I. CITY CLERK

II. CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE MAYOR & DIRECTORS TO COUNCIL

PRESENTATIONS:
1. Lincoln City Libraries, Pat Leach, Director
2. Building and Safety, Fred Hoke, Director

MAYOR
1. NEWS RELEASE. Mayor presents February Award of Excellence to Scott Holmes, Environmental Public Health Division of the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department.

DIRECTORS:

PLANNING DEPARTMENT
1. Annexation 08019 - Area 12, Letter to Property Owners.

PLANNING COMMISSION
1. Action by Planning Commission

PLANNING COMMISSION FINAL ACTION

URBAN DEVELOPMENT/HOUSING REHAB & REAL ESTATE DIVISION

III. COUNCIL RFI’S & CITIZENS CORRESPONDENCE TO INDIVIDUAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

ROBIN ESCHLIMAN
1. Article by Alan Ehrenhalt, “Stimulating Architecture”, Governing Magazine
2. Letter from Vernie Upton. Keep the Bethany Library open as residents of Cotner Center walk and use their scooters to visit the library as many do not drive.
3. Letter from Darrell and Harriet Bennett. Keep Bethany Library open. Residents of the Cotner Center able to walk to library and use frequently.

DAN MARVIN
1. Email from Sally Bush, Legislative Technical Editor, Montana Legislature. Grew up using the South Street Library. Please do what you can to ensure the South Branch Library stays open.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE FROM CITIZENS TO COUNCIL
1. Correspondence through InterLinc from Jane Levine. Economic sense to keep the South Branch Library open.
2. Email from Jennifer Perry and David DiLillo. Strongly opposing the closing of the South Street Branch Library.
3. Email from Julie Abo. Do not close Lincoln’s South Branch Library, giving website for library statistics and literacy rates.
4. Letter from Ceil Lang. Second home is South Street Library, do not close.
5. Letter from Patty Hill, with attached letter sent to the Journal Star. Could the City Council help Lancaster Manor by making sure the Lancaster County Board does the right thing?
6. Correspondence from Joeth Zucco through InterLinc. Do not close our libraries and pools, and neglect our parks. Closing South Street Library and Irvingdale Pool, among others, is compromising the quality of our city.
7. Email from Mike Veak. A proposal to cut Lincoln’s annual contribution to the Lincoln Municipal Band (LMB) would endanger LMB’s future. Additionally, cutting city funding for the Lincoln Arts Council will also endanger the band.
8. Email from Jerry Dexter. Keep the Bethany and South Branch Libraries open. Look at options to keep open.
9. Letter from Aldine Jackson. Volunteer at the South Branch Library for five years. The library is within walking distance of the Near South and Country Club neighborhoods and a place all ages and income groups come to be enriched. (Each Council Member received individual letter on March 11, 2009)
10. Email from Deborah Yost, Administrator, Save Bethany Library Facebook group. Save the Bethany and South Branch Libraries. Organize to address the this budget shortfall.
11. Email from Gretchen Terpsma asking for support of the Lincoln Municipal Band and the Lincoln Arts Council.
12. Letter to Lincoln residents from Dean Haist, Executive Director of the Lincoln Municipal Band, asking for continued and increased support of the arts in our community.
13. Email from Chuck Holderby. Continue support for the Lincoln Municipal Band.
14. Email from Sarah Jane Skirry. The South Street Library is a very important part of the neighborhood, and community, and very important to keep open.

V. ADJOURNMENT
Mayo presents February Award of Excellence

Mayor Chris Beutler today presented the Mayor's Award of Excellence for February to Scott Holmes, Manager of the Environmental Public Health Division of the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department. The monthly award recognizes City employees who consistently provide exemplary service and work that demonstrates personal commitment to the City. The award was presented at the beginning of today's City Council meeting.

Holmes, who has worked for the City for more than 20 years, was nominated in the category of productivity by Environmental Public Health Supervisor Joyce Jensen on behalf of the division's supervisory staff - John Chess, Jr., Nancy Clark, Mark Kenne and Rick Thorson.

The nominators say Holmes does a lot behind the scenes, putting in many extra hours writing and revising codes, meeting with citizens and elected officials and taking advantage of educational opportunities. They said he strives for excellence and encourages staff to perform at the highest level. They cited a recent situation in which Holmes worked with a local utility company to prevent a potentially hazardous situation from occurring at a childcare center. An electrical contractor needed to replace an underground transformer under a childcare center's playground. Because the larger transformer would not fit in the underground vault of the older transformer, they planned to place the transformer above ground, in the middle of the playground, and enclose it with a fence.

Scott was concerned that the electromagnetic energy from the transformer could have health consequences for the children. The transformer also created a large obstacle that would prevent adequate supervision of the children. The contractor was initially unwilling to move the transformer. With Scott's help, LES intervened and came up with a solution that worked for LES, the contractor and the childcare center.

The other categories in which employees can be nominated are customer relations, loss prevention, safety and valor. Consideration also may be given to nominations that demonstrate self-initiated accomplishments or those completed outside of the nominee's job description.

- more -
All City employees are eligible for the Mayor's Award of Excellence except for elected and appointed officials. Individuals or teams can be nominated by supervisors, peers, subordinates and the general public. Nomination forms are available on the City Web site at lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: personnel) or from department heads, employee bulletin boards or the Personnel Department, which oversees the awards program.

All nominations are reviewed by the Mayor's Award of Excellence Committee, which includes a representative with each union and a non-union representative appointed by the Mayor. Award winners receive a $100 U.S. savings bond, a day off with pay and a plaque. Monthly winners are eligible to receive the annual award, which comes with a $500 U.S. savings bond, two days off with pay and a plaque.
Senate struggles with FY09 spending bill.

The Senate spent this week debating the FY 2009 omnibus appropriations bill, but apparently will not meet its goal of completing action on the measure by the end of the day today.

The House approved the package last week (see details in February 27 Washington Report) and Senate leaders had hoped to gain approval of the measure prior to the expiration of the current Continuing Resolution (CR) that is keeping government operations running through March 6. However, Senate Republicans raised objections to the pricetag of the measure (it represents about $22 billion more in spending than then-President Bush was willing to spend for FY 2009) and expressed concerns about the congressionally-designated earmarks included in the measure. So, GOP members spent the week introducing amendments to the package that would pare back the bill, all of which have been defeated.

Early Friday, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) announced that an agreement had been reached with Republicans on how many more amendments would be introduced, possibly clearing the way for a final vote on the measure early next week. However, this delay will force the House and Senate to approve a short –term CR today to keep government agencies running.

Meanwhile, the House was able to take up and approve a mortgage relief bill (HR 1106) that was tabled last week (see details in February 27 Washington Report). There were concerns on both sides of the aisle with a provision of the bill that would allow bankruptcy judges to write down the principal and interest rate of loans for people whose mortgages are higher than the value of their homes. House leaders came up with a compromise on the “cramdown” language that allowed for floor passage this week. That agreement would give bankruptcy judges the option to reduce interest rates before directly cutting the principal of a mortgage and allow lenders to collect a portion of the profit if a home is sold within four years of modification.

The Senate is expected to consider the bill next week on the floor.

The House is expected to consider a wastewater treatment bill on the floor next week (see related story below), as well as a measure that would give the District of Columbia a vote in the House of Representatives.

AVIATION

FAA authorization approved by House panel.

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee approved a four-year reauthorization of programs at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) this week. The bill (HR 915) was approved by voice vote and is largely similar to the FAA bill passed by the House in 2007. Slow progress in the Senate stalled the bill in the 110th Congress, and may in fact stall this current version as well, which will likely require a short-term extension of the current authorization.

HR 915 would authorize $70 billion for FAA activities over the next four years, including $38.9 billion for FAA operations, $13.4 billion for FAA facilities and equipment, $16.2 billion for the Airport Improvement Program, and $1.35 billion for research and development. The measure also would increase the passenger facility charge (PFC) from $4.50 to $7.00. PFC fees are assessed per flight to help fund airport improvements.
and are strongly opposed by commercial aviation groups. HR 915 also includes a provision that establishes an independent whistleblower office and creates a two-year “cooling off” period before former FAA inspectors can work for an airline.

Republicans who oppose the measure have expressed concerns about language that could force the FAA and its air traffic controllers into binding arbitration if the two parties fail to reach agreement on a new work contract. However, it appears the GOP is holding back a fight on this issue until the measure comes to the floor of the House, which could occur in the next two weeks.

