I. CITY CLERK

II. MAYOR

1. NEWS RELEASE. “O” Street to close Tuesday, May 3rd, during evening hours for pavement marking.
2. NEWS RELEASE. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON #1. Only lane closures needed in the area to complete crosswalk markings.
3. NEWS ADVISORY. Mayor Beutler, Lincoln Water System officials, and members of the Mayor’s Water Conservation Task Force will hold a news conference Thursday, May 5th, 10:00 a.m. at 555 S. 10th, Room 303, to recognize Mayor’s Water Conservation Task Force’s poster winners and the status of the City’s water supply and water conservation efforts.
4. Invitation to Mayor Chris Beutler’s Swearing-In Ceremony, Monday, May 9, 2011.
5. NEWS RELEASE. Mayor not recommending watering restrictions.
6. NEWS RELEASE. Mayor announces winners of annual Water Conservation Art Contest.

WEST HAYMARKET JOINT PUBLIC AGENCY

1. The West Haymarket Joint Public Agency will meet on Thursday, May 5, 2011, City County Building, Room 303. Revised agenda and substitute resolution for Bill No. WH 11-34 are posted on the web.
2. Additional Information: Motion to Amend No. 1 (WH11-35M1) will be presented at the meeting on Thursday. Posted at http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/finance/account/jpa-mtgs.htm.

III. DIRECTORS

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

1. NEWS RELEASE. Lincoln and Lancaster County Environmental Leadership Awards.

CITY LIBRARIES

1. Library goes live with new online catalog and checkout system on May 4, 2011.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

1. Administrative approvals by the Planning Director from April 26, 2011 through May 2, 2011.

PLANNING COMMISSION

1. Action by the Planning Commission on May 4, 2011.

WEED AUTHORITY

1. Combined Weed Program, City of Lincoln, April 2011 monthly report. Also on line at http://lancaster.ne.gov/weeds/planrpts.htm
IV. COUNCIL MEMBERS

DOUG EMERY
1. Correspondence from Linda Shamburg, University Place Community Organization, suggesting an area improvement in painting fire hydrants.

V. MISCELLANEOUS

VI. CORRESPONDENCE FROM CITIZENS

1. InterLinc correspondence from Jason Chambers on his testimony and research concerning the claim for damages with his mailbox.
2. Telephone message from Paula Nicholls on the widening of Old Cheney Road. Would like to see the engineers plan used.
3. Telephone message from Virginia Carter on the widening of Old Cheney Road. Use the engineers plan for safety and future traffic flow.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

F:\FILES\CITYCOUN\Directors Meetings\2011\May 2011\da050911.wpd
PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES DEPARTMENT
Engineering Services, 901 West Bond., Lincoln, NE 68521, 402-441-7711, fax 402- 441-6576

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 3, 2011
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Brian Dittmann, Engineering Services, 402-525-5646

“O” STREET TO CLOSE TONIGHT DURING EVENING HOURS FOR PAVEMENT MARKING

Public Works officials today announced that “O” Street from 22nd to 25th streets will be closed for pavement marking work beginning at 7 p.m. tonight (Tuesday, May 3). The work is scheduled to be completed and the roadway re-opened by midnight.

Motorists are advised to use alternate routes “N,” “P” and “Q” streets during this time.

For more information on City street closings and project information, visit the City website at lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: street projects).

-30-
THE CONTRACTOR HAS INFORMED THE CITY THAT MORE WORK WAS COMPLETED THIS AFTERNOON THAN ANTICIPATED. ONLY LANE CLOSURES WILL BE NEEDED IN THE AREA THIS EVENING TO COMPLETE CROSSWALK MARKINGS.

“O” STREET TO CLOSE TONIGHT DURING EVENING HOURS FOR PAVEMENT MARKING

Public Works officials today announced that “O” Street from 22nd to 25th streets will be closed for pavement marking work beginning at 7 p.m. tonight (Tuesday, May 3). The work is scheduled to be completed and the roadway re-opened by midnight.

Motorists are advised to use alternate routes “N,” “P” and “Q” streets during this time.

For more information on City street closings and project information, visit the City website at lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: street projects).

