AGENDA FOR
CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS’ “NOON” MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2004
CONFERENCE ROOM 113

I. MINUTES


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

1. Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting (Cook)
2. Joint Budget Committee Meeting (McRoy/Werner)
3. Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development Investors’ Meeting (Werner)

OTHER MEETINGS REPORTS:

III. APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS - To Be Announced

IV. REQUESTS OF COUNCIL FROM MAYOR - To Be Announced

V. MISCELLANEOUS -

1. Discussion on Council Meetings for the week of November 22nd due to Thanksgiving Holiday. - (Requested by Terry Werner) (See Attachment)

VI. CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

VII. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS -

1. Lincoln Action Program’s 14th Annual Phoenix Award Nominee Reception on Wednesday, November 17, 2004 in the Ridnour Room at 140 N. 8th Street from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. - Reception at 6:30 p.m. with opening remarks by Mayor Seng at 6:45 p.m. - Please RSVP to Nicole Hecht at 471-4515 ext. 110 or by E-Mail - (See Invitation)
2. Letter of Invitation from Jim Fram, Lincoln Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday, November 16, 2004 inviting you to make a brief visit with them to the new Husqvarna facility in Beatrice from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. - Lunch provided - (Itinerary for the day included in the invitation) - RSVP to Kathy Hale at 436-2385 - (See Invitation)

3. FREE Preview of Fresh-Baked BLISS! - A new Panera Bread bakery-café is about to open in your neighborhood, invited to a special complimentary preview on Thursday, November 11, 2004 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at 201 North 66th Street (66th and “O” Street) - (See Invitation)

4. The Board of Directors of the United Way of Lincoln and Lancaster County invites you to join them in saying farewell to Sandy Rupp on Thursday, November 18, 2004 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. - Reception to be held at the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce Building, 1135 “M” Street, Suite 200, 3rd Floor - (See Invitation)

5. Friends of LLWC - International Women’s Day “Weaving Women’s Voices” - 29th Annual Event Celebration at The Cornhusker Hotel on Friday, March 11, 2005 - 11:00 a.m., Social Time - 11:30 a.m., Luncheon & Awards - (See Invitation)

VIII. ADJOURNMENT
MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS’ “NOON” MEETING
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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, Corrie Kielty, Mayor’s Office; Dana Roper, City Attorney; Joan Ray, Council Secretary; Darrell Podany, Aide to Council Members Camp, Friendt and Svoboda

I  MINUTES


Mr. Werner requested a motion to approve the above-listed minutes. Ms. Patte Newman moved approval of the minutes as presented. Mr. Glenn Friendt seconded the motion which carried by unanimous consent of the Council Members.

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

1. PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD (Cook) Mr. Cook reported that they had approved some GEOcaching Guidelines. [This is in regard to a report given at the October 11th Council Members’ “Noon” meeting under P&RAB Report - on the web-based “Stash Hunt” where clues are given on the internet and GPS Devices are used to find hidden objects in various locations -some on public and some on private properties]. Mr. Cook explained that when the National Park Service finds these objects, they just throw them out. But the P&RAB decided to be a little more tolerant. We just set guidelines as to what could be in there, which would include only family friendly items; and neither the soil, nor plants can be disturbed. If people follow the rules, we’ll leave them alone.

The Board decided that the City should not establish a permanent Disc-Golf Course in Pioneers Park. We could set one up for periodic events on a temporary basis. Ms. McRoy asked the reason for denying the establishment of permanent courses. Mr. Cook explained that it was felt that Pioneers Park is our premier landscape park and setting up permanent structures on concrete bases was an inappropriate use. Ms. McRoy asked if they could be set up on rubber bases. Mr. Cook responded that the Board had not discussed the issue in that kind of detail. We were only considering a Committee recommendation and they felt pretty strongly that we not do anything permanent, but there could be temporary events scheduled.
They had discussed placing a replica of the Liberty Bell near the Auld Rec Center, though the exact placement hasn’t been determined. One suggestion had been to place it in the Veterans Memorial Park area - but the placement will be determined at a later time. Mr. Cook stated that the Bell would be placed in a gazebo and he thought the project would be a nice addition to the Park.

