AGENDA FOR  
CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS’ “NOON” MEETING  
MONDAY, JUNE 7, 2004  
CONFERENCE ROOM 113

I. MINUTES

II. COUNCIL REPORTS ON BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS AND CONFERENCES
*1. Future’s Committee Meeting & Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting-6/03/04 (Cook)
*2. Homeless Coalition Meeting (Newman)
**3. Internal Liquor Committee Meeting (McRoy/Newman/Svoboda)
**4. PRT Meeting (Newman)
**5. Citizen’s Meeting (Newman)
**6. Downtown Lincoln BID Association Board of Directors Meeting (Werner)
7. Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development Investors’ Meeting (Camp)
8. Community Development Task Force Meeting (Friendt)
9. JBC/United Way Allocations Meeting (McRoy/Werner)

OTHER MEETINGS REPORTS:

III. APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS - To Be Announced

IV. REQUESTS OF COUNCIL FROM MAYOR - To Be Announced

V. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS -
1. The Lincoln Family Practice Program of the Lincoln Medical Education Partnership - invites you to celebrate with the graduates as they complete their Family Practice Residency on Thursday, June 24, 2004 - 6:30 p.m., Social Time (Cash Bar) - 7:00 p.m., Dinner - 8:00 p.m., Program - Reception following program - At The Cornhusker Hotel, Grand Ballroom - (RSVP by June 14th to 483-4591 or by fax) - (Also, need menu choice) (See Invitation)
2. The Lincoln Chamber of Commerce invites you to attend the following Ribbon Cutting: - Please RSVP to Jaime Henning at 436-2354 or E-Mail:
   A.) Lincoln Pediatric Dentistry, 2355 Superior Street, Suite 106 on Tuesday, June 8, 2004 at 4:00 p.m.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS

1. Discussion on Council representation at LPED. (See Attachment)

VII. CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS’ “NOON” MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 7, 2004
CONFERENCE ROOM 113

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

Others Present: Mark Bowen, Ann Harrell, Mayor’s Office; Dana Roper, City Attorney; Joan Ray, Council Secretary; Darrell Podany, Aide to Council Members’ Camp, Friendt and Svoboda; Nate Jenkins, Lincoln Journal Star representative

I. MINUTES


Chair Werner requested a motion to approve the above-listed minutes. Ken Svoboda moved approval of the minutes, as presented, by acclamation. The motion was seconded by Annette McRoy and carried by unanimous consensus of the Council Members.

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

1. FUTURE’S COMMITTEE MEETING & PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD (6/03/04) (Cook) Mr. Cook requested that the sub-committees (such as the Future’s Committee) not be listed under the Committee Reports on the “Noon” Agenda, but he did report on the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting.

The Board endorsed a change to the liquor restrictions on City property to allow Folsom Children’s Zoo and the Lincoln Children’s Museum to have liquor at fund raising activities - and not limit them to just one event as had previously been done for the Zoo. The Children’s Museum hadn’t been allowed at all, but they had, unwittingly, been doing so.

Mr. Cook reported on the Piedmont Park Triangle at Cotner [and “A” Streets]. Someone donated $45,000 to that Park area. It was determined that $10-15,000 would be used for restoration and work on the gazebo. The rest will go into an endowment fund. The thought process had been that the Parks Department would normally put $1,000 into that Park and continue to put $1,000 in, but this endowment will provide, at 5% interest, about $1500 per year which would cover the cost of the additional maintenance necessary. Then that small park will be re-named Kontras Park.
Mr. Cook reported that there will be a July Board Retreat on July 1st. Any Council Members are welcome to attend. The retreat will be held at the Parks Office on 27th Street. At this retreat, instead of looking at the wonderful new projects in the City, we’re going to look at things that are in bad shape; so, we’ll be touring places like Centennial Mall. This may be an interesting tour.

Mr. Cook stated that the new Fleming Fields Recreational Sports Park dedication would be at the (former) Northeast Community Park on June 24th at 4:00 p.m. The time of the Schleich Park dedication has not yet been announced. The Woods Park Tennis Center and Pool Improvements will be (we hope) ready July 1st. That is the “sprayground” project, which they’ve been “hoping” to have ready ‘within a couple of weeks’ for months now.