CLEAN WATER
House panel clears $18.7 billion wastewater treatment bill; measure also includes potentially expensive new mandates. The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee unanimously approved legislation (HR 1262) that would authorize $18.7 billion through FY 2014 for wastewater infrastructure assistance to state and local governments.

The bill combines five separate bills that the House overwhelmingly passed in the 110th Congress that the Senate did not act on. In addition to its clean water financing provisions, the bill includes provisions that would: require wastewater agencies to monitor and report sewage overflows; authorize funding for programs to remediate contaminated sediment in the Great Lakes, and change the tonnage fees paid by shippers that help fund some clean water programs.

The centerpiece of the bill is its annual authorization levels of $2.4 billion, $2.7 billion, $2.8 billion, $2.9 billion, and $3 billion for the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund. In FY 2008, Congress appropriated $689 million for the Fund; the pending FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Bill (HR 1105) would maintain funding at that FY 2008 level.

HR 1262 would also make several changes to the Fund, including extending repayment periods to 30 years, allowing assistance in the form of principal forgiveness and negative interest loans for low-income and other hardship communities; allowing loans for projects that help meet water efficiency, and energy efficiency goals and for stormwater mitigation projects.

In addition to authorizing financial assistance, HR 1262 includes a title that would impose potentially significant new mandates on local governments. Almost exactly the same as a bill (HR 2452) that the House passed unanimously last June, this title of the bill is dubbed the Sewage Overflow Community Right to Know Act.

Under the provisions of this title, all publicly-owned wastewater utilities would have to implement and use technology to monitor the occurrence of sanitary and combined sewer overflows. The bill would further require that all publicly-owned wastewater utilities:

- Notify the public within 24 hours of an overflow;
- Notify public health authorities of an overflow immediately;
- Report the overflow to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or its state counterpart within 24 hours;
- Report to EPA or its state counterpart within 5 days on the magnitude, duration and suspected cause of the overflow, the steps being taken or planned to reduce, eliminate and prevent a recurrence of the overflow and the steps being taken or planned to mitigate the impact of the overflow;
- Report all overflows to the EPA or its state equivalent in its monthly discharge monitoring report, and
- Provide a yearly report to EPA or its state equivalent detailing the location, duration and volume of each overflow occurring in the previous year and the responses that the wastewater utility has taken or is planning to mitigate and prevent future overflows at each reported overflow site.

The bill would also authorize the use of the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund to purchase and install sanitary and combined sewer overflow monitoring systems and to cover the cost of monitoring and reporting those overflows. As noted above, however, funding for the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund in recent years has been well below its authorized level and struggles to meet its mandate of providing basic wastewater infrastructure to distressed communities.

The full House is expected to take up HR 1262 next week. Although the bill enjoys broad bipartisan support, many Republicans have expressed unhappiness with the bill’s application of Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirements to federally-assisted clean water projects. However, after the likely defeat of an amendment to strip the Davis-Bacon language, the House is expected to easily approve the bill.

ENERGY & LAND USE
Reid introduces eminent domain measure. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) introduced legislation (S 359) yesterday designed to spur investments in renewable energy sources such as wind, solar and geothermal.

Reid’s bill includes language that would allow the federal government to use its power of eminent domain and preempt state and local land use authority to expedite and ease the construction of the thousands of miles of electricity transmission lines needed to get electricity from areas where renewable generation sources are plentiful to where most of the nation’s electricity consumers are located.

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee has scheduled a hearing on Reid’s and other related measures for next week and may mark up a comprehensive energy bill by the end of the month. Reid introduced his bill in the context of the Obama Administration’s focus on developing the nation’s renewable energy resources, reducing dependence on imported energy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions and in the context of proposals to mandate that a certain percentage of the nation’s electricity come from renewable sources by a certain date, with the most common proposals being 20 percent by 2020 or 15 percent by 2015. Currently, three percent of the nation’s electricity is generated by wind, solar and geothermal energy.
Reid’s proposal has already sparked concern on the part of many state and local officials as well as many on Capitol Hill. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 (PL 109-58) includes language authorizing the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to use eminent domain to site major electricity transmission corridors, but lawsuits have stymied FERC’s attempts to exercise that authority. State and local government organizations vehemently opposed that language four years ago. However, given the momentum behind current efforts to spur the development of renewable energy, upgrade the nation’s electric grid and curb greenhouse gas emissions, opponents of federal eminent domain authority for electric transmission lines will have their work cut out for them.

STIMULUS WATCH
Weekly update on stimulus activities.
Some stimulus-related information that might be of interest:

Department of Justice
The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) Justice Assistance Grants (JAG) allocations can be found at: http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/recoveryJAG/recoveryallocations.html.

Edward Byrne Memorial JAG Formula Program Local Solicitation can be viewed at: http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/recoveryJAG/GrecoveryLocal.pdf

OJP has also released formula funding information for the Victims of Crime recovery fund at: http://www.ojp.gov/ovc/fund/Recoveryfunds.html.

The Office of Violence Against Women posted formula grant awards to states this week at: http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/recovery-grants-awards.htm.


Department of Energy

Information regarding Weatherization Assistance and the State Energy Program can be found at: http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/daily_cfm/hp_news_id=156.

To view Smart Grid program information, go to: http://www.oe.energy.gov/information_center/american_recovery_reinvestment_act.htm.

Environmental Protection Agency
Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, Diesel Emissions Reduction Act, and Brownfields. To view this reported information, go to: http://www.epa.gov/recovery/plans.html.

Department of Commerce
Information regarding ARRA programs can be found at: http://wwwocommerce.gov/Recovery/index.htm.

Department of Homeland Security
Grants.gov has posted the Emergency Food and Shelter grant notice at Federal Emergency Management Agency Emergency Food and Shelter Program can be found on the grants.gov website: http://www.07.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=evGx1JxBGtG9NfszXycFnyyCj5q1Ps7qmLhhPy62jLMTmGyfdys8T1ez33028865?oppId=45591&flag2006=false&mode=VIEW

DHS also announced $1 billion in aviation security projects to be funded under ARRA. This press release can be viewed at: http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/releases/pr_1236285187174.shtm.

Department of Transportation
The Federal Transit Administration released information regarding transit funding allocations for the stimulus program. To view this notice please go to: http://www.dot.gov/recovery/docs/E9-4745.pdf.

To view the Highway Infrastructure Investment Funds Apportionment Notice please visit: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/legsregs/directives/notices/n4510705.htm.

Guidance for the FAA Airport Improvement Program can be found at: http://www.faa.gov/airports_airtraffic/airports/aip/media/FY09_aip_arra_guidance.pdf.

For High-Speed Rail Corridors & Intercity Passenger Rail Corridor Implementation at the Federal Railroad Administration, go to: http://www.fra.dot.gov/us/content/2166.

Department of the Treasury
Information regarding the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI) is available at: http://www.cdfifund.gov/recovery/

US Army Corps of Engineers
The Corps has made a recovery website available at: http://www.usace.army.mil/recovery/Pages/default.aspx.

Department of Labor
Information about programs funded by the Recovery Act is provided at: http://www.dol.gov/recovery/implementation.htm.

Department of Health and Human Services
Community Health Center stimulus grant award information was posted this week and can be found at: http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/hrsa/applicant.html.
National Endowment for the Arts
Grant information was released this week for the Arts and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, and can be found at: http://www.arts.gov/grants/apply/recovery/index.html.

Grant information was also released for the Arts and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, State Arts Agencies and Regional Arts Organizations, and can be found at: http://www.arts.gov/grants/apply/recovery-states/index.html.

GRANT AND NOTICES
Bureau of Justice Assistance
The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) announced that it is seeking applications for funding under the Second Chance Act Prisoner Reentry Initiative. Grants under this initiative may be used for demonstration projects to promote the safe and successful reintegration into the community of individuals who have been incarcerated. A 50% non-federal match is required. The deadline for applications is April 20, 2009 and link to full grant guidance is here: http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/09SecondChanceReentrySol.pdf.

Environmental Protection Agency
The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is now accepting applications for the National Award for Smart Growth Achievement. This competition is open to public- and private-sector entities that have successfully used smart growth principles to improve communities environmentally, socially, and economically. All applications must be submitted in hard copy (no electronic or fax submissions will be considered) and the entry deadline is April 23, 2009. Awards will be given in up to five categories including: Built Projects, Policies and Regulations, Smart Growth and Green Building, Smart Growth Streets and Overall Excellence in Smart Growth. Additional information regarding these categories and the application form can be found at: http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/awards.htm#appl.

