AGENDA FOR
CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS’ “NOON” MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2006
CONFERENCE ROOM 113

I. MINUTES


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

1. Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting (Cook)
2. Community Development Task Force Meeting (Marvin)

OTHER MEETINGS REPORTS

III. APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS - To Be Announced

IV. REQUESTS OF COUNCIL FROM MAYOR - To Be Announced

V. MISCELLANEOUS

1. City-County Joint Office Staffing

VI. CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

VII. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS

1. The Downtown Lincoln Association & Updowntowners, Inc. Forum Luncheon on Thursday, February 9, 2006 from 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, 12th & R Streets. Cost $12.00 per person. RSVP by Feb. 6th at 434-6507.

2. Public Meeting on the “O” Street Roadway Improvements; 45th to 52nd Street on Tuesday, February 21, 2006 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at The Villager, 5200 “O” Street.

3. Special Olympics Nebraska Event of “Polar Plunge” on Saturday, February 25, 2006 at Holmes Lake, West 70th Street.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS’ “NOON” MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2006
CONFERENCE ROOM 113

Council Members Present: Ken Svoboda, Chair; Patte Newman, Vice-Chair; Jonathan Cook, Dan Marvin; Annette McRoy, Robin Eschliman, Jon Camp

Others Present: Mark Bowen, Ann Harrell, Mayor’s Office; Dana Roper, City Attorney; Tammy Grammer, City Council Staff; Deena Winter, Lincoln Journal Star Representative; and Coby Mach, LIBA

I. MINUTES


Chair Ken Svoboda, by acclamation of the Chair, approved the minutes. No objections were offered.

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

1. Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting (Cook) — Mr. Cook reported the first half hour was a presentation on the School Bond issue.
   Fees & Facilities Committee, the Communications Tower in Van Dorn Park was approved. They approved a list of future playground renovation/replacement projects through 2012. If anybody is interested in where a particular playground might be let him know.
   Golf Fees, they made Friday’s into a weekend, so there will be a little increase in the cost to play golf on Friday’s.
   They approved the public land adjacent to University Place Park be leased to the Child Advocacy Center. The subject site is not actually Parks property, he thinks it was Water Department property. It’s a former water reservoir site, and is not designated as park land.
   They approved the recommendations of the Parks & Recreation Infrastructure Finance Committee and a lot of those things will be discussed as part of the budget process for this up coming year.
   The Lincoln Cares Program is bringing in about $7,000 a month in revenue. TierOne Bank and World’s Foremost Bank are again contributing after $30,000. If anybody is interested in the projects, he will pass around the brochure with a list of the projects. Noting, you should get this brochure in their electric bill.
2. **Community Development Task Force Meeting** (Marvin) — Mr. Marvin reported they had the meeting at the Indian Center which they try to rotate the meetings around to different locations. The Indian Center building has been in service for quite a while and one interesting thing he learned was across the street from the Indian Center is the National Guard Armory and they maybe vacating that building. They broke up into small groups, we’re doing the annual update. Last year they had a Comprehensive Annual Report on how we spend Community Development Block Grant money. But, he doesn’t think we’re going to have this Comprehensive Report this year. He serves on the committee that deals with redevelopment issues in older areas/older business districts. We’ll see what we can bring forward with fewer dollars.

**OTHER MEETINGS REPORTS: -**

Ms. Newman reported she had a meeting regarding ‘wild parties’ and we invited about 23 people to participate in talking about the problem with wild parties. We had UNL, Wesleyan, students in Administration, landlords, some neighborhood folks, two people from dispatch and three Police Captains. We had over 42 people show up, it was a very-very good meeting. We didn’t come up with enough solutions dealing with a lot of the assorted problems, but she thinks the first step is that a lot of people wanted to see increase fines right away, increased fines mandatory minimums for wild parties and the Police would continue contacting landlords about party houses. Then have a tier so fines would increase rather than just having $150 fine, it would be a minimum $250 and an increase up to $500, so that may be forth coming and will be the first step. Towards the end of the meeting a lot of information was shared, there were some questions about dispatch whether you need to leave your name as a complainant for certain complaints and that sort of thing. We asked how many of them would be willing to sit down again and have another meeting to discuss these issues and almost everyone raised their hands. So, she thinks we’ve got a good group to continue talking about some of the problems that we have and that we see traditionally in the Problem Resolution Team and so Captain Joy Citta and I are going to reschedule another meeting.