Ms. McRoy asked when the City pools opened? Ms. Harrell noted that they had opened last Saturday.

Ms. Newman asked about the little triangle park - wondering if this was Piedmont Park? Mr. Cook explained that there are two parks at Piedmont - The little triangle portion and the main park [located behind Lefler Jr. High] and both are considered to be ‘Piedmont Park’. Ms. Newman asked if this amount discussed was a donation by someone who lives along Aldrich? Mr. Cook explained that it was a donation from someone who used to live in the neighborhood. Ms. Newman commented that her understanding was that the money was to go over to playground equipment for the Park behind Lefler. Mr. Cook explained that there had not been enough money to do that and provide for the endowment as well. So, the neighborhood group met and decided to use the money this way. This wasn’t the neighborhood association for Piedmont (which hadn’t been formed at this time) but a group representing the neighborhood. Mr. Cook suggested that, for details, Ms. Newman check with Chris Beutler.

Mr. Werner asked if there was a policy about park donations? Mr. Cook responded that there was and this donation had met the criteria. Mr. Cook added that the neighbors had expressed no concerns with the re-naming of the park.

Ms. Newman noted that she had heard from people over on Valley Road who say there is no playground equipment over in the Park behind Lefler. She had thought that was where the money would be spent. Mr. Cook reiterated that the determination had been that there was not enough money to do playground equipment and a maintenance endowment.

2. HOMELESS COALITION (Newman) Ms. Newman reported that she had attended the meeting and nothing of great significance had transpired. They had not really discussed the DayWatch issue. It’s something that everyone says will just have to work itself out. Mr. Werner noted that they will be at the Council meeting today, for certain. Ms. Newman stated that she knew the City Mission was going to try to open up a facility and wondered if Matt Talbot would also try to take up some of those displaced by the DayWatch closing? Mr. Werner noted that he did not think that Matt Talbot was planning on that, but the City Mission was. They now have a facility that will not have a religious orientation and would not have the normal Mission standards enforced. They will provide meals, showers, laundry facilities and a pool table at the Mission. He noted that there would be no cost to the City or the County either. He commented that he had received some phone calls from people who are trying to continue to keep DayWatch open....and make an effort.
Mr. Cook asked if they should expect a lot of people at the meeting today on this issue. Mr. Werner stated that he was afraid so. Mr. Cook asked if Mr. Werner would, at the meeting, explain what alternatives were being offered - or are they aware of those alternatives? Mr. Werner noted that he could mention that prior to the public hearing. A brief discussion ensued regarding the possibility of limiting public hearing on this issue, (which will be on a future Budget agenda), to a specified amount of time rather than leaving the Open Mike Session free for this discussion. It was agreed that, since the only money the City gives DayWatch is allocated through JBC funding, it would be wise to have Kit Boesch at the meeting to answer any questions regarding the DayWatch issue. Council requested that the Mayor’s staff contact Ms. Boesch and ask that she be at the Council Meeting this afternoon. Ms. McRoy noted that JBC is now withholding the DayWatch funds and reallocating that money. It was agreed not to change the open mike policy on this issue, but have Mr. Werner announce that any redundant testimony could and would be limited by the Chair. Mr. Werner indicated that if a new Open Mike policy were to be initiated to limit time by topic, he would not want to start that policy today with the speakers for the homeless.

The final consensus of the Council on this issue was that Mr. Werner would make the redundancy announcement and Ms. Boesch would be in attendance to answer any questions.

Ms. Newman continued her report, noting that she had also attended a Health Care for the Homeless meeting last week. They will forward their recommendations, so we should have those recommendations within a week or so. Mr. Friendt asked how many homeless people there were in Lincoln. Ms. Newman answered that there is not an accurate tally of the homeless population. She noted that the last time Urban Development had given them a quote it was about 400 people. Mr. Bowen commented that the figure was in the press release and he would get a copy of the summary for Council Members so they would have that information before the meeting began today.

