

**AGENDA FOR
CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS' "NOON" MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2005
CONFERENCE ROOM 113**

I. MINUTES

- *1. Minutes from Council Members' "Noon" Meeting of February 14, 2005.
- *2. Minutes from Directors' Meeting of January 24, 2005.
- *3. Pre-Council Meeting Minutes - RE: Personnel Litigation-Executive Session - February 14, 2005 - Scheduled time: 9:30 a.m.
- *4. Pre-Council Meeting Minutes - RE: Personnel Matter-Executive Session - February 14, 2005 - Noon Meeting.
- *5. Pre-Council Meeting Minutes - RE: Cable Negotiations-Executive Session - February 14, 2005 - Scheduled time: 9:00 a.m.

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

- *1. Downtown Action Team Meeting (McRoy)
- *2. Motor Sports Task Force Committee Meeting (McRoy)
- *3. Citizen's Meeting (Newman)
- **4. Motor Sports Task Force Committee Meeting (McRoy)
- **5. PRT Meeting (Newman)
- **6. Homeless Coalition/Continuum of Care Meeting (Newman)
- **7. Downtown Lincoln BID Association Board Meeting (Werner)
- 8. RTSD Meeting (Cook/Friendt/Svoboda)
- 9. Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting (Cook)
- 10. Internal Liquor Committee Meeting (McRoy/Newman/Svoboda)
- 11. Downtown Action Team Meeting (McRoy)
- 12. 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 of electronically transmitted "Noon" Agendas.

VI. CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

VII. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS -

1. Downtown Master Plan-Please join us for the 4th Downtown Community Workshop on Tuesday, April 5, 2005 at 5:30 p.m. at Embassy Suites Hotel -(See Invitation)
2. Join Olsson Associates for a St. Patrick's Day Party to Toast the City of Lincoln! - on Thursday, March 17, 2005 at PO Pears, backroom, 9th & "M" Streets from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. - Appetizers & drinks will be provided - RSVP to JoAnn McManus at 458-5978 or by E-Mail-(See Invitation)
3. Please join us for A Retirement Reception Honoring: Lincoln Police Sergeant Jim Spanel on Monday, March 7, 2005 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Lincoln Police Department, Commons Area -(See Invitation)
4. "Welcome Home" -Soldiers of the United States Army Reserve's 308th Transportation Company are returning home from their deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Please join the celebration at the new General John J. Pershing United States Army Reserve Center at 3700 West "O" Street at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 6, 2005 - Please RSVP to Connie Greenwood at 742-7692 ext. 4137 -(See Invitation)
5. State of Nebraska Equal Opportunity Commission-Commissioners and Staff Invite You to Our OPEN HOUSE on Friday, March 18, 2005 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Nebraska State Office Building, 301 Centennial Mall South, 5th Floor - (See Invitation)
6. The American Cancer Society & the American Heart Association invites you to an evening reception to learn more about the health benefits of clean indoor air. Special guest of honor: Physician Dr. Richard Sargent - on Wednesday, April 13, 2005 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. - Short Program at 6:00 p.m. - At The Windsor Stables Reception Centre, 1024 "L" Street -(See Invitation)
7. Invitation Letter from Brian Mathers, Lincoln Action Program would like to invite you to join us for a special opportunity we are offering local foundations and community partners to become more educated about IDAs and all of the wonderful things they offer our community. On Friday, March 18, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. at the US Bank building on 13th & "M" Streets in the conference room for an informative discussion about LAP's IDA Program and how you can get involved and make an impact! - RSVP by March 11th to Laura Moulton at 471-4515, ext. 136 or by E-Mail-(See Letter of Invitation)

8. E-Mail Invitation -Celebrating the 2nd Edition of ‘The Inter-American Day of Culture’ and cordially invite you to participate in the celebration of this event. On Thursday, April 14, 2005 - (See E-Mail Invitation)
9. “Classic Cars & Cool Guitars” - A Benefit for Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital - Ticket \$100.00 per person. Saturday, April 9, 2005 The Cornhusker Hotel Grand Ballroom and Atrium - 333 South 13th Street 5:30 p.m. Social Hour (Cash Bar) and Silent Auction; 7:00 p.m. - Dinner Followed by the Live Auction and Entertainment Program by The Nelsons.
10. StarTran invitation to Council to Tour StarTran facilities - following the news conference on Thursday, March 10th. - RSVP to Kitty Miller at 441-8469

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

***HELD OVER FROM FEBRUARY 21, 2005.**
****HELD OVER FROM FEBRUARY 28, 2005.**

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS' "NOON" MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2005
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; Lynn Johnson, Parks & Recreation Director; Joan Ray, Council Staff; Deena Winter, Lincoln *Journal Star* representative.