Health and Human Services
The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is currently accepting applications for FY 2009 Targeted Capacity Expansion in Targeted Areas of Need-Local Recovery-Oriented Systems of Care grants. The purpose of this program is to expand the community’s ability to provide integrated and comprehensive community-based responses to a targeted, well-documented substance abuse treatment capacity problem and/or improve the quality and intensity of services. SAMHSA expects to award $5.1 million in up to 13 awards. Applications are due April 28, 2009. For further information on the application process, go to: http://samhsa.gov/grants/2009/ti_09_001.aspx.
March 11, 2009

RE: Annexation 08019, from 1st to 14th, from Humphrey Ave. to Hilltop Road, also known as Annexation “Area 12”

Dear Property Owner:

Previously, the City held a second meeting with property owners on January 22nd at Eiseley Library to review this potential annexation. At that time, we announced that the annexation may go forward to the Planning Commission for public hearing in late March.

On March 2, 2009, the City Council approved seven of the first nine proposed annexation areas. One annexation was placed on pending and one annexation was denied. In denying the one application, the Council commented that, based on the costs to the City to make improvements to provide services in the area, the time wasn’t right to proceed. The area denied was an acreage residential area that did not have water and sewer mains in place adjacent to most of the residential properties. At that same meeting, the City Council did approve an annexation of over 100 homes in the Yankee Hill neighborhood where most of the properties were adjacent to water or sewer lines.

Based on the similarity of your area to the area that was denied, City staff have decided to postpone annexing Area 12 at this time. Property owners will be notified in advance whenever the annexation process is resumed.

If you have any questions or if individual property owners are interested in annexation in the near term, please contact Tom Cajka at 441-5662, and we will forward your annexation with no application cost to the property owner.

Sincerely,

Marvin Krout
Director of Planning

cc: Mayor Chris Beutler
City Council
Planning Commission

Q:\PC\ANX\08000\AN08019 March letter.wpd
NOTICE: The Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, March 11, 2009, at 1:00 p.m., in the City-Council Hearing Room, County-City Building, 555 S. 10th St., Lincoln, Nebraska, on the following items. For more information, call the Planning Department, 441-7491.

The Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Commission will meet on Wednesday, March 11, 2009, 12:00 noon - 12:45 p.m. in Conference Room 113 of the County/City Building, 555 S. 10th St., Lincoln, Nebraska, for a briefing by staff on Proposed Amendments to Title 26, Subdivision Ordinance.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Planning Commission action is final action on any item with a notation of “FINAL ACTION”. Any aggrieved person may appeal Final Action of the Planning Commission to the City Council by filing a Notice of Appeal with the City Clerk within 14 days following the action of the Planning Commission.

The Planning Commission action on all other items is a recommendation to the City Council or County Board.

AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2009

[Commissioners Francis, Partington and Sunderman absent]

Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held February 25, 2009. **APPROVED, 5-0 (Larson abstained; Francis, Partington and Sunderman absent)**
1. **CONSENT AGENDA**
   
   **Public Hearing and Action:**

   **ANNEXATION WITH RELATED ITEMS:**

   1.1a Annexation No. 09001, to annex 25.69 acres, more or less, generally located at S. 70th Street and Yankee Hill Road.

   **Staff recommendation:** Approval, subject to a revised Annexation Agreement
   
   **Staff Planner:** Brian Will, 441-6362, bwill@lincoln.ne.gov
   
   **Planning Commission recommendation:** APPROVAL, subject to a revised Annexation Agreement, 6-0 (Francis, Partington and Sunderman absent).
   
   Public Hearing before City Council will be scheduled when the Annexation Agreement has been revised.

   1.1b Change of Zone No. 05068A, an amendment to The Woodlands at Yankee Hill Planned Unit Development, with a change of zone from AG Agriculture to R-3 PUD, to add 25.69 acres to the PUD and for approval of a development plan which proposes modifications to the Zoning Ordinance and Land Subdivision Ordinance to allow approximately 31 dwelling units and a private school in the underlying R-3 zoning, on property generally located at S. 70th Street and Yankee Hill Road.

   **Staff recommendation:** Conditional Approval
   
   **Staff Planner:** Brian Will, 441-6362, bwill@lincoln.ne.gov
   
   **Planning Commission recommendation:** CONDITIONAL APPROVAL, as set forth in the staff report dated February 24, 2009, 6-0 (Francis, Partington and Sunderman absent).
   
   Public Hearing before City Council will be scheduled when the associated Annexation No. 09001 is scheduled.

   **CHANGE OF ZONE WITH RELATED ITEMS:**

   1.2a Change of Zone No. 09005HP, for a landmark designation on property located at 10901 Adams Street.

   **Staff recommendation:** Approval
   
   **Staff Planner:** Ed Zimmer, 441-6360, ezimmer@lincoln.ne.gov
   
   Removed from Consent Agenda and had separate public hearing.
   
   **Planning Commission recommendation:** APPROVAL, 6-0 (Francis, Partington and Sunderman absent).
   
   Public Hearing before City Council tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 30, 2009, 5:30 p.m.
1.2b Special Permit No. 09002, Historic Preservation, for reuse of an existing historic site as a landscaping contractors business, on property located at 10901 Adams Street.  *** FINAL ACTION ***
Staff recommendation: Conditional Approval
Staff Planner: Mike DeKalb, 441-6370, mdekalb@lincoln.ne.gov
Removed from Consent Agenda and had separate public hearing. Planning Commission ‘final action’: CONDITIONAL APPROVAL, as set forth in the staff report dated February 27, 2009, as revised on March 11, 2009, 6-0 (Francis, Partington and Sunderman absent). Resolution No. PC-01158.

2. REQUESTS FOR DEFERRAL: None

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AT THIS TIME, ANYONE WISHING TO SPEAK ON AN ITEM NOT ON THE AGENDA, MAY DO SO

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PENDING LIST:

1. Change of Zone No. 09002, from AG Agricultural District to AGR Agricultural Residential District, on property generally located at S. 96th Street and Saltillo Road.
   (2-11-09: Planning Commission voted 7-0 to continue public hearing on March 25, 2009 at the request of the applicant.)
Planning Dept. staff contacts:

Steve Henrichsen, Development Review Manager  441-6374  .  shenrichsen@lincoln.ne.gov
Mike Brienzo, Transportation Planner .............. 441-6369  .  mbrienzo@lincoln.ne.gov
Tom Cajka, Planner .................................. 441-5662  .  tcajka@lincoln.ne.gov
David Cary, Long Range Planner ..................... 441-6364  .  dcary@lincoln.ne.gov
Mike DeKalb, Planner ............................... 441-6370  .  mdekalb@lincoln.ne.gov
Christy Eichorn, Planner ............................ 441-7603  .  ceichorn@lincoln.ne.gov
Brandon Garrett, Planner ............................ 441-6373  .  bgarrett@lincoln.ne.gov
Rashi Jain, Planner .................................... 441-6372  .  rjain@lincoln.ne.gov
Brian Will, Planner .................................... 441-6362  .  bwill@lincoln.ne.gov
Ed Zimmer, Historic Preservation Planner ........... 441-6360  .  ezimmer@lincoln.ne.gov

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The Planning Commission meeting
which is broadcast live at 1:00 p.m. every other Wednesday
will be rebroadcast on Sundays at 1:00 p.m. on 5 City-TV, Cable Channel 5.

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The Planning Commission agenda may be accessed on the Internet at
http://www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/plan/pagenda/index.htm
PLANNING COMMISSION FINAL ACTION
NOTIFICATION

TO : Mayor Chris Beutler
     Lincoln City Council

FROM : Jean Preister, Planning

DATE : March 11, 2009

RE : Special Permit No. 09002 - Historic Preservation
     (10901 Adams Street)
     Resolution No. PC-01158

The Lincoln City-Lancaster County Planning Commission took the following action at their regular meeting on Wednesday, March 11, 2009:

Motion made by Larson, seconded by Cornelius, to approve Special Permit No. 09002, with conditions, as revised, requested by the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation, for authority to allow the farmstead generally located at 10901 Adams Street (the Weese Farmstead) to be used by Miller Landscapes & Construction, Inc., for a landscaping business.

Motion for conditional approval, as revised, carried 6-0: Gaylor Baird, Taylor, Cornelius, Esseks, Larson and Carroll voting 'yes' (Francis, Partington and Sunderman absent).

The Planning Commission's action is final, unless appealed to the City Council by filing a Letter of Appeal with the City Clerk within 14 days of the date of the action by the Planning Commission.

The Letter of Acceptance on the special permit will be mailed to the permittee by the City Clerk at the end of the 14-day appeal period.

