AGENDA FOR
CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS’ “NOON” MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2003
Immediately Following Director’s Meeting
CONFERENCE ROOM 113

I. MINUTES


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

1. Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development Investors’ Meeting (Camp)
2. Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting (Cook)
3. Community Development Task Force Meeting (Friendt)
4. Hometown Security Study Committee (McRoy/Svoboda)
5. Floodplain Task Force Meeting (Seng)

OTHER MEETINGS REPORTS:

III. APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS - NONE

IV. REQUESTS OF COUNCIL FROM MAYOR - NONE

V. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS

1. 2003 Great Plains Trails Network Annual Meeting Presents “The Trails Of Antelope Valley” - on Sunday, February 16, 2003 at 1:00 p.m. - at the BryanLGH East Plaza Conference Center, 2nd floor, 1600 South 48th Street 9just east of the main hospital entrance)(See Invitation)

VI. MISCELLANEOUS

1. REMINDER: 12:30 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. - Security photos in the Hall of Justice.
2. Discussion on the Public Comment portion of City Council Meetings.

VII. CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT
Council Members Present: Jonathan Cook, Chair; Jon Camp, Vice Chair (Arrived after the Minutes Vote); Glenn Friendt; Annette McRoy (Arrived after the Minutes Vote); Coleen Seng (Arrived after the Minutes Vote); Ken Svoboda; Terry Werner.

Others Present: Mark Bowen, Ann Harrell, Joyce Quinn, Mayor's Office; Dana Roper, City Attorney; Joan Ray, Council Secretary; Darrell Podany, Aide to Council Members Camp, Friendt and Svoboda.

I. MINUTES


Chair Jonathan Cook requested a motion to approve the above-listed minutes. Terry Werner moved approval of the minutes, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ken Svoboda and the minutes were approved as presented by unanimous consensus of the Council Members present - which did constitute a quorum.

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

1. LINCOLN PARTNERSHIP FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INVESTORS’ MEETING (Camp) - Mr. Camp reported that there had been a real “dynamicism” with Jim Fram’s first real meeting. There was a great presentation by GIS (Technology). There has been a database created that will put Lincoln at the forefront as the program spreads out to other communities covering such things as infrastructure needs and other business components such as trucking services, etc. This database will show the number of locations that would satisfy those needs. It was a tremendous endeavor - and with not more than thirty cities around the country having it, it will be a good economic development tool in the future.

   Mr. Camp reported that a list of things that are in various stages of needs for management had been presented. He noted that it sounds like there are good opportunities for business expansion and potential new businesses, adding that it had been a really good meeting.
2. PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD (Cook) Mr. Cook reported that they had talked about the Holmes Lake Project again. The fill that they will be bringing in from the lake will accumulate to nearly 30 feet in depth. They are worried about how long it takes to dry out that volume of material, so they discussed mixing it with fly-ash to make it harden...then there was a discussion about heavy metals in fly-ash and getting that checked out prior to making any decision concerning that step. Mr. Cook stated that there will be some kind of a report back soon. He wryly noted that we certainly don’t want to create a new Super Fund site after we restore the lake.

The Board had also talked about what is coming up on Council’s Agenda which is the SDL issue - changing it so the Administration [City Clerk] can approve the SDLs for golf courses. There haven’t been problems on the golf courses and even the police department has no problem with this change. Mr. Cook observed that the issue may be on our Agenda for First Reading now. Mr. Camp asked Mr. Svoboda if he had any thoughts on the issue. Mr. Svoboda stated that he would save those comments until the public hearing.

3. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE (Friendt) Mr. Friendt noted that there were three items to report from this meeting. Neighborhoods, Inc. is making grant application for some State Funds to support housing. They decided that the plan they have with Urban Development would be their basis for doing this. They’re hoping to get $600-700,000 to put into affordable housing. Mr. Cook asked if that grant request was to our state - Nebraska? Mr. Friendt indicated that it was. Mr. Cook chuckled & offered a wish for good luck.

Mr. Friendt stated that they had also approved moving forward on the Agenda (for the next meeting) the issue of the Task Force’s ability to allow a Board Member who may have either moved to a different neighborhood, or moved to a different income category, to continue and finish out his or her term. The Board has clear specifications for serving as a Board member. Mr. Friendt noted that there were a number of people with a tremendous amount of experience on the Task Force and they didn’t want to loose that because of changes in someone’s personal life.

He continued his report, stating that they would be setting up public hearing in specific sub-committee meetings to begin working on the action plan for next year. He noted that he was on the Continuum of Care Sub-Committee. On April 9th and 10th, they would be reviewing grant applications for funds and will have about $326,000 to allocate.

4. HOMETOWN SECURITY STUDY COMMITTEE (McRoy/Svoboda) Mr. Svoboda reported that this meeting had been reported on last week and there would not be another meeting until Wednesday. Ms. McRoy concurred with his comment.

5. FLOODPLAIN TASK FORCE (Seng) Ms. Seng reported that things are ready to be sent to the Planning Commission. She reported that they had had problems with attendance of Task Force members. She noted that they were working through it and would be done with their portion of the process in March.
OTHER MEETINGS - Mr. Cook reported that he had attended the Sunken Garden meeting. They had received a lot of good feedback and now have a plan that will lead to a new drawing which will then be brought back to the neighborhood. He felt that the attendees were happy with the outcome of the meeting.

III. APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS

Ms. Quinn read a partial list of upcoming and pending appointments. It was again reiterated that the Council would like the listings w/resumes prior to the appearance of appointments and re-appointments on the Formal Council Agenda.

IV. REQUESTS OF COUNCIL FROM MAYOR - None

V. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS - Noted Without Significant Comment

VI. MISCELLANEOUS -

1. REMINDER: 12:30 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. - Security photos in the Hall of Justice. [The Photos were taken & security cards distributed to Council on 02-10-03]

2. Discussion on the Public Comment Portion of City Council Meetings. This was placed on the Agenda at the request of Ms. Seng. Mr. Werner indicated that he felt by not televising the public hearing portion of the meetings, the situation could be improved. Ms. Seng noted that she kept hearing from people around the City who were saying that the current situation is really bad. They feel it needs to be changed. She commented that she thought that Council needed to insure that the opportunity for open comment is provided for all those who wish to address the Council, but, the comment she keeps hearing from constituents is that the system is being abused.

   Mr. Svoboda stated that he did not believe that the people who speak in the public portion or open mic period are there only because they want to be seen on television. If that is really the case, they will circumvent the whole process and be speaking on every single issue we have before us so they can be on television. He noted that he honestly did not think that is why they’re there. He thought they are there because they are interested citizens who, honestly, are testing his patience; but that is what he was elected to do - sit and listen to them.

   Discussion continued with thoughts of various options that might expedite the public hearing portion of the meetings without infringing upon the rights of all the citizenry to express their views and concerns to Council.

   Mr. Roper did inform Council that the Cable Franchise Agreement indicated that there would be “gavel to gavel” coverage of the Council Meetings. If the public comment were eliminated from the televised coverage, Council would have to reconvene a second meeting, or something, which would have to be advertised as a separate public meeting.
The Council’s final decision was that Mr. Camp would further investigate and report to Council on the possible use of sign-in requirements and/or speaker cards for those wishing to address the Council. It was agreed that a decision on possible policy changes, including the televising of the “open mic” portion of the meeting, would be delayed until after the report from Mr. Camp was received and reviewed by Council.

VII. COUNCIL MEMBERS -

JON CAMP - Mr. Camp noted that there had been people requesting a delay on the LES measure until the evening meeting in March. That would need to be brought up today to delay the public hearing. After a brief discussion, Mr. Cook stated that they would bring it up today and discuss it at today’s Formal Council Meeting.

JONATHAN COOK - Mr. Cook noted that he had heard at the Common meeting earlier this morning that several Council Members were reluctant to include City funding in a Joint Staff Position for the County Commissioners/City Council Offices. Mr. Cook asked if the Council Members were resistant to any funding or would they be open to a 1/3 - 2/3 funding set up? He stated that he felt the position would benefit the Council Office and would allow us to do some things that we haven’t been able to do - things he felt were important. He thought if we could get the position for a lot less money, he would like to see that done.

Mr. Svoboda stated that he felt the 75/25 split in cost, as a starting point, would be acceptable...if, in fact, we can identify some duties for that person...and he did not know that he had been briefed on exactly what it is that Joan and Tammy do and what, additionally this person would do...and if it isn’t more of a benefit for the County than it is to the City.

Mr. Cook stated that we’ll go over all of that at the meeting being scheduled for further discussion on the issue, but before we go into that meeting, he wanted to know if there is an interest by Council in helping out if we negotiate something?

Mr. Friendt stated that from a management stand-point, the two issues ought to be split. He stated that he felt sorry for Cori if they have been putting this off for a year and putting her under pressure and now we’re still taking time to see if they can get us to “fork over” some of the cost....he thought they should just step up to that issue and take care of it. That should be separate from “should we cooperate...should we make this change?” He stated that he was highly supportive of the change. He did concur with Coleen that we ought to move forward on this. It ought not hinge around a percentage amount of funding, but that this step should be seen as a great strategic way to bring more cooperation into our interlocal endeavors.

Mr. Cook stated that he did want to take advantage of this position. If the position is there, it will be available to us. Mr. Friendt stated that if the monitoring of the work flow suggested that, certainly move ahead with it. Mr. Werner stated that the question for Council is do we need additional staff to do what we’re doing now. And - can we do our share of monitoring this desk without adding additional staff. He thought the answer would be yes.

Mr. Cook stated that there are some things we could be doing if we had additional staff.
GLENN FRIENDT - No Further Comments

ANNETTE McROY - No Further Comments

COLEEN SENG - No Further Comments

KEN SVOBODA - No Further Comments

TERRY WERNER - No Further Comments

MARK BOWEN - No Further Comments

ANN HARRELL - No Further Comments

DANA ROPER - Mr. Roper handed out to Council some information on legislation that would soon be going before the State Legislature regarding natural gas. The material covered all the possibilities that might be realized under the legislation.

VIII. MEETING ADJOURNED - Approximately 12:35 p.m.