I MINUTES

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Mr. Werner requested a motion to approve the above-listed minutes. Ken Svoboda moved approval of the minutes by acclamation. Glenn Friendt seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous consent of the Council Members.

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

1. **DOWNTOWN ACTION TEAM - 2 Meetings (McRoy)** Mr. Camp, who had also attended, reported that it had been a three hour meeting. There had been a lot of discussion and analysis regarding the retail businesses with a final focus on "P" Street as a Retail Focus Center for Downtown Lincoln. Council discussed the feasibility of government actually trying to create a Retail Focus Center for the private sector. It was noted that the Downtown Master Plan was a guideline that developers would want to follow as Council approval is required for most development projects. Working with business owners would be a benefit to the growth of the downtown area.

Mr. Werner noted that the Team would be coming to Council with an Implementation Plan before the final report comes out. That will be the next step. This meeting was a review of many issues based upon the public input that they've received from the public forums held on this issue. The next community forum will be an implementation that will eventually come to Council.

2. MOTOR SPORTS TASK FORCE COMMITTEE - 2 Meetings (McRoy) This issue was discussed at length at today's Common Meeting. Mr. Friendt noted that he had seen that there would be an application for a Federal grant for the project. He wondered if the Council could "decommission" the project if, after the fact, the track became a nuisance to the neighborhood?

Mr. Lynn Johnson answered that Lancaster County and the NRD would hold a public use easement over the property. He reported that Abbott would operate it and would be responsible for the liability insurance. They had indicated that they understood that and would try to coordinate that. Mr. Johnson added that Mr. Lienemann felt it would also be the responsibility of Abbott to coordinate the schedule.

Ms. Harrell noted that since this is a County project, it was unknown if the City could take action on the project. Mr. Johnson added that one thing being looked into is if a twenty year lease agreement is long-term enough that it would be considered a public use. That would need a Special Permit. Right now, the thinking is that it would take more than a twenty-year lease and a twenty-year easement - and Abbott doesn't seem to be willing to extend it beyond that.

Mr. Johnson explained that if City utilities are extended to it, the supposition is that it will be annexed. Mr. Friendt correctly noted that if there were any question about taking that easement back, it would be a County/NRD question at this point.

3. CITIZEN'S MEETING (Newman) Ms. Newman reported that there had been 26 people attending the meeting where Public Works personnel discussed snow removal, street projects, pot holes and such concerns.

4. PRT (Newman) Ms. Newman reported that there had been one property which posed a disturbing problem. Neighbors have complained about a house that transients have broken into and are living in. But it has already been "red tagged" which indicates that it has been secured. Once that happens, as far as Building and Safety is concerned, their job is done. That is interesting. The PRT is working on this to help end the ordeal for neighbors living in the surrounding area.

5. HOMELESS COALITION/CONTINUUM OF CARE (Newman) Ms. Newman reported that there had been about 25-30 people attending this very informative meeting. A representative of the Peoples Health Center was in attendance and reported that they have a new Community Health Endowment-funded health practitioner, who will try to track some of the homeless patients. They're trying to do a referral from different agencies so that they can waive the co-pay for the homeless people.

One big concern with Human Service agencies is the proposed Federal cut from the CDBG funds. We have a list showing what all those funds have been used for in the Lincoln community. Annually, over 50,000 people will no longer be assisted if these funds are lost. They are really concerned about that and are encouraging people to contact Federal officials to try to save that funding.

There was also discussion about the new center (The Hub) that was recently opened. This serves 16-18 year olds and 19-22 year old age groups. Ms. Newman stated that she did not know if the group knew about the age of majority issue debate held every year in the

Legislature on whether the age a majority should be lowered. Some of these young people can't even get their own apartment because they can't sign a lease without a co-signer. So that creates an issue with kids out there who are truly homeless. Some of the young people are just overwhelmed, but the Coalition/Continuum is there helping and there is definitely a need.