-30-
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
555 South 10th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508, 441-7511, fax 441-7120

DATE: May 4, 2011
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Dave Norris, Citizen Information Center, 441-7547

Mayor Chris Beutler will be joined by Lincoln Water System (LWS) officials and members of the Mayor’s Water Conservation Task Force at a news conference at 10 a.m. Thursday, May 5 in Room 303 at the County-City Building, 555 S. 10th St.

The Mayor will recognize the winners of the Mayor’s Water Conservation Task Force’s annual poster contest and discuss the status of the City’s water supply and water conservation efforts.
The Honorable Mayor Chris Beutler invites you to his Swearing-In Ceremony

Monday, May 9, 2011

Lincoln City Council Chambers
555 South 10th Street
3 p.m.

A re-election reception in Room 303 of the County City Building follows the ceremony. For more information, please contact the Mayor's Office at 402-441-7511.
MAYOR NOT RECOMMENDING WATERING RESTRICTIONS

As the warmer months approach, Mayor Chris Beutler said watering restrictions will not be necessary because the City’s water supply is in excellent shape. And he said the recent completion of a major new water pipeline will mean increased capacity and lower energy use for the Lincoln Water System (LWS). This is the second consecutive year the Mayor is not asking residents to follow the voluntary designated-day watering schedule implemented eight years ago.

“Lincoln is blessed with an adequate supply of high-quality water, but we still need to use good water conservation practices,” Mayor Beutler said. “We also want to remind residents that water rates are structured to encourage conservation – the more water you use, the higher the rate. Even small measures can save a lot of water, and that means lower water bills for consumers.”

Jerry Obrist, LWS Chief Engineer, said precipitation is near normal levels, the aquifer is full and flows in the Platte River are slightly above normal. Lincoln’s water comes from well fields in the Platte near the City’s Ashland treatment plant. In January, a new 60-inch water transmission pipeline was completed from the treatment plant to the pump station in northeast Lincoln. Obrist said the project increases capacity from 100 million gallons to 170 million gallons per day, provides additional reliability in the water system and reduces electricity consumption in its early years of operation.

Obrist said the City is currently reviewing its water rate structure and its schedule for the replacement of aging infrastructure. “We must ensure that the system always has the capacity for fire protection and basic health needs,” Obrist said. “Many factors must be taken into account, including metering, accounting, maintenance and replacement of our current infrastructure. And we must have resources to build new infrastructure to meet the needs of a growing city.”

A complete description of water rates and the City’s Water Management Plan are available on the City website, lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: water). The Mayor’s Water Conservation Task Force recommends the following:

• Water during the cool part of the day, and don’t water in windy conditions.
• Install a rain sensor device on automatic sprinklers.
• Adjust sprinklers to water only the lawn, and not the sidewalk or street.
• Use a broom, not a hose and water, for outdoor cleaning.
• Wash your car with a pail of soapy water, using the hose only to rinse the car.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 5, 2011
FOR MORE INFORMATION: David Norris, Citizen Information Center, 441-7547
Jerry Obrist, Lincoln Water System, 441-7571

MAYOR ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF ANNUAL WATER CONSERVATION ART CONTEST

Mayor Chris Beutler today announced the winners of the annual water conservation poster contest. Lincoln fifth-graders participated in the art contest, sponsored by the Mayor’s Water Conservation Task Force. The top two entries were submitted by Ben Haes, Humann Elementary School, whose artwork will be displayed on two StarTran busboards; and Grayson Wegener, Adams Elementary School, whose artwork will be displayed on billboards at various Lincoln locations.

“This poster contest is one of the ways the Water Conservation Task Force educates the community about the importance of protecting our natural resources,” said Mayor Beutler. “The busboards and billboards remind the public that we all have a role to play in water conservation. It’s also a great opportunity for our young artists to display their talents in a way that will help reinforce good water conservation practices and promote the value of our natural resources for future generations.”

The third-place winner was Masen Louviere of Cavett Elementary. Honorable mention awards were presented to Ashley Carroll, Kahoa Elementary; Sam Lesoing, Adams Elementary; Annie Jia, Morley Elementary; Rebekah Guilford, Guilford Home School; Taylor Morgan, Kahoa Elementary; Kyle Krueger, Zeman Elementary; and Moriah Lindell, Zeman Elementary.
The West Haymarket Joint Public Agency will meet on Thursday May 5, 2011 at 3:30 P.M. in Room 303 of the City County Building.