He reported that there were no projects announced yet on the Kroc Center-Salvation Army Community Center. He added that Council had just heard about the Woods Park Master Plan Update. He noted that at the PBC scheduled for tomorrow, there should be discussion regarding the parking lot square out at the Health Department Expansion Project. The proposal now is to square out the lot to add more parking for the Park users. The Parks Board didn’t seem too disturbed by that. It was advised, however, that the Parks Board take no action on it until the neighborhood association has a chance to look at the proposal. He noted that the neighborhood association is less concerned about that little sliver of land than they are about another little portion of ‘parking’ that would possibly be added as a part of the Master Plan. Given the sensitivity to the Master Plan issues, we decided to wait on any official approval. We can have it as a contingent item for approval later in the Health Department Expansion Project.

Mr. Cook asked how many Council Members had been in attendance at the Motor Cross Track Noise Demonstration. He did know that Ms. McRoy and Mr. Werner had attended, along with some Planning Commissioners. He related that the noise issue is an interest to the Parks Department since we do have some ball fields just over the hill there, which might be effected by the noise.

Mr. Camp asked if they could be given any ideas on the noise levels? Mr. Cook responded that it had been hard to talk when you’re up close to the track, but, how far the sound carries seems to depend on a lot of factors. He was surprised at how well he could hear the motorcycles at the football fields. The noise could be heard surprisingly well there, given all the burming. On the opposite side of the field, it was a little less noticeable. There have been questions of whether or not the test was an accurate one from people who are fairly knowledgeable about this issue. These people noted that some of the motorcycles had mufflers on them, when, during actual racing conditions, the mufflers are often removed to achieve more horsepower. So, we don’t know how accurate a test this was.

Ms. McRoy stated that Lynn said he couldn’t hear the noise from the track in Wilderness Park. Mr. Cook agreed that Mr. Johnson had said he couldn’t hear it very well in Wilderness Park. Ms. McRoy said that Commissioner Strand had gone to the neighborhood and had said that she couldn’t hear it there. Ms. McRoy noted that she had been there and, because it’s a long, looped course, the noise level just depends on where you are on the course. She thought that where she and Terry were standing they could hardly hear it, but when you’re close to the track, you can definitely hear it. They were running fifteen motorcycles at once at one point. She had asked someone there about the number of cycles and was told that a usual race has about eight motorcycles involved. Ms. McRoy stated that there is a Motor Cross Task Force, of which she is a member, that meets for the first time tonight at 5:00 p.m. in the Mayor’s Conference Room. Council Members urged Ms. McRoy to ask questions regarding the muffler use and the size of the motorcycles to be used. Ms. McRoy noted that she would be reporting on that Task Force at the next “Noon” Meeting.
There was a brief discussion of the origin and makeup of the Task Force. Mr. Cook asked if there was a time-line on the Task Force meetings. Ms. Harrell informed Council that the Health Department had checked on all of the motorcycles that were out there - what kind of muffler they had; what size engine they had and all the other specifications. They had a large internal staff meeting on Friday and kind of summarized what all the Departments had obtained from the sound testing and they’ll be reporting back to the Planning Commission for their public hearing on Wednesday, as well as offering any additional recommendations for Commission that the Departments think would be appropriate as a result of that test.

After a brief continued discussion on suggestions for Ms. McRoy to pursue at the Task Force meeting, it was determined that Ms. McRoy would offer these concerns of the Council Members at the meeting and report back to Council at next week’s “Noon” Meeting.

2. JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE (McRoy/Werner) Ms. McRoy reported that they had discussed the Keno recommendations from the Keno Advisory Board. We had County and City Staff appearing - discussing a formal interlocal agreement on the money and on how the money - the reserves- will be spent and at what level. They’re looking into endowment, again, as well. This will be brought forward to a Commons Meeting for individual groups to act on it.

Ms. McRoy noted other highlights: The Indian Center Director is on Administrative leave and we don’t know why; but we’re going to try and find out from board members. The Hispanic Center moved to the Child Guidance Center on “O” Street. We got the report on the Bus Pilot Project, so we have that information. Ms. McRoy also reported that Robin Mahoney is the interim Director of the United Way until such committee is formed to find a new Director. This was at her behest as she had chosen not to run for the Directorship.

Ms. Kielty reminded Mr. Werner of the decision regarding the $20,000. Mr. Werner reported that the decision they had made on the $20,000 (which Council had approved in the Budget) was that it would go for low-income employment. Half will go to a program at Lincoln Action Program; half will go to the Lincoln Literacy Council. Ms. Kielty added that the Asian Center will be moving to the building at 26th and “O” Streets - right where they had wanted to open the street up. It’s one of Smith’s buildings and they are planning to move January 1st - the lease agreement was finalized Friday.