A brief discussion continued with comments regarding the different categories of the homeless and how difficult it is to maintain an accurate count on the homeless population. Some are counted more than once through the data from several agencies and some slip through the accounting completely. Ms. Newman noted that they are trying to hone the system to better track, and consequently, better serve the homeless.

3. INTERNAL LIQUOR COMMITTEE (McRoy/Newman/Svoboda) Mr. Svoboda reported that they had invited Hobert Rupe, the new Executive Director of the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission, to the last ILC meeting. There are a number of things that he would like to work on with the City Council. Some of these things might be to change some legislation at the State level (and asking for the City’s assistance in that), so we may be bringing some suggestions to the Council that this body might want to work with in conjunction with our City lobbyist and/or Lincoln’s State Senators.

Mr. Svoboda felt the meeting was a really good, one-on-one open dialogue between the Commission and the ILC on what the Liquor Control Commission expects....why they vote the way they do (at least Mr. Rupe’s perception of why they vote the way they do) - primarily on issues where we might recommend over-whelmingly, if not unanimously, denial for a liquor license but the Liquor Control Commission grants the license anyway. One of the things we’ll have to deal with as we look at future licencing is that one of the Commission’s option right now (and Lincoln apparently is the only city in the State that is
doing this) is attaching special provisions to a liquor license. Mr. Rupe said, as opposed to recommending denial, it might be his recommendation to go ahead and recommend approval, but with some restrictive special provisions given. They would have to be reasonable, but there are a number of things Lincoln has utilized in the past that the Liquor Control Commission has, in fact granted as provisions to the approval. Mr. Kupe had suggested that that might be a better way of moving items forward from the local side as opposed to recommending denial.

Ms. Newman stated that it had been a wonderful meeting which showed that, even in our occasional frustration with the Commission, we see that sometimes their hands are tied. It also shows that we can all sit down together and try to work out some of the problems...that is a tremendous step forward.

Mr. Cook asked why they feel they have to approve something that we’ve denied. Mr. Svoboda commented that there is a term that Mr. Rupe had used in explaining this -a clear and distinct term that suggests that there must be an established history of cause for denial in order for the Commission to uphold a local governing body’s denial of a liquor application. (Mr. Roper indicated that the term was ‘Public Convenience and Necessity’).

Council Members discussed several specific instances of Commission over-ride of a Council denial. Mr. Svoboda explained that testimony in opposition at the Commission hearings would also hold sway. Ms. Newman reported that Mr. Rupe had also stated that in that situation, the Commission actually puts conditions on the license. That is really important. He had explained that if the Council has misgivings, they need to let the Commission know what the specific misgivings are, so that they can address those issues.

Mr. Svoboda added that Mr. Rupe had suggested that Council have a representative of the Council, or a representative of the Internal Liquor Committee, speak in opposition at the Commission’s Public Hearing if we feel that strongly about denial. He had stated that the only individual at those hearings speaking in opposition, or in support of our denial, is our City Attorney. They would rather have us be the testifier in opposition and let the City Attorney simply interpret the letter of the law.

Mr. Cook and Mr. Werner both commented that it is Mr. Roper’s purpose to be representing the City in these situations. Mr. Svoboda answered that this was Mr. Rupe’s assessment and perception of the process right now. Mr. Cook pointed out the Mr. Roper “is” the City at such a public hearing. He thought it was outrageous for them to suggest that Council Members personally have to come in and explain our decisions. We explain why we did what we did to our City Attorney who makes our case for us....hopefully in a better way than we would. That’s why the attorney’s get the big bucks. That is why developers attorney’s show up at our public hearings and not their clients. We don’t even see their clients. Mr. Cook felt that was a very insulting suggestion on the part of Mr. Rupe.