There is a **Motion to Amend No. 1 (WH11-35M1)** that will change Amendment #4 of the Olsson Contract that is being presented at the JPA meeting this Thursday. This is now posted at: [http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/finance/account/jpa-mtgs.htm](http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/finance/account/jpa-mtgs.htm)

Pam Gadeken  
Administrative Aide II  
Public Works & Utilities Department  
555 South 10th, Suite 2  
Lincoln, NE  68508-3994  
pgadeken@lincoln.ne.gov  
402-441-7558
The West Haymarket Joint Public Agency will meet on Thursday May 5, 2011 at 3:30 P.M. in Room 303 of the City County Building.

There is a revised agenda and substitute resolution for Bill No. WH 11-34. This substitute resolution corrects the total dollar amount of the two projects to $5,639,910.30. Please replace this agenda and the resolution for the ones sent out previously. These are posted at: http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/finance/account/jpa-mtgs.htm

Pam Gadeken
Administrative Aide II
Public Works & Utilities Department
555 South 10th, Suite 2
Lincoln, NE  68508-3994
pgadeken@lincoln.ne.gov
402-441-7558
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 9, 2011
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Renae Rief 441-4602; Gene Hanlon 441-7043

LINCOLN & LANCASTER COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP AWARDS

The Lincoln and Lancaster County Environmental Leadership Awards Ceremony and Breakfast will be held on Friday, June 3, at the Nebraska Champions Club. The awards ceremony will recognize businesses, organizations and individuals who have demonstrated environmental leadership in sustaining and improving air, land, and water quality and protecting public health.

The 2011 Lincoln-Lancaster County Environmental Leadership Award Recipients are:

- **Business and Industry** – ServiceMaster Professional Building Maintenance of Lincoln
- **Agriculture** - Walt Bagley, Prairie Pines
- **Community Organization** - Marcia Mueting, Pharm.D., R.P., Nebraska MEDS (Medication Education and Disposal Strategies)
- **Government** - Nebraska Environmental Trust
- **Education** - Bob Kuzelka
- **Individual Citizens** - Adam Hintz, Meadowlark Coffee & Espresso; and Marilyn McNabb

Mayor Chris Beutler and Lancaster County Board of Commissioner Deb Schorr will be providing opening and closing comments. Rod Fowler from Channel 8 KLKN TV will serve as Master of Ceremonies, and presentations will highlight the accomplishments of each of the award recipients.
To be eligible for an award, winners must have been instrumental in identifying, reducing, or solving an environmental problem or promoting public awareness and concern for the enhancement and protection of the environment. Additionally, winners must have demonstrated active stewardship in one or more of the following environmental practices: pollution prevention/risk reduction, waste reduction and recycling, water conservation, soil conservation, energy conservation, and residential and commercial development.

The Friday, June 3rd Environmental Leadership Awards Breakfast will begin at 7:30 a.m. and conclude by 9:30 a.m. Pre-paid reservations of $15 per person are due by Thursday, May 26. Obtain a reservation form at www.lincoln.ne.gov keyword: awards or by calling 441-8023.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MAY 5, 2011
CONTACT: Greg Mickells, Assistant Library Director
E-MAIL: g.mickells@lincolnlibraries.org
PHONE: 402-441-8511

LIBRARY GOES LIVE WITH NEW ONLINE CATALOG AND CHECKOUT SYSTEM
New Software Installed

Lincoln City Libraries’ online catalog and checkout system went live with new operating system software on Wednesday, May 4.

“Our new software will allow us to make changes and offer features that the old software could not support.” said Assistant Library Director Greg Mickells. “The two most frequently requested features are being notified before items are due and the ability to keep a reading list.” These features are now available to all library users.

For the time being, only customers who get notices via e-mail are able to receive courtesy reminders sent three days prior to an item’s due date. Phone notification has been suspended until new equipment arrives and is installed. Library users not using e-mail notification are encouraged to contact the library to switch from phone notification to e-mail notification.

