. McRoy had requested Mr. Friendt to set in on the Economic Summit meeting (#2 Below) in her absence. She had requested that Mr. Friendt attend because she believed him to be an economic moderate who would listen to all sides and whose business experience she greatly respected. It was noted that any Council Members who wished to attend would be welcome.

**ADDENDUM:**

1. Discussion of availability of Lincoln Air Force Base Sites
2. Invitation to Economic Summit w/Mayors Wesely and Fahey

**V. REQUESTS OF COUNCIL FROM MAYOR** - None

**VI. MISCELLANEOUS**

1. Discussion on the Council Budget. - *Carry Over to 03-18-02 "Noon" Meeting.*
2. Discussion on the parking and towing in the downtown area. - *No Discussion. Subject removed from "Noon" Agenda.*

**VII. COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**JON CAMP** - No Further Comments

**JONATHAN COOK** - No Further Comments

**GLENN FRIENDT** - No Further Comments

**ANNETTE McROY** - No Further Comments

**COLEEN SENG** - No Further Comments

**KEN SVOBODA** - Mr. Svoboda asked Mr. Roper if Council's Discretionary Funds could be used to cover the cost of community functions to which they'd been invited in their capacity as City Council Members. Mr. Roper indicated that the funds could probably not be used for that purpose.

**TERRY WERNER** - No Further Comments

**ANN HARRELL** - No Further Comments

**MARK BOWEN** - No Further Comments

**DANA ROPER** - No Further Comments

**VIII. MEETING ADJOURNED** - Approximately 1:07 p.m.

*CM031102/jvr*