Please note: On March 11, 2009, the Planning Commission also voted 6-0 to recommend approval of the associated Change of Zone No. 08005 HP, designating the subject property as a historic landmark, which is tentatively scheduled for public hearing before the City Council on Monday, March 30, 2009, 5:30 p.m.

Attachment

cc: Building & Safety
    Rick Peo, City Attorney
    Public Works
    Doug Miller, Miller Landscapes & Construction, 3700 N. 48th Street, 68504
    Steven E. Guenzel, President, Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation, 128 N. 13th Street, 68508
RESOLUTION NO. PC-02158

SPECIAL PERMIT NO. 09002

WHEREAS, Nebraska State Historic Society Foundation has submitted an application designated as Special Permit No. 09002 to allow the farmstead generally located at 10901 Adams Street (the Weese Farmstead), and legally described as:

A portion of Lot 27 I.T., located in the Northeast Quarter of Section 13, Township 10 North, Range 7 East of the 6th P.M., Lancaster County, Nebraska; beginning at the northeast corner of said section, extending approximately 741 feet west along the north line of said section to the point of beginning; thence southerly a distance of approximately 420 feet; thence westerly approximately 570 feet; thence northerly approximately 441 feet; thence easterly approximately 573 feet along the north line of said Section 13 to the point of beginning, containing 5.6 acres, more or less;

to be used by Miller Landscapes & Construction, Inc. for a landscaping business; and

WHEREAS, the Lincoln City-Lancaster County Planning Commission has held a public hearing on said application; and

WHEREAS, the community as a whole, the surrounding neighborhood, and the real property adjacent to the area included within the site plan for this use of an historic landmark as a landscape business in order to preserve the farmstead will not be adversely affected by granting such a permit; and
WHEREAS, said site plan together with the terms and conditions hereinafter set forth are consistent with the comprehensive plan of the City of Lincoln and with the intent and purpose of Title 27 of the Lincoln Municipal Code to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Lincoln City-Lancaster County Planning Commission of Lincoln, Nebraska:

That the application of Nebraska State Historic Society Foundation, hereinafter referred to as "Permittee", to allow the Weese Farmstead on the property described above to be used as a landscape business, be and the same is hereby granted under the provisions of Section 27.63.400 of the Lincoln Municipal Code upon condition that construction of said landscape business be in substantial compliance with said application, the site plan, and the following additional express terms, conditions, and requirements:

1. This approval permits use of the Weese Farmstead for a landscape construction business.

2. Any modifications to the building exterior or to the proposed site plan must be submitted and approved for a Certificate of Appropriateness by the Historic Preservation Commission, including appearance details of the proposed workshop and greenhouses.

3. This approval waives parking requirements except as shown on the site plan. Parking lot paving is waived.
4. Any sign associated with the property shall be indicated on the site plan and subject to approval by the Preservation Commission.

5. The City Council must approve the associated request for Change of Zone 09005HP designating the Weese Farmstead as a landmark.

6. The Permittee shall:
   a) At or before the time of applying for a building permit for the workshop or greenhouses, submit a plan to the Historic Preservation Commission and receive a Certificate of Appropriateness for the removal of the attached garage on the north side of the house and for the reconstruction of an appropriate front (north) porch.
   b) Within one year of occupancy of the workshop or greenhouses, complete the removal of the garage addition and reconstruction of the front porch in accordance with the plan approved by the Historic Preservation Commission.

7. Revise the note on the plan from “existing garage to be removed” to “existing garage to be removed and replaced with a new structure of similar dimensions.”

8. Before occupying the property all development and construction shall have been completed in compliance with the approved plans.

9. All privately-owned improvements shall be permanently maintained by the Permittee.

10. The physical location of all setbacks and yards, buildings, parking and circulation elements, and similar matters must be in substantial compliance with the location of said items as shown on the approved site plan.
11. The terms, conditions, and requirements of this resolution shall run with the land and be binding upon the Permittee, its successors and assigns.

12. The Permittee shall sign and return the letter of acceptance to the City Clerk within 60 days following the approval of the special permit, provided, however, said 60-day period may be extended up to six months by administrative amendment. The City Clerk shall file a copy of the resolution approving the special permit and the letter of acceptance with the Register of Deeds, filling fees therefor to be paid in advance by the Permittee.

The foregoing Resolution was approved by the Lincoln City-Lancaster County Planning Commission on this 11 day of March, 2009.

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Chair

Approved as to Form & Legality:

[Signature]
Chief Assistant City Attorney
Special Permit #09002 & Change of Zone # 09005 (Landmark Designation)
10901 Adams St
Zoning:

R-1 to R-8 Residential District
AG Agricultural District
AGR Agricultural Residential District
O-1 Office District
O-2 Suburban Office District
O-3 Office Park District
R-T Residential Transition District
B-1 Local Business District
B-2 Planned Neighborhood Business District
B-3 Commercial District
B-4 Lincoln Center Business District
B-8 Planned Regional Business District
H-1 Intrastate Commercial District
H-2 Highway Business District
H-3 Highway Commercial District
H-4 General Commercial District
I-1 Industrial District
I-2 Industrial Park District
I-3 Employment Center District
P Public Use District

Area of Application

2007 aerial

One Square Mile
Sec. 13 T10N R07E
A request has been made to vacate the east/west alley between J and K Streets from 18th Street to 19th Street. The area was viewed and appears as a concrete-surfaced alley. There is evidence of several utilities within the alley. Overhead electric, cable and telephone wires run through the alley. A grate inlet was observed in the alley which is thought to serve an underground storm sewer and the existence of another manhole was observed. It is not known whether the manhole is on the storm sewer system or a sanitary sewer line; however, staff has indicated the need to retain utility easements for all the existing utilities.

Public Works has also indicated this vacation will create a dead-end alley situation and have asked for either a turn around or a public access easement over the alley. It has been indicated a public access easement should be retained over the entire area to be vacated.

Long, narrow strips such as these rarely have any value, in and of themselves, but can take on the value of the abutting property if assembled into it. In this case, the amount of utilities within the area would lead to the possibility of frequent intrusion into the alley for maintenance and repair of the utilities. The retention of a public access easement over the entire alley will also severely limit its use to the abutting land owner. As such, it is considered to have minimal value and a value of $0.10 per square foot is deemed appropriate. The calculations are as follows:

\[
5,792 \text{ sq. ft.} \times \$0.10/\text{sq. ft.} = \$579.20 \text{ Called } \$580.00
\]

Therefore, it is recommended if the area be vacated it be sold to the abutting property owner for $580.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Clinton W. Thomas
Certified General Appraiser #990023
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Beutler & City Council Members
FROM: Clinton W. Thomas

DEPARTMENT: City Council Office
DEPARTMENT: Housing Rehab & Real Estate Division

ATTENTION:

DATE: March 6, 2009

COPIES TO: Teresa J. Meier
             Marvin Krout
             John Hendry
             Byron Blum, Bldg & Safety
             Jean Preister, Planning
SUBJECT: Street & Alley Vacation No. 09001
         R - S Streets, 20th - 21st Streets

A request has been made to vacate several streets within the Antelope Valley project area. The vacations are being done to facilitate the redevelopment of the area known as the Parkway Plaza Triangle Redevelopment Project Area. The area was not viewed specifically for this vacation, but this writer is quite familiar with the streets being vacated.

There are several landowners in the area which are affected by the vacation; however, the ultimate user will be Assurity with which the City is currently in the process of making a redevelopment agreement. Not only are there different ownerships, the lands they own are not contiguous. Due to the small portions of street that would be abutting each of the various ownerships it would be difficult to define each parties' share of the cost. Therefore, it is suggested the streets and alleys be vacated with title retained in the City of Lincoln and any value they have become a part of the consideration in the overall redevelopment plan once the surrounding ownerships are consolidated into one.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Clinton W. Thomas
Certified General Appraiser #990023
Assessments

Stimulating Architecture

January 2009 By ALAN EHRENHALT

*If we’re going to rely on public works to turn the economy around, let’s build well.*

As American city halls go, the one in Houston is neither the most beautiful nor the most imposing. Eleven stories high, it is all but dwarfed by the high-rise office towers that surround it. Seventy years old this month, it is in part a ceremonial building now. The mayor and city council have offices there, but many of the agencies departed a long time ago for newer, bigger structures nearby.

But there is a stateliness about the Houston City Hall that nearly everyone notices, a quality of order and sensible proportion that is enhanced by the park and reflecting pool in the square that leads up to it. People have been gathering at that spot ever since the building opened, for festivals, concerts, protests and less formal gatherings of every conceivable sort. All in all, the city hall complex has survived the years as a pretty nice urban place.