Mr. Werner asked if the bus passes had been discussed. Ms. Newman reported that this is a monthly discussion. There is great concern that the bus passes will not be funded and they are encouraging everyone to write to Council regarding this concern.

6. DOWNTOWN LINCOLN B.I.D. ASSOCIATION BOARD (Werner) Mr. Werner reported that they had spent a great deal of time discussing the hotel development at 17th & "Q"; but there was also a report from the Convention Visitors Bureau about the Sports Alliance and some of the things they're trying to do. There will be meetings on a strategy for bringing back the wrestling tournaments to Lincoln. They're trying to build coalition and ideas that will promote this prior to the bid process which will be initiated at the end of this month.

7. RTSD (Cook/Friendt/Svoboda) Mr. Svoboda reported that he was acting chair last week. They had received the draft budget and C.I.P. The Chair and Executive Director are to sign an agreement on behalf of the District on Southwest 40th Street to allow the District to find the State money to do the project. If we don't act now, there is the potential of losing that funding.

Mr. Cook noted that the Railroad is concerned about the upgrading of the crossing. There is a four year closure proposal that is a concern to Mr. Ray Stevens who believes that is too long a time to force motorists to drive out of their way, around the area. Mr. Figard is checking into shortening the time-frame for the project. Out of a \$16,000,000 project, the railroad is only offering \$100,000 for payment in lieu of the signal that would be required without the project. It was agreed among Council members that this didn't seem like enough money to alter the project.

Further discussion addressed the Northwest 40th Street and the Airport West plan and how all of these projects would inter-relate with this project. West "A" Street doesn't match the C.I.P. either and would be another concern regarding the dumping of more traffic on an inadequate road.

Mr. Friendt mentioned that with the RTSD meetings being held on Tuesdays, he would be unable to attend since he has a class to teach on Tuesday mornings. He felt it might be best to appoint another Council Member to serve at this time. Mr. Svoboda noted that there will be no more meetings until Mr. Friendt's term is over. The next meeting will be in June. It was agreed to wait until after the election to appoint another Council Member to the RTSD Board.

8. PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD (Cook) Mr. Cook reported that they had discussed more cell towers. Belmont Park may get one near the pool. Golf revenue is up. They're 13.6% ahead on rounds and 27% ahead on revenue over last year. New Officers were elected. A lot of time was spent on the Parks' budget. We discussed the basic needs of the Department for mere maintenance and separately what amount is needed each

year to grow with the City and provide new parks and pools, etc. They believe they need 1.2 million just for rehab and replacement of existing facilities; another 1.8 million would be needed to add as the City grows by a square mile per year. This is not included in the Antelope Valley costs.

Mr. Cook noted that they had mentioned a "Quality of Life Bond" which Omaha issues every five years or so in amounts of 6-8 million dollars. Everyone of them has passed. They're for all sorts of community projects that have not been taken care of through regular channels, and many are Parks related. Mr. Cook felt, though Lincoln does take a more on-going approach, it was something of which Council should be aware.

Mr. Cook reviewed briefly the break-down of costs the were outlined by the Parks & Recreation Department. He noted that the budget is far from what the actual need will be to maintain and cover growth costs for the Parks Department. Kenosha funds are down - if we end up recovering that amount, it would be great; but the Parks Department is budgeting at 80%, just in case.

Ms. Newman asked if any Council Members had attended the Parks & Rec Trails program at the "F" Street Rec Center. None had been able to attend.

9. INTERNAL LIQUOR COMMITTEE (McRoy/Newman/Svoboda) Mr. Svoboda reported that last week the owners of a problem bar in the downtown area had been invited to the meeting, along with several of their representatives and attorneys to discuss solutions to the problems. Mr. Svoboda felt this showed a good faith effort on their part to help alleviate the problems that had forced their attendance at the ILC meeting. Their response to our concerns had been very positive and they had asserted that they would do all they could to be a good corporate citizen and member of Downtown Lincoln. They outlined steps they would be taking to rectify the problems. Mr. Svoboda felt it had been a good meeting with an outcome that would help resolve the problems.