Mr. Svoboda answered that, as the Executive Director, Mr. Rupe is just suggesting, if we feel strongly about something, that one of us be there in opposition -as opposed to just having the City Attorney there; Again, that is if one of us feels strongly enough to represent the Council with full Council approval - or at least majority support. Mr. Svoboda stated that as the Internal Liquor Committee Chair, he would not mind taking on that role. Mr. Svoboda added, again, that Mr. Rupe had suggested that, if the Council is going to do a denial, they had better have something that is historically significant in that persons past, as a grounds for a recommendation of denial.
Ms. McRoy brought the MADD letter (which Council Members had received in their packets) to their attention for consideration. [The letter had been cc’d to Council, but addressed to Mr. Bob Logsdon, Chair of the State Liquor Control Commission, voicing concerns MADD had received from constituents on recent Commission decisions]

Mr. Cook had a final comment, noting that there will be a greater burden placed on the City Attorney’s Office and the Police Department to give Council information that can be put specifically in writing for these recommendations for approval with conditions. It is one thing to deny, but it is another to put forth specific conditions in very clear language on which the Liquor Commission can make binding decisions...to have that language ready for us when we consider the legislation.

Mr. Svoboda commented that neither the Council nor the Internal Liquor Committee have had such a working relationship with the State Liquor Commission prior to Mr. Rupe’s arrival. The Internal Liquor Committee has suggested that we have him back on a quarterly basis to discuss issues with him as they relate to the State law - then how it relates to Lincoln being able to help the State get some legislation through that might change and close some of the loops holes in the law that we currently have.

4. PRT (Newman) Ms. Newman noted that they still have properties coming on and going off the list. The one thing that anyone may be getting phone calls about might be regarding 1st and “H” Street - under the overpass. They will be posting it as “No Parking” with no placing of any objects under there. It had been cleaned out and then all of a sudden, some boxes reappeared under there overnight...but they’re trying to keep it clean.

5. CITIZEN’S MEETING (Newman) Ms. Newman reported that there had been about 17 people in attendance to hear Mike Merwick talk a little bit about what the Building and Safety Department does. At this point, Council’s discussion touched briefly on the efforts of the Building and Safety Department.

6. DOWNTOWN LINCOLN BID ASSOCIATION - BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING (Werner) Mr. Werner reported they are doing a parking study in conjunction with the City. Mr. Cook commented that this might be “Parking Study Number 407”. Mr. Werner concurred, noting that there have been numerous parking studies, but it is felt that parking is not fully covered in the Downtown Master Plan. Mr. Werner asked the Mayor’s Staff if they had a good insight as to the need for another parking study?

Ms. Harrell explained that, yes, there are a lot of different parking studies; the problem is there are a lot of different aspects to parking. The most recent parking study that was done in Lincoln was looking at “need” on a block by block basis - in the downtown. This was done in preparation for the next decision about where to build a parking garage. That is one element of parking - the land use element and the demand.

But, the study for which they approved the additional funding this last week was in a response to a concern held by both the DLA and the City Administration regarding the administration of public sector parking in Lincoln. We have multiple departments that each play a role in the administration of parking, generally. We have Police with enforcement; Public Works with construction and management; there is Finance with enforcement and bonding; and the Urban Development agencies that are supposed to use parking as an economic development tool, but they don’t really have any actual authority over parking.
This situation leads to frustration and confusion and some division of responsibility. The interest is looking at a better way to organize parking which would be more efficient, more accountable and easier to deal with from the outside as well as from the City’s perspective. It seems like the studies are all covering “parking” - but they are very different pieces of the problem.

Mr. Werner commented that Bob Hampton had also been at the meeting and gave a presentation about his project in the Haymarket with the condos. It is a very nice project with a bank and retail below the units. This project is under construction currently, but Mr. Werner did not know what the time-line for completion was. He believed it was about a year-and-a-half down the road, noting again that it is a really nice project.

7. LINCOLN PARTNERSHIP FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - INVESTORS’ MEETING (Camp) - Schedule Conflict - No Report

8. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE (Friendt) Mr. Friendt reported that he was unable to attend, but the key item on the agenda was the City of Lincoln 2004 Action Plan. For use of the funds, we had to approve the Action Plan. One of the chief components had to do with Investor/Owner Rehab programs. We also approved a transfer of funds. The two major transfers were: 1) From the Neighborhood Retail Assistance program (about $37,000) to the Job Creation Loan program. We had a project that is coming forward for which we needed those funds and the monies had not been accessed in the Neighborhood Retail Assistance program. So, we transferred those funds.