There’s something else important about Houston’s city hall. It was a project of the federal government, one small part of a massive effort by Franklin D. Roosevelt’s administration to spend money on public works and create jobs that might bring an end to the Great Depression. The federal Works Progress Administration, or WPA, put up almost half the money, and used 800,000 man-hours of labor to finish the project in 20 months. The WPA built literally hundreds of city halls and county courthouses in the late 1930s. Few of them were as big as the one in Houston, but nearly all came out looking something like it: orderly Art Deco buildings that are still in use in every corner of the country. Art Deco has been an architectural fashion for quite a while now, which is one reason why this building made the National Register of Historic Places in 1990.

As you have probably heard, we are soon about to embark on another federal stimulus program aimed at heading off (or at least softening) another economic collapse. A large proportion of the
stimulus money, perhaps most of it, will be given to states and localities to spend on infrastructure. When people use the word “infrastructure” these days, they nearly always mean roads and bridges, or, as the phrase invariably goes, “crumbling roads and bridges.” But I wonder whether some of that money might be set aside for public buildings, either for renovating them or to help pay for something new that is as good as the Houston City Hall.

Government buildings, whether they house a city council, a county board, or a state legislature, are the tangible manifestation of American democracy. From a civics perspective, it makes all the sense in the world to invest in doing them well, as Roosevelt and the WPA generally did. Would this make short-term economic sense? I can’t say I know the answer. But I think the question is worth asking.

**THERE WAS A TIME** in America when almost every big city felt it a matter of obligation and pride to build an imposing edifice for conducting public business. Odd as it may seem, I was reminded of this when I saw “Milk,” the new fictionalized film biography of Harvey Milk, the gay activist and city supervisor who was assassinated, along with Mayor George Moscone, in San Francisco in 1978. Most of the audience was riveted on the uncanny acting of Sean Penn, who played the title role. I was, too. But I also was struck by the performance of a supporting character, one that did not act, speak or even move. It was the San Francisco City Hall.

As it appears in the movie, San Francisco’s city hall is awe-inspiring — so immense and beautiful that you almost think you are looking at the capitol of a sovereign nation, rather than the seat of local government in a city that never reached a population of a million people. Two full blocks square, with an elaborate grand staircase and the fifth-largest dome in the world, it seems to beg for an emperor, rather than a mayor and 11 district supervisors.

But that is the kind of building San Francisco wanted to build after the devastation of the 1906 earthquake. And that is what it managed to complete in 1915, all 500,000 square feet of it, at a cost of $3.5 million — roughly $400 million in today’s dollars. There are those who say it is the most beautiful public building anywhere in America. I have no grounds to disagree with them.

But it did not take an earthquake to create a splendid city hall in those years — it just took a lot of money and civic pride. And urban America had both of those in the years before World War I.

If San Francisco’s city hall has a genuine rival in grandeur among public buildings of its era, it is the city hall in Philadelphia. That building has nearly twice as many square feet of space, was the tallest building in the world when it opened in 1901, and was legally required to remain the tallest
in the city until 1989. Nobody was allowed to build anything higher than the William Penn statue that graced the top of the building.

No one should try to draw a connection between the architectural grandeur of a building and the personal or political virtue of the office-holders. It was in the majestic city hall of San Francisco that an elected supervisor shot Milk and Moscone, and one could make a safe bet that enough money has changed hands illegally along the ornate corridors of Philadelphia's city hall to pay for much of the current renovation.

**GREAT PUBLIC BUILDINGS** do not guarantee that politicians who work there will be honest, nor do they motivate all ordinary citizens to be good. What they do is express the self-confidence of a city and, ideally, create a public space where residents can gather as a community. The inability or unwillingness to build impressive public buildings is a sure sign that civic confidence has somehow been depleted.

And that has been the story in urban America, more or less, since the end of World War II. Except for a few diehard modernists, nobody has much good to say about any sort of architecture from the 1950s and early 1960s, but civic architecture from this period is the worst of a bad lot.

Like the private office buildings built in those days, the postwar city halls tended to be stripped-down modernist skyscrapers, shorn of decoration or any attempt to depict the values or identity of the city. From the outside, they are indistinguishable from the sterile bank buildings and insurance company towers around them. Inside, they are usually worse. At least the private office towers were well maintained by the corporate owners and tenants; the skyscrapers built as city halls often grew dingy within the first decade due to the limited public money available to keep them up. If you want to see what post-war modernism did to civic architecture, take a look at the Coleman Young Municipal Center in Detroit. Or the City-County Building in Indianapolis. Detroit tore down a splendid 19th-century city hall building when its new one was finished.

The later 1960s and 1970s produced a few ambitious attempts to restore the proud tradition of city hall design. Most notable was the Boston City Hall of 1967, one of the most bizarre public buildings of the 20th century, built in the briefly popular modernist style known as brutalism. It was an asymmetrical sterile fortress rather than a public building in any conventional sense.

The Boston City Hall was so unusual that it did spark a measure of civic pride and a fair amount of critical acclaim in its first few years of operation: In 1976, a panel of architects voted it the seventh-greatest building in American history. But its experimental open plan was always a mess
on the inside, confusing to the visitor and, what's worse, difficult for the employees to work in. By the 1990s, it was almost universally being denounced as an impractical eyesore. Mayor Tom Menino has spent years trying to build the public support needed to tear it down and start over again with a 21st-century city hall that would rise on the waterfront in South Boston.

The 1990s produced a wave of innovation in municipal architecture, but almost all of it came in the form of libraries and museums, rather than city halls. It isn't hard to find the reason. Voters often can be persuaded to support bond issues for libraries, especially when these are pitched as an investment in the city's children. This is what produced interesting and generally popular new libraries in Chicago, Denver, Seattle and a host of other cities during the past 15 years. And museums can attract big money from private donors. City halls possess neither of these advantages. Voters tend to see a grand new city hall as an extravagance of bloated government rather than an investment in the city's future or reputation.

And so there has been relatively little innovation in the way of new city halls during the current decade, although the few cities that have tried it — notably Seattle, San Jose and Austin — all have come up with noteworthy buildings.

I would argue that the time is ripe for a reconnection between civic architecture and civic identity — obviously not one that would reproduce the city halls of San Francisco or even Houston, but one that might create a new form appropriate to the current moment.

Could a federal stimulus package tilted toward infrastructure help cities do this? I don't know. What I do know is that there are worse uses for the money.
“Zombies ahead! Run for your lives!”

Message left by hackers on electronic signs intended to warn motorists about street construction at a busy Austin, Texas, intersection. The sign was displayed for a few hours after the hackers cut a padlock to get access to the signs’ computers.

—from the daily Who Said That? feature on Governing.com

LETTERS

Goodbye to Grandiosity

I read “Stimulating Architecture” [Assessments, January], on the need for more ambitiously designed government buildings, with great interest. I am a commercial real estate agent, in addition to my duties as city council chair in my city.

About 10 years ago, National Public Radio did a commentary on the disappearing grandiosity in the architecture of churches and public buildings. In the past, public buildings inspired awe and houses were tiny. The commentary went on to say something along the lines that, over time, we traded large cathedrals for cathedral ceilings in our personal living rooms. We lost our spirit of connectedness to our communities when we became more successful and stable and our houses became larger.

Over the years, as I have leased and sold space to government and non-government entities, I have thought about that NPR commentary. The other things that happened along the way were that air conditioning and central heating became more important than marble pillars and cooling fountains; the Americans with Disabilities Act took priority over formidable front steps; and government programs to serve every need imaginable forced the question of whether we should provide grand space to employees or services to the people.

I think pragmatism will continue to rule the day over grandiosity for the foreseeable future, at least as long as we have the intense media scrutiny of every single movement of politicians. And maybe it’s OK if scrutiny results in certain things, like fiscal responsibility and transparency. It’s OK, as long as we don’t lose our way and forget that all of us together are truly better than any of us as individuals.

Robin Eschliman
Chair
City Council
Lincoln, Nebraska

E-mail us at mailbox@governing.com

Governing reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity.

$235 million

Amount New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg donated to charities in 2008, making him the leading living individual donor in the United States for the year.

―from the Daily Digit on Governing.com

Top 5 Clicks

1. Radical Renewal: Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak
2. The Millennial in the Cubicle
3. Ken Miller: Free the Hostages
4. The B&G Report
5. Code Green: Cities’ new approach on green buildings

Agenda for ’09

Get news and notes from Governing’s Outlook in the States and Localities conference, held last month in Washington. Some of America’s top leaders met to discuss what’s on tap for states, cities and counties in the coming year.