3. LINCOLN PARTNERSHIP FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INVESTORS’ MEETING (Werner) Mr. Werner did not attend. Mr. Camp had attended the meeting and reported that there had been a presentation by the Chamber on the new software - the same presentation which Council had seen last week at a pre-council meeting. He stated that Steve Frazier of the tech center gave an interesting presentation on the recent Strategic Space 2004. This is on the expansion of the Offitt Air Force Base bringing in industries such as Boeing, and Lockheed-Martin. These industries are getting office space in Omaha because they want to be close to SAC. We really are getting quite a center there. They’ve moved a lot of stuff from Colorado Springs. Anyway, Steve’s point in looking at it was to see what opportunities there might be for Lincoln to get incubator space, or something, since, driving-wise, Lincoln is as close as some of the North Omaha locations.
The other main issue had been that the Chamber will be billing the City for Darl Naumann’s office space at the Chamber. He is officially located in the County/City Building, but does have a satellite office at the Chamber - for better communication opportunities. Mr. Camp noted that Darl is participating a great deal at the Chamber meetings. So, Mr. Camp felt this is a good coordination effort.

OTHER MEETINGS - Ms. McRoy asked about the Chamber’s invitation to Council for a Tour of the Husqvarna facility in Beatrice from 10:00 - 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 16th. Mr. Camp explained that there is now a Regional Cooperative between the Chambers of Commerce in Lincoln, Beatrice, Seward, and Omaha to initiate collaborative efforts among the Cities that would be beneficial for the Southeast Nebraska region.

Mr. Friendt noted that Beatrice had also followed up and had Angelou do a study for them. He assumed it had been noted that they used T.I.F. for financing for an industrial site versus a redevelopment type project and the Chamber believes Lincoln can do that as well. Mr. Camp, Ms. Newman, Mr. Svoboda and Mr. Werner all planned on going on the tour.

III. APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS - Nothing New

IV. REQUESTS OF COUNCIL FROM MAYOR - Mr. Bowen noted that his comments were just informational in nature. He reported that there would be two Pre-Councils on Monday, November 15th. The first would be on T.I.F. and the other would be with LES on their Budget. The News Release is not done by the Health Department on the vaccination. This is the information that went to the Doctors as a Physicians Advisory.

Mr. Bowen reminded Council that the County/City Building will be closed on Thursday for the Veterans Day Holiday. He noted that most Departments will also be on Light Staff on Friday. Mr. Werner asked when Council would receive their packets. Ms. Ray indicated that the packets would be sent out on Wednesday afternoon.

V. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS - Noted Without Significant Comment.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS -

1. Discussion on Council Meetings for the week of November 22nd due to Thanksgiving Holiday. - (Requested by Terry Werner - See Attached Resolution) After discussion of the Resolution, it was determined to leave the Council’s Holiday Schedule as it currently stands: There will be NO MEETINGS scheduled for November 22nd, December 27th nor for January 3, 2005. Mr. Cook suggested that they set their 2005 Council Meeting Schedule at the December Council Retreat. It was agreed to do so.
VII. COUNCIL MEMBERS -

JON CAMP - Mr. Camp inquired of Mr. Bowen if they would be hearing momentarily on the Fire Truck deal. Mr. Bowen stated: “momentarily? - Probably not”. He noted that Mr. Camp had been at part of the meeting last Thursday, adding that the Mayor is just receiving the report from that meeting today. She thought she would review it for a few days and discuss it with people on the Committee who are supposed to talk to Council about those decisions. So, “momentarily” is probably a no. Mr. Bowen suggested that Council should not expect anything today or within the next few days. Mr. Werner asked who was on the Committee. The committee make-up was discussed briefly with the notation that the Committee would only be submitting a recommendation to the Mayor.

JONATHAN COOK - No Further Comments

GLENN FRIENDT - No Further Comments

ANINETTE McROY - No Further Comments

PATTE NEWMAN - No Further Comments

KEN SVOBODA - No Further Comments

TERRY WERNER - No Further Comments

MARK BOWEN - No Further Comments

ANN HARRELL - No Further Comments

CORRIE KIELTY - No Further Comments

DANA ROPER - No Further Comments

VIII. MEETING ADJOURNED - Approximately 11:50 a.m