The second was a transfer of $90,000 from the Investor/Owner Loan Program, which is primarily for rehab, to the Direct Deferred Loan Program for owner occupied [inaudible]. We had not had the demand for the Investor/Owner Rehab funds, so we moved them to this Program. That was about the extent of the meeting.

9. JBC/UNITED WAY ALLOCATIONS (McRoy/Werner) Ms. McRoy reported that they had spent the first part of the meeting discussing DayWatch. The bulk of the meeting was the review of the binder of JBC/United Way recommendations. We went through the eight categories of need. The recommendations will be coming to the Council in July in resolution form. Ms. McRoy noted this is just the yearly process of allocating City/County Funds to community and human service agencies. There really wasn’t any disagreement.

There is a new program -Volunteer Partners- that came up for denial, but that might be reconsidered. There are no agencies in trouble at the present time and the meeting followed the normal allocation process.

Ms. McRoy explained that the remainder of the DayWatch funding will be reallocated for use for bus tokens to help folks get to the City Mission. Mr. Werner added that the funds would be allotted for bus tokens or some form of transportation. Mr. Werner noted also that there is $10,000 from DayWatch that will be used in some fashion to support the Payee Program and the Case Management Program.

Ms McRoy added that the Asian Center and the Interfaith Council, which had been operating using joint funding, are being separated and re-defined with clearly noted separate identities and funding.

OTHER MEETINGS - None

- 6 -
III. APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS  - None

IV. REQUESTS OF COUNCIL FROM MAYOR  - Mr. Bowen reported that he had called Kit Boesch who is out of the office this morning, but will be back this afternoon and we’ve requested that she be at the Council Meeting’s Public Comment portion to answer any DayWatch questions that might arise at that time.

Mr. Bowen reported that the SRT resumed their meetings at 7:30 this morning, so you’ll be hearing more from them as they begin to wrap up their documentation on the public meeting they had. They’re starting to come together.

The final comment Mr. Bowen wanted to share was on the Group Home Task Force. They have asked that a City Council Member be on this Task Force. Mr. Jonathan Cook volunteered to assume that responsibility and Council approved his participation as the Council representative.

Ms. McRoy brought up a wish of a citizen, Dan Alberts, who would very much like to be appointed to the Task Force. Ms. McRoy felt his background and credentials would warrant his inclusion as a Task Force member. Mr. Bowen commented that the group make-up is pretty much settled at this time. He did add, however, that there will be resource representatives chosen from various areas from the community. The Task Force will, at some point, be calling on those people for input on how they want to deal with different varieties of services. We will be sure that Mr. Alberts is on that list of resource representatives. Ms. McRoy suggested that he also be on the meeting’s notification mailing list so that he could attend the regular meetings.

Mr. Cook commented that it should be understood that the City can’t solve many of the problems that the State has with group homes. He commented that the Task Force wasn’t intended to address those issues. Mr. Bowen agreed that the Task Force would not be trying to fix the State problems. He noted that we have our own issues at the local level which we will be trying to address.

Mr. Werner commented that he was unhappy about the way the committee came together. He did not think, personally, that it was a very good committee. He noted that he had expressed his concerns earlier. Mr. Bowen commented that there are such a variety of group homes out there, to make the committee effective, we needed to keep it to a certain size. We need to look at all the different homes that are out there in the community - not just [inaudible].

V. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS - Noted Without Significant Comment.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS -

1. Discussion on Council representation at LPED. Mr. Werner noted that in the past the Chair had been the designated representative on this Committee. Mr. Camp stated that it was - a long time ago, but when Jonathan was Chair, he didn’t want to do it, so he [Mr. Camp] had taken that committee responsibility. Mr. Werner indicated that he would like to assume that responsibility, in his capacity as Chair, and Mr. Camp agreed to that, noting, however, that he would like to continue attending the meetings.
ADDENDUM