Sign up for Governing’s new e-newsletter on the public workforce at governing.com/email
3-10-09

Dear Robin & Schliman Chair,

I wish to request the Bethany Library not close. I live in a condo in Astor Center. There are so many of us to not drive. They walk, some by walking, and then they drive their vehicles. It's a must, especially to them, then it's a place where the younger girls several of them study close to the school. It also encourages them to stay off the streets. So I appeal with you to keep our library here in Bethany.

Sincerely,

RECEIVED: Mar 12, 2009, 4:44:52 PM

CITY COUNCIL OFFICE
Dear Mr. Eschliman,

My wife I lived at Cotner Center Condo #664 Holbrooke for 4 years. We have 101 condo's about 130 people. The Bethany Library is about 1/2 blocks north of us. We have a small library left from when it was school but not much left for books.

Our Residents, 3/4 women, are in their 70's, 80's, 90's, and are getting too old to drive or walk any long distance. I use your Library. Please, please, do not close the Bethany Library. We need this here and use it a lot.

Sincerely,
Darrell Bennett
1540 N Cotner Blvd. Apt. 407
Lincoln, NE 68505

PS. Send to Council at Board Meeting

Darrell & Harriet Bennett
1540 N Cotner Blvd. Apt. 407
Lincoln, NE 68505

LINCOLN NE 685
11 MAR 2009 PM 2 T
Dan,  

Okay, Thanks.  

Tammy Grammer  
City Council Secretary  
441-6867  

Can you include this in the directors packet and forward to the mayor’s office

Bush, Sally [mailto:sbush@mt.gov]  
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2009 9:16 AM  
To: 'dmarvin@lincoln.ne.gov'  
Subject: South Branch Library

Dear Mr. Marvin,  

I grew up in a house on Stratford Avenue--just a few blocks from the South Branch Library in Lincoln.  I am terribly upset to hear that the Lincoln Library Board has voted to close that branch.
As a child, I spent many hot summer days reading in that blissfully cool library. I went on to become an avid reader and received a degree in education with a minor in English from the University of Nebraska. For the past 20 years, I have been employed as a Legislative Technical Editor for the Montana Legislature. I believe that the encouragement that I was given to read and love books in my elementary school years all the way through high school led me to my current career and to a life filled with the magic that can be found in books.

In a time when text messaging and cell phones have taken over as primary means of communication, it is more important than ever to foster good reading skills and provide opportunities for children to learn the value of the written word. I am dismayed at the deterioration in communication skills that I see and by the inability of many Americans to use the English language properly. Communication is a vital skill in any line of work, and there is no better way to improve vocabulary, study skills, and writing ability than by reading, reading, and more reading. Not only does the local library provide books, but it also provides people of all ages with information about our ever-changing world through computer access and other technology.

Please do what you can to ensure that the youth of Lincoln have the opportunity to access a local branch of the library and to ensure that older folks like myself have a place of peace and comfort in which to travel, learn, and experience other worlds though the pages of a book.

Thanks very much for any assistance you may provide in keeping the South Branch Library open for business!

Sincerely,

Sally A. Bush
321 Holter St.
Helena, MT  59601
InterLinc: City Council Feedback for General Council

Name:       Jane Levine
Address:    2602 E. Aloha St.
City:       Seattle, WA

Phone:
Fax:
Email:

Comment or Question:
I grew up in Lincoln and went to South Branch Library eagerly and regularly. I still have family in Lincoln.

But the reasons to keep South Branch open aren’t sentimental. They are, ironically, economic. I know you are facing a seemingly impossible budget. But kids who are eager to read and eager to learn through reading or in school will end up costing the city less money in the long run because these kids are less likely to end up in the judicial system or otherwise needing services.
Dear Mayor Beutler and City Council members:
We would like to voice our strong opposition to the closing of the South Street Branch Library. This branch serves many low-income families and is widely used by children in our neighborhood. Many of the South Branch patrons will have little means to use other libraries. We are in favor of exploring other options that will allow this branch to stay open.
Please consider the negative impact on residents of lower income neighborhoods when decisions are being made to close libraries and pools. These neighborhoods are most greatly in need of strong community resources to provide safe and fun learning and recreational options for families.
Sincerely,
Jennifer Perry and David DiLillo
2540 C Street
Dear City Council Member Grammer,

Please do not close Lincoln city's South Branch library. As a taxpayer, I am more than willing to pay $5/month in property taxes to keep the library open. My home is above the $150,000 range. We feel it is an important part of our community.

We walk to the library often. My daughter even started a book club and she begs me to take her to the library! We definitely would not be able to go as often if the South Branch is closed. We also notice that there are always people using that library. If anything, I think you should poll the neighborhood to find out who would support a tax hike to keep it open before you close it!

You may or may not be familiar with statistic concerning libraries and literacy rates. Please read this very brief and informative list of statistics collected by San Mateo librarian, Jeanine Asche:

http://www.smcl.org/services/RAR/Statistics.html

Here is an excerpt:
"A typical middle class child enters first grade with approximately 1,000 hours of being read to, while the corresponding child from a low-income family averages just 25 of those hours, such differences in the availability of book resources may have unintended and pernicious consequences for low-income children' long term success in schooling. M. Adams, Beginning to read. (MIT Press, Cambridge, MA, 1990)."

As you know, the South Branch serves the Near South neighborhood which is home to many low-come families. Please do not take away their access to the wonderful resource! Thank you for listening and I plead with you not to close the South Branch Library!

Julie Abo
2201 Woodscrest Ave.
Lincoln 68502
Dear City Council Member,

My second home is South St. Library, and has been since it opened.

Yes, there is one closer, but not as convenient or as warm or friendly. I have become acquainted with all the librarians through the years. (Smile) They know my tastes and offer advice.

I am a senior citizen and it is really a big part of my life. It may be altered. Please don't take away my home.

Sincerely,

Carl Yang
March 6, 2009

City Council Office
555 South 10th St.
Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear City Council Members:

Enclosed is a copy of a second letter that I sent to the Journal Star. Please read this and consider the contents.

I realize that you are council for the city of Lincoln, but considering the number of people who are employed at the Lancaster Manor that live in Lincoln and the number of residents originally from Lincoln, I thought you might want to at least look into this. Not only could the employees and residents be affected, it could very well affect other businesses in Lincoln.

Something here is wrong, there aren’t enough answers. Can you help the Lancaster Manor make sure that the Lancaster County Board does the right thing?

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Patty Hill
I have already had one letter printed this month in the paper about the Lancaster Manor, I feel strongly compelled to write again.

After attending a public meeting at the Labor Temple last evening (March 4, 2009) regarding the future of the Lancaster Manor, it occurred to me that something I originally stated in my first letter, but was suggested that I change, does in fact hold true; the residents will feel displaced from their home. If the Lancaster County Board decides to simply sell the Manor to a private company, the possibility of these residents losing their home is huge. The Manor has approximately 290 beds. At the present time, approximately 180 of these beds are occupied by residents on Medicaid and approximately 70 beds are occupied by residents who pay with other means. Most private nursing homes do not take many Medicaid residents. For these families to find new homes for their loved ones would prove very difficult and emotional. Where will all of these wonderful elderly people go? It doesn’t appear that the Lancaster County Board members even care.

I believe that the VOTERS of Lancaster County should demand that an independent audit be conducted of Lancaster Manor’s financial records for the last 3 years before any decisions are made. This audit should be completed by someone who has nothing to do with any members of the County Board or the Lancaster Manor. According to an article in the Journal Star dated March 4, 2009, there is a quite a discrepancy of figures. It seems that no one really knows if the Manor was approximately $1 million in the black or approximately $1 million in the red in May of 2007. That’s a very big discrepancy.

The way it looks to me, the Lancaster County Board members are trying to “dump” the Manor as quick as possible. Why? Do they have something to hide? For 37 plus years, the Lancaster Manor always functioned with a positive balance and now, all of a sudden, it’s losing money. Something’s terribly wrong!!!!!! As voting tax payers, we deserve to know.