10. LINCOLN PARTNERSHIP FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INVESTORS' MEETING (Werner) Mr. Werner reported that he had not attended. Mr. Camp, who had attended, reported that the main point of interest had been the Study LPED had commissioned with Gallop Poll on the SRT Bond. They had surveyed the public as to why they had not supported the bonds - with Antelope Valley costs and mistrust of government officials in spending public funds being mentioned as primary issues of concern. It was agreed that more information should have been gotten out to the public - Mr. Camp thought there would be more information being disseminated prior to other bond issues being brought forward.

Mr. Werner thought a Pre-Council on the report would be worthwhile. It was agreed that this option could be looked into.

OTHER MEETINGS - Council received brief reports outlining of two other meetings Council Members had attended: One was the Chamber/Council Coffee where the last Monday Night Council Meeting was discussed. They felt the civility issue should be addressed, noting that there had been remarks from the public that should have been cut short by the Chair. This was discussed briefly by Council.

Ms. McRoy had gone to the West "O" Business Associations Board Meeting where they had discussed the cuts in CDBG funds. The Association is concerned that the City is not co-ordinating the building of the bridge with the Master Plan projects. Mr. Bowen noted that there has been coordination with the bridge construction and the Haymarket projects. Ms. McRoy asked that someone communicate that with the Association

Mr. Werner reported that he had gone to the Visitor Promotion Committee meeting where the additional 2% lodging tax was discussed. The Committee has recommended that 1% of that be restricted for a sinking fund for building projects such as the arena if that is brought forward. The Legislature has some bills asking for the ability to bond with that money, which we have no authority to do - but we could use it as a sinking fund.

The other 1% was recommended to be split with 1/2% for Entry Way Corridor signage and 1/2% for a Visitor Improvement Fund which would be grants to public facilities. An example would be if the zoo, the Childrens' Museum and a hotel worked together on a promotion, they could receive a grant. Those were the recommendations made. There was also discussion from other groups who mentioned they'd like to have portions of that money. The State Fair had not been included in the discussion.

III. APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS - None

IV. REQUESTS OF COUNCIL FROM MAYOR - Mr. Bowen just reminded Council of the Work Session for the Budget. At this point it is scheduled to go from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. After a brief discussion Council decided to begin the meeting at 8:30 a.m. to insure that there would be ample time for discussion on this very important issue. Mr. Bowen noted that the Directors would also be at the meeting - not to defend their budgets, but to answer questions Council Members may have.

Mr. Bowen noted that the Pre-Council that was not held today because of time constraints will be rescheduled.

V. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS - Noted Without Significant Comment [Council received the Attend Listing after the "Noon" Meeting]

VI. MISCELLANEOUS -

1. Discussion of electronically transmitted "Noon" Agendas. After a brief discussion, it was determined that the "Noon" Agenda would be sans the minutes. The minutes would be sent to Council Members electronically on Wednesdays and then approved at the next Council Members' "Noon" Meeting. The only attachments to the "Noon" meeting agenda would be the invitations, which will not be posted on the website. This will be the new procedure.

VII. COUNCIL MEMBERS -

JON CAMP - No Further Comments

JONATHAN COOK - No Further Comments

GLENN FRIENDT - No Further Comments

ANNETTE McROY -. No Further Comments

PATTE NEWMAN - No Further Comments

KEN SVOBODA - Mr. Svoboda announced that Council was once again embarrassed this morning because we did not have a quorum of City Council at the Common Meeting. We are routinely, monthly, embarrassed by the County Commissioners because we do not have a quorum there. They are asking us if we take this seriously - or not? He thought that when we began placing the Commons meeting on the Sign-Up Attend List that that would at least solve the quorum question. But, this month we were, apparently, supposed to have a quorum, but we did not.

Ms. Newman, Chair of the Common, thanked Mr. Svoboda for his comments.

TERRY WERNER - Mr. Werner requested that a Council Member move Council into Executive Session to discuss an issue for just five minutes. Mr. Roper noted that that had not been advertised and would therefore not be allowed. Mr. Werner asked that an Executive Session be noted for the next "Noon" Agenda discussion.

MARK BOWEN - No Further Comments

ANN HARRELL - No Further Comments

CORRIE KIELTY - No Further Comments

DANA ROPER - No Further Comments

VIII. MEETING ADJOURNED - 12:15 p.m.

cm030705/jvr