1. Additional Agenda Items for the Monday, August 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 2004 LPS/City/County Joint Meeting (We currently have a 45 Min Presentation with Planning/PW/P&Rs & YMCA RE: Joint Planning Efforts for Recreational Facilities among these Agencies. This will leave approx 15 min for “Other” Items. The Common begins at 8:30 a.m. on August 2\textsuperscript{nd}, so this meeting can only be scheduled for one hour...) Mr. Werner directed any Council Members who have items for the agenda to give them to Joan for inclusion on the Agenda. Mr. Svoboda commented, in response to Mr. Werner’s observation that we had plenty of time to add agenda items, that there would also be plenty of time to cancel the meeting as well. [Laughter]

VII. COUNCIL MEMBERS -

JON CAMP - No Further Comments

JONATHAN COOK - Mr. Cook commented on the issue of “Chairs”, stating that since tomorrow is the Public Building Commission Meeting, he wanted to ask for the Council Members’ input on chair choice. He thought if Council Members had feedback on the chairs, he and Mr. Camp should take that back to the PBC. Mr. Werner commented that his input would be “make a decision”. Mr. Svoboda commented that they should “make a decision - make it cheap”. Ms. McRoy, reiterated Mr. Svoboda’s comment and added “...and make it quickly.” Mr. Friendt added “make it comfortable and cheap”. Mr. Werner added [for benefit in TV presentation] “...and not squiggly”. Ms. Newman requested that this never be brought up again!

After noting these comments from his colleagues, Mr. Cook explained that he did not want to end up at the PBC meeting tomorrow saying that he had not consulted the Council for their input and wind up having to bring the issue back to them - again!

Ms. McRoy asked how often they clean the chairs? Mr. Cook’s response was “Clean them?” [Laughter] He asked if they have they ever been cleaned? Ms. McRoy commented that there are three different bodies that sit in them....the Council, the County Board and the Planning Commission. Mr. Cook thought he’d be bringing a towel from now on.

Mr. Cook brought up the smoking ordinance and the timing of the public hearing in reference to the new Substitute Ordinance. This was discussed at some length with a final determination that there should be just one public hearing on the substitute ordinance (LMC 8.50) while eliminating the current ordinance (LMC 8.48). The public hearing would be held on June 21\textsuperscript{st} with action on June 28\textsuperscript{th}. There will be no enforcement until November 1\textsuperscript{st} anyway, so there would be no need for an emergency stipulation.

GLENN FRIENDT - No Further Comments

ANNETTE MCROY - No Further Comments

PATTE NEWMAN - No Further Comments
KEN SVOBODA - Mr. Svoboda reported that the Retail Grocers Association had e-mailed him and asked him to represent them and draft a resolution that would allow liquor sales from 6:00 a.m. - Noon on Sunday - because the 4th of July falls on a Sunday this year. Mr. Svoboda noted that this is the same thing that we’ve done on New Years Day or New Years Eve in the last couple of years. His intent in proposing this legislation was to avoid having a landslide of SDL requests coming before Council the week prior to the 4th.

Mr. Roper explained Council’s choices: State Law allows us, by ordinance, to allow beer and wine sales from 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. [on Sundays]. The ordinance that you have for consideration today allows beer/wine and hard liquor (on- and off-sale) only through an SDL from 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on July 4th, Sunday. After all, Mr. Roper commented, isn’t that why we fought the revolution so we could start drinking at 6:00 a.m on Sunday....but, he added, this ordinance would still require the SDL process.

Mr. Roper noted, in order to meet the intent, as a blanket ordinance, what could be allowed would be beer and wine sales only from 6:00 a.m. to Noon, (but hard liquor would have to be purchased the evening before or after Noon on the 4th). Council agreed that the intent was to avoid a deluge of SDL legislation and the ordinance they would choose to pass would allow for the on- and off-sale of beer and wine from 6:00 a.m. to Noon on Sunday, July 4th, 2004. There will be 2nd and 3rd Readings on June 14th, 2004.

TERRY WERNER - No Further Comments

MARK BOWEN - No Further Comments

ANN HARRELL - No Further Comments

DANA ROPER - No Further Comments

VIII. MEETING ADJOURNED - Approximately 12:40 p.m.