Patty Hill
6340 Durango Court
Lincoln, NE 68516
402 420-1125
rh35714@windstream.net
To General Council <council@lincoln.ne.gov>  
cc  
bcc  
Subject InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for General Council

Name: Joeth Zucco  
Address: 2310 Ryons Street  
City: Lincoln, NE 68502  
Phone: 328-8245  
Fax:  
Email: joethzucco@gmail.com

Comment or Question:
To the Members of the City Council,
When I moved back to Lincoln nearly seven years ago with my young daughters, I was greatly impressed with the quality of life Lincoln has to offer. We have a great community for families with children, for families without children, and for empty-nesters. As far as I'm concerned, Lincoln is a great place to live. But if the city council and the mayor decide to meet budget shortfalls by closing the South Street library and Irvingdale Pool--among others--is compromising the quality of our city. Certainly there are options besides shutting these valuable resources down. I live between the pool and the library and we use them both. Can't you start a volunteer program and offer college credit or community service projects to keep these places open? How in the world can we afford an new arena when we can't keep our pools and libraries open? How can we afford to spruce up the Haymarket when we can't maintain the parks? Please think about the kind of city that you want to live in. I'm sure that it's the same kind of city that we all want to live in. Don't close our libraries and pools and neglect our parks.

Thanks,
Joeth Zucco
I hope that a proposal to cut the City of Lincoln's annual contribution to the Lincoln Municipal Band (LMB) does not come to fruition, as it would seriously endanger the LMB's future. The LMB has been a "fixture" on the Lincoln scene for 102 years now, this summer. Additionally, cutting all city funding for the Lincoln Arts Council will endanger the band, as well, as it provides important services and direct funding to the LMB and the entire arts community.

Mike Veak
RETIRE MUSIC EDUCATOR from NEBRASKA
Living in Lincoln

Teachers are a special grade of people in a class by themselves.
Please keep the Bethany and South branches open.

Reduce hours or days, get volunteers but please don't close those facilities. These locations are needed.
March 9, 2009

Dear Ms. Eschliman:

Recently the Lincoln Journal Star wrote about the South Branch and the Bethany Branch of the Public Library being considered for closure.

My interest is primarily in the South Branch. I have been a volunteer there for the last 5 years. My job was to weed and water the plants outside and I picked up trash on the grounds. My supervisor was Gary Meier who is now retired. He felt it was more economical to lay soaker hoses and to have me come 3 days a week to turn on the water for an hour rather than have one of his men come to water by hand.

The plan worked well until last year when the hoses were not used. Someone determined that the hose to the east was a hazard (although it had been used without an incident for a couple of years.) Fortunately we had a good summer of rainfall. I understand now the maintenance has been hired out to a company.

We here in this neighborhood use the South Branch often. It is within walking distance for many in the Near South and the Country Club neighborhoods. It is like a bridge linking two neighborhoods. Not everyone has the transportation to get out to the outlying new libraries. Our little corner is accessible to children and elderly.

I don’t doubt that Westminster Presbyterian would like to have the corner land. But what is better use of it—a parking lot covered with cement or a living, breathing library where people of all ages and income groups can come to be enriched.

Sincerely,

Aldine Jackson
3710 S. 20th St.
Lincoln
Dear Mayor Beutler and Lincoln City Council Members,

Bethany and South Branch are the only libraries left in Lincoln that serve older neighborhoods and lower income families. I am questioning the "need" to trim the budget in this particular fashion.

It's time for us to take action to save Bethany and South Branch Libraries. Organized we can put together a campaign to address this budget shortfall in a much more creative manner than slashing two venerable community landmark libraries.

Millions of our taxpayer dollars were funneled into the new libraries which are out of reach by bicycle and walking of most of Lincoln, while the neighborhood and accessible ones are up for closing. The neighbors helped build Bethany with bake sale money, as you may know.

The wisdom of eliminating inner city services may be questionable when viewed through the lens of upcoming energy policy shifts. If you aren't familiar with what other cities are doing, you may want to check out the City of Portland Peak Oil Task Force.

Sincerely,

Deborah J Yost
Administrator, Save Bethany Library Facebook group

2926 DelhayDrive
Lincoln, Nebraska 68507
402.261.4056

blog
http://therosemarytree.blogspot.com/
Nebraska Representatives:

I am writing to ask for your support of the Lincoln Municipal Band and the Lincoln Arts Council. The Band has a large community following each week of the summer months. They are very important to the musical arena of Lincoln. They only receive 4 cents per year in taxes to help support them - $10,000 from the City of Lincoln. The Arts Council provides direct funding to the band and the entire arts community, so support for them is also extremely important to allow the band to continue performing and many other arts events to continue being an essential part of the Lincoln community. A community without arts would be one lacking in the most important areas of young and old lives. Thanks for your support.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Terpsma

Blessings, [IMAGE]

Gretchen
March, 2009

Dear Friend,

With the current economic downturn, the Lincoln Municipal Band is facing unprecedented funding challenges this year.

Adding to an already difficult year for us, the Mayor has proposed cutting the City of Lincoln’s annual contribution to the band which would seriously endanger our future.

The Lincoln Arts Council is also in danger of losing all city funding. This organization provides important services and direct funding to the Lincoln Municipal Band and the entire arts community.

We hope that you will speak up, not only in favor of continued support, but also for increased support of the arts in our community. The mayor has invited comments and suggestions from the public regarding the proposed budget, and we need your help convincing our city officials how important the arts are to you – and to Lincoln.

On the back of this letter, you will find specific instructions about how your voice can keep the arts alive in Lincoln.

Sincerely,

Dean W. Haist
Executive Director
We’re depending on your help!

To register your comments at the City of Lincoln website, where Mayor Beutler has invited your input:

- Go to www.lincoln.ne.gov
- Click on Mayor’s Office in the box toward the right side of the screen.
- Click on Taking Charge: City Program Prioritization at the top of the list on the screen.*
- Find Feedback or Comments toward the bottom of the page. Click the words this form where it says Please fill out this form.
- Where it says Pick a Topic, click the arrow on the right side. It will give you a drop down menu, where you click on Identity Lincoln.
- Click in the box under it, labeled Comments/Feedback. Write your comments and suggestions in support of Lincoln Municipal Band and Lincoln Arts Council funding. If you are willing to do so, please sign your name so that it is clear to the city who is supporting the band.
- When you are finished, click Submit in the lower right hand corner.

*If you would like to read more about the city budget recommendations, click on Identity Lincoln on the Taking Charge page above.*

Please consider making a personal contact via e-mail, phone call, and/or a letter telling elected officials why the Lincoln Municipal Band and other arts programs in Lincoln are important to you.

Mayor Chris Beutler
555 South 10th, 2nd Floor Rm 208
Lincoln, NE 68508
Phone: 402-441-7511
Fax: 402-441-7120
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CITY COUNCIL OFFICE
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING
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At-Large
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The Lincoln Municipal Band is asking Lincoln citizens to write City council to seek a way to help fund the Lincoln Municipal Band during the year for enjoyment. Listening for Lincoln citizens at its gatherings. Sincerely Gary Siemens
An Eye-Opening Comparison

The Karl King Band is the municipal band for Fort Dodge, Iowa, providing free concerts for the community.
- The population of Ft. Dodge, Iowa is around 25,000.
- The city of Ft. Dodge, Iowa contributes $35,000 each year to support the band. This amount has increased through the years.
- This means that in Fort Dodge, each citizen spends about $1.40 per year in taxes to help support the Karl King Band.

The Lincoln Municipal Band is Nebraska’s only professional concert band, providing free concerts for our community for over 100 years:
- The population of Lincoln, Nebraska is around 250,000.
- In the past, the City of Lincoln has contributed $10,000 each year to support the band. This amount has not increased since 2003, and the band is now in jeopardy of losing this funding.
- For the past six years, each Lincoln citizen has spent ONLY FOUR CENTS PER YEAR in taxes to help support the Lincoln Municipal Band.

Please help save the Lincoln Municipal Band by telling your elected officials that a funding increase is needed! Please see the back of the letter for instructions.
Please continue support for the Lincoln Municipal Band. It is a very worthwhile activity enjoyed by a lot of people (voters).
I am a neighbor of the South Street Library. I am asking you to reconsider this decision. The South Street library is a very important part of our neighborhood and it would be a shame to close something that is enjoyed by all of our residents. We need a positive place for families and individuals to go. To close our local library takes away what little we have in our neighborhood which is for all of the people in our community. With the tough economic times our country is going through we need to keep our libraries open so that all can enjoy books no matter what their financial status. Surely a small amount of the money that goes toward our schools can be redirected toward such an important part of our community.

I appreciate your time.

Sincerely,
Sarah Skirry
ADDENDUM
TO
DIRECTORS’ AGENDA
MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2009

I. CITY CLERK - None

II. CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE MAYOR & DIRECTORS TO COUNCIL -

MAYOR -

1. NEWS ADVISORY - RE: Mayor Beutler’s Public Schedule Week of March 14 through March 20, 2009 - Schedule subject to change.