Mr. Camp stated they had a Public Building Commission Meeting and it was a really good meeting. Mr. Camp reported it was just totally focused on the Courthouse Plaza and we had representatives from Public Defenders Office, Personnel, Adult Probation, Drug Court, and Human Services. Three proposals were presented, he thinks the one proposal people seem to lean towards was option C-1 which would basically put what they had on needs and it was going to put Adult Probation and Public Defender over in the Courthouse Plaza. That’s just the preliminary idea, we’re looking at it more.
Ms. Eschliman stated she has an update on the Homeless Coalition. They had dropped her off of their e-mail invite list in October and she did not get anything in November or December which she thought it was because of the holidays and so in January she called them about it. Ms. Eschliman reported she thinks they’re done with the survey that they take every year which tells the extent of the homeless problem and so the discussion was how they are going to market and advertise and promote this to the community. We discussed newsletter format that was in color and how many copies and sending it out and then someone said but the City Council does not like it when people send things out in color which they turned and looked at her, Jon (Camp) and then someone spoke up and reminded everyone that HUD is not funded by the City Council. Ms. McRoy commented did you remind them that we pay dues to the Homeless Coalition organization. Ms. Eschliman commented she thought that she probably better stay out of the discussion of colored copies. Mr. Camp commented may I object something to his credit Larry Potratz from Lincoln Housing Authority send him a letter which he received the very next day last Tuesday. Mr. Potratz indicated the fancy report that they published the cost was over $6,000 for 2,000 copies of the reports and said the Lincoln Housing Authority is not funded by the City. Mr. Camp commented he still has a concern on it because he did not include the postage which the copy he received was $1.07 for postage and then the envelopes are probably 20¢ to 30¢ each at minimum and then you think of all the staff time to prepare it. Mr. Camp apologized to all, if it got them in trouble, we’ve all talked about it and so he stands by his word, its just not single out the Housing Authority, it was just a good example. He thinks providing housing for a couple more people or subsidizing housing that’s $6,000 better spent, he actually had some calls from some board members who agreed, so he thinks the message is out there and if we in a nice way encourage people (inaudible) plan to ask them that fancy publications just doesn’t serve homeless needs. Ms. Eschliman stated the message is out there and we did spend a lot of the meeting time talking about what other alternatives that we have besides sending out an expensive publication. Mr. Camp commented Larry Potratz and staff are doing a fine job, its just that this might even make it a finer job.

Ms. Eschliman stated she has some questions about the Committee Assignments, she’s on five committees and there’s only been meetings for two of them and one of the two which is the Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development (LPED) she is not sure if that’s her responsibility to attend and report on. She knows Jon (Camp) is on this committee as well. Mr. Camp stated he thinks on some of those we decided to pull some off because we had so many reports. Ms. Eschliman commented so we’re not going to report on them. Mr. Camp stated that’s correct. Ms. Eschliman stated there are two committees that no one has ever called her and asked her to attend which are the Internal Auditing Review Committee and Affordable Housing Steering Committee and she doesn’t know who to call. Ms. McRoy commented the contact person for the Affordable Housing Steering Committee would be Hallie Salem at Urban Development. She thinks it was a task force and they were doing a survey which is done. Ann Harrell will check on it and get back to Ms. Eschliman this afternoon. Ms. McRoy commented so you’re looking for more committees to be on. Ms. Eschliman replied yes.
Mr. Svoboda reported he had an Officials Committee Meeting last week. We had presentations and some action on the Lincoln-Lancaster County Fiscal 2005-2006 Unified Planning Work Program for the acceptance of an additional $108,000 from FHWA. There’s a list of what it goes towards, mostly Public Works, the Travel Model Development maintenance the need for Transportation Plan update and the Transportation System Management and then there was $62,500 that went to the Planning Department for multi-modal planning. We had briefings on the Lincoln-Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan and Transportation Plan Update, and on the 2005 Lincoln Metropolitan Area Travel Demand Model Documentation which was prepared by LIMA & Associates but Olsson Associates did the presentation. We had a report from Monty Fredrickson that the Highway 77 update to Expressway is moving along and scheduled to be completed by the end of this year; and (inaudible) because of some financial difficulties there is a delay in the construction to start an O-8 for the Warlick Blvd. interchange. Now instead of a five year completion it looks like it is going to be more of a seven year completion.

III. APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS - Rick Hoppe absent. No Reports.

IV. REQUESTS OF COUNCIL FROM MAYOR -

MARK BOWEN -

Mark Bowen reported the Mayor meet with the ‘M’ Class Council members and the Audit group Council members this last week. They had a second follow up meeting with the ‘M’ Class discussion this morning that’s beginning to shape up and the audit folks will be getting back together very soon.

ANN HARRELL - No Comments

RICK HOPPE - Absent

DANA ROPER, City Attorney -

Dana Roper stated what you have are the new Lincoln Electric System report. LES would really like to have the old reports back so they are not out circulating around and confusing everyone. The changes are on V-7 under ‘B’ where the original one says “5 times the estimated additional annual revenue resulting from providing service” at the very top paragraph that it should be “2.5” and on page 62 a correction regarding their regular normal working hours on the reconnect service where it says “open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.” should be “8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.”.
Mr. Roper commented for your information we’ve had informal inquires from the newspaper that they would like to have the records on the time of entry in the underground parking garage for one of the County elected officials. The County Board has indicated that they would like to resist that request and he thinks they will probably get it informally in writing and they’ll go from there. Mr. Roper noted they want to know when he comes into work.

V. MISCELLANEOUS -

1. City-County Joint Office Staffing. — Mr. Svoboda stated when Patte (Newman) and I meet with staff last week, Gwen Thorpe in Kerry’s (Eagan) absence asked if Council wants to consider a joint staffing as we had discussed numerous times. But, we have never really come to any conclusion whether we should proceed with it or not, certainly don’t have to at this point. He at least wanted to put it on the “Noon” Agenda to see if there was any desire by Council members to start moving things forward indicating this would be a full integration of City & County staff not just hiring more joint staff. Ms. McRoy asked would this person replace Joan Ray? Mr. Svoboda replied no this really is not talking about adding or anything else it would just be more of an integration and entering into an interlocal agreement with the County to have all joint staffing. So, Tammy (Grammer) and Cori (Beattie) would be joint City & County employees and would cross train everybody and work together. Ms. McRoy asked if Council has any wish to replace Joan Ray’s position? Mr. Svoboda indicated he thinks that was some of the discussion we were talking about in our early budget deliberations which was if we were not going to replace Joan Ray that with the funding we have had in the past could we put that money towards a researcher. Following discussion, Mr. Svoboda stated there’s always that option of having a couple Council members form a committee to try to pinpoint what the Council might want and get input from all of us. Mr. Camp suggested they set up some time next week during their “Noon” Meeting for discussion and that way they can think about it. Mr. Svoboda noted Patte (Newman) and I directed all of the staff, Cori, Tammy and Mary, to document verbatim what it is they do for each thing. For example the “Noon” Meeting outline how it is put together, what to do with it, so that if any of the three were gone any Council member or anybody could come in and follow the check list and get it all done. Mr. Svoboda directed Tammy Grammer to add the joint office staff discussion to the “Noon” Agenda for next week as a continuation of this discussion.

VI. CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

JON CAMP - NO COMMENTS

JONATHAN COOK - NO COMMENTS
ROBIN ESCHLIMAN -

Ms. Eschliman mentioned Omaha is doing a thing about Omaha like Lincoln did about Lincoln vs. Omaha. She came across this article in the ‘Omaha World Herald’ and she would like to share it with Council to see what they think about it, and she read the article. Ms. Eschliman commented the article was interesting to realize we’re not the only ones, we all have some problems. She will leave the article on the counter in the office.

DAN MARVIN - NO COMMENTS

ANNETTE McROY - NO COMMENTS

PATTE NEWMAN - NO COMMENTS

KEN SVOBODA - NO COMMENTS

VII. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS - Listed on the Attend Sheet for February 6th.

VIII. MEETING ADJOURNED - Approximately at 12:10 p.m.