2. NEWS RELEASE - RE: Candidate Debates Set For March 17 - Debates to be aired on 5 City-TV.

DIRECTORS - None

III. COUNCIL RFI’S & CITIZENS CORRESPONDENCE TO INDIVIDUAL COUNCIL MEMBERS - None

IV. CORRESPONDENCE FROM CITIZENS TO COUNCIL -

1. E-Mail from John R. Brown II, Landons Neighborhood - RE: Item#21, 05-188, Change of Zone #3413 on City Council ‘pending list’.

2. E-Mail from Larry Schwartz - RE: Why are they salting the streets?
DATE: March 13, 2009
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Diane Gonzolas, Citizen Information Center, 441-7831

Mayor Beutler's Public Schedule
Week of March 14 through March 20, 2009
Schedule subject to change

Tuesday, March 17
• Senators and Legislative staff St. Patrick's Party - 5 p.m., The Nebraska Club, 233 S. 13th St., Suite 2000

Wednesday, March 18
• United Way annual meeting, remarks/awards presentations - 11:30 a.m., Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, 333 S. 13th St.

Thursday, March 19
• KFOR Morning Show - 7:45 a.m.
• Olsson Associates St. Patrick's party - 4:30 p.m., Red 9 (formerly PO Pears), 322 S. 9th St.
CANDIDATE DEBATES SET FOR MARCH 17

Debates to be aired on 5 CITY-TV

The League of Women Voters (LWV) of Lincoln-Lancaster County invites the public to a series of five debates Tuesday, March 17 featuring candidates on the ballot for the spring primary election. The primary is Tuesday, April 7, and the general election is May 5.

The debates will run from 2:45 to 9 p.m. in the Bevins Family Life Center on the main floor of Saint Paul United Methodist Church, 1144 “M” Street. 5 CITY-TV (Time Warner Cable channel 5) also will tape these debates for rebroadcast. All races are nonpartisan. In the schedule below, all candidates are listed in alphabetical order. The LWV is still receiving commitments from candidates on attendance.

- 2:45 to 3:45 p.m. - Lincoln Airport Authority, at large. Candidates are John Hoppe Jr., John-Paul Jamison, Mark Long, Val Schmiedeskamp and Walter Zink II. (If two or three candidates attend, this will be shortened to 30 minutes.)

- 4 to 4:30 p.m. - Lincoln Public Schools Board of Education, Subdistrict #1. Candidates are Kathy Danek, Greg Wiltshire and Kirby Young.

- 4:45 to 5:15 p.m. - Lincoln Public Schools Board of Education, Subdistrict #3. Candidates are Barbara Baier, Jezikalvy Hilgenfeld and Tony Merritt.

- 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. - Lincoln Public Schools Board of Education, Subdistrict #5. Candidates are Lanny Boswell, Norman Dority, Kevin Keller and Mike Laughter. (If two or three candidates attend, this will be shortened to 30 minutes.)

- 7 to 9 p.m. - Lincoln City Council. Candidates are Toberlin Burger, Eugene Carroll, Mike Deal, John Haltom (candidacy being challenged), Adam Hornung, Jane Kinsey, Bruce Kitchen, Terry Kubicek, Erin Pierson, Jayne Snyder and Ken Svoboda.

If only one candidate is attending, the debate will be cancelled, but those attending are invited to visit with the candidate during the time allowed for the debate.
To reach the Bevins Family Life Center from the west doors, use the elevator (“M” button). If entering the church through the south door, go up the interior stairs and walk away from the sanctuary. Parking is available across 11th Street or in the parking garage one block south of the church. Free space may be available on the street or in the garage under the church (enter from 11th Street).

Debate co-sponsors include the Mayor's Commission on Women; the Lincoln Area Agency on Aging; the National Council of Negro Women (Lincoln Section); the North 27th Street Business and Civic Association; the NAACP; and Saint Paul United Methodist Church. Funding for the debates is provided by the League of Women Voters of Lincoln-Lancaster Education Fund, a 501(c)(3) organization.

Audience members are asked to not wear or otherwise display items indicating support of specific candidates while in the debate area.

For a schedule of air times, see the City Web site at lincoln.ne.gov and click on the 5 CITY-TV logo. The debates also will be available through video-on-demand on the Web site.
Marvin,
This is John Brown II, Carol's husband. My mother has long ago passed away! You must have me confused with my son John Brown III (J.R.).

I am the standing president of Landons Neighborhood Association. Carol is the Secretary/Treasurer of Landons. After discussing this matter with others from our neighborhood, Landons chooses to keep this item on the pending list. Many changes have happened in this area in the last several years. You may not have been in our neighborhood recently too see these changes. One issue is the congestion of traffic on 24th street and the lack of a light at this intersection for the Campbell Elementary traffic to get out onto Superior Street. Traffic can be backed up on 24th Street almost to Dodge St. at school dismissal and in the am. This treacherous situation is only enhanced when we have snow. The way the townhomes are designed on Dodge Street East of Campbell, allows for no parking between driveways. This causes illegal parking and severe congestion and overflow of teacher/parent parking on 23rd and Dodge Street (directly south of the school) in front of homes. This issue makes even getting out of the driveway of these homes very frustrating. They have posted signs on Dodge Street for no parking during certain hours however this does not help, people still park illegally. Snow again adds even a worse case scenario with this situation. As you see we have a lot of traffic and congestion already in this neighborhood.

Landons would be happy to sit down with a city planner or a developer to discuss what might be the right fit for this parcel which would have the least impact for Landons residents. We look forward to working with anyone.

Best regards,
John R Brown II
Landons Neighborhood
2201 Elb Circle
Lincoln, NE 68521
another. One of those items is an item that was submitted by Landon's Neighborhood Association back in 2005, when Carol was president of the association.

This item was a proposal to "down-zone" a vacant property about 5.5 acres in size on the east side of N. 24th Street, south of Superior, from R-4 to R-2. The neighborhood association filed this request back in 2003, at the same time that the owner, Martin Fortney, was requesting approval for a Special Permit/Community Unit Plan to allow 61 dwelling units on the tract. The R-4 zoning on this land had been approved several years earlier, along with a Special Permit for elderly housing (128 units) and domiciliary care/nursing home (60 units), which had been supported by the association. Mr. Fortney's attempt to get his CUP approved met with neighborhood opposition and was denied by the City Council in July 2003.

The neighborhood association's request to downzone this property to R-2 was recommended for denial by staff in 2003, got to the Planning Commission and was denied by them in 2005. Prior to a public hearing the City Council voted to place the item on the pending list for an indefinite period. At the time, there were active discussions between the developer and the association on developing this property. But we have not heard from either the association or the owner since that time.

I am writing to see if the neighborhood association would be willing to withdraw the down-zone request. This was a notable exception to the rule in Lincoln that down-zonings are initiated by the property owner, or in the case of several older neighborhoods, by a large number of the property owners in those neighborhoods. The down-zoning would void the special permit for elderly housing that was previously supported by the association. If Mr. Fortney or any future owner wants to develop anything other than single family and townhouse lots or the uses approved in the special permit, he would need to submit another request for a special permit.

If the association is not willing to withdraw this request, then my next step will be to see if the owner wants to request that the Council remove the item from pending and hold a hearing. I believe that the Council would grant that hearing in the interest of preserving due process. Please let me know how you would like to proceed.

Best regards to your mom!

Marvin S. Krout, Director
Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Department
555 South 10th Street, Room 213
Lincoln, NE 68510
402-441-6366

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Windows Live™: Keep your life in sync. Check it out.
Council Members

I would like to express my disgust over the decision of head of public works, Greg MacLean to spray all that salt brine on the Lincoln public streets on March 12 & 13, 2009. Myself and many others as residents of Lincoln think that this was a gross waste of (tax payer) city funds, labor and unneeded wear & tear on city equipment. The slight chance of moisture over the weekend was removed from the forecast in plenty of time to avoid the application of salt brine. If Mr. MacLean, was so worried about frost on bridges that is all that would have needed a coating of brine. I spoke with numerous co workers on Friday, who drive of 20 to 40 miles daily to work in Lincoln. They saw no ice or frost on Thursday or Friday morning. Additionally, the pollution, dry salt dust in the air and corrosive damage he caused to personal vehicles during this exploit is also a price that must be considered. Please address this issue so that tax payer dollars are not used for needless activities.

Thank You

Larry Schwartz