Additional features of the new catalog include saving a history of everything you read, improved searching, and the ability to create multiple, unlimited, private lists.

The new library system, Koha, is an open-source Integrated Library System (ILS). In use worldwide, its development is steered by a growing community of libraries collaborating to achieve their technology goals. Koha's impressive features continue to evolve and expand to meet the needs of library users. Koha was selected as the ILS for the Pioneer Library Consortium, which includes Lincoln City Libraries.

Notes About Pioneer Library Consortium
The PIONEER project began back in 2007 when the Nebraska Library Commission started working with a small group of librarians forming as an Open Source ILS Task Force. These explorations culminated in a 2008 Open Source ILS Symposium convened by the Nebraska Library Commission, and by 2009 seven interested libraries received grant funds to study the possibilities of taking their libraries in a new direction to address their Integrated Library System (ILS) needs. Feeling much like pioneers, this group dubbed itself the Pioneer Consortium. At this time four of the seven original pioneers are moving forward - Lincoln, Grand Island, Holdrege and St. Paul. The consortium plans to expand and is currently reviewing interest from accredited public libraries in Nebraska for possible inclusion.

Barbara Hansen
Administrative Aide
Lincoln City Libraries
402-441-8512
Memorandum

Date:  ♦  May 3, 2011
To:  ♦  City Clerk
From:  ♦  Teresa McKinstry, Planning Dept.
Re:  ♦  Administrative Approvals
cc:  ♦  Jean Preister

This is a list of the Administrative Approvals that were approved by the Planning Director from April 26, 2011 thru May 2, 2011:

**Administrative Amendment No. 11013** to Special Permit No. 1722, Pioneer Greens Community Unit Plan, approved by the Planning Director on April 26, 2011, requested by Louie Buller, to adjust the rear setback for Lots 71-81, Block 2 to 18 feet as indicated by the addition of General Note #26 to the site plan, on property generally located at S. 84th St. and Mandarin Dr.

**Waiver No. 10027** to Final Plat No. 04002, approved by the Planning Director on April 27, 2011, requested by Olsson Associates, to extend the time for two years to install sidewalks, landscape screen and street trees for Pinecrest Addition. The improvements shall be completed by April 27, 2013. Property is generally located at N. 14th St. and Morton St.

**Waiver No. 10028** to Final Plat No. 05039, approved by the Planning Director on April 27, 2011, requested by Olsson Associates, to extend the time for two years to install sidewalks, street trees, storm water detention and pedestrian sidewalk for Pinecrest 1st Addition. The improvements shall be completed by April 27, 2013. Property is generally located at N. 14th St. and Morton St.

**Administrative Amendment No. 11011** to Special Permit No. 241, approved by the Planning Director on May 2, 2011, requested by ESP Inc., to revise the boundary of the mobile home court on property generally located north of the 3800 block of Cornhusker Hwy.

**Administrative Amendment No. 11014** to Special Permit No. 605, Tierra West Community Unit Plan, approved by the Planning Director on May 2, 2011, requested by Travis Laird, to encroach into the rear yard two feet, creating an 18 foot rear yard setback instead of the required 20 foot rear yard setback. This setback adjustment is to allow for an addition to an existing residence. This lot backs on to open space which is owned by the City and is in the floodplain. Property is generally located in the 3100 block of Stephanos Dr., east of S. 27th St. and Tierra Dr.
NOTICE: The Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, May 4, 2011, 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 LPlan Advisory Committee will meet on Wednesday, May 4, 2011, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., in Room 113 of the County-City Building, 555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska.

**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, MAY 4, 2011

[**All members present**]

Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held April 20, 2011. **APPROVED, 7-0 (Larson and Lust abstained)**

1. **CONSENT AGENDA**
   (Public Hearing and Administrative Action):

   **CHANGE OF ZONE:**
   1.1 Change of Zone No. 11010, from H-3 Highway Commercial District to I-1 Industrial District, on property generally located at N. 40th Street and Cornhusker Highway.
   Staff recommendation: Approval
   Staff Planner: Tom Cajka, 441-5662, tcajka@lincoln.ne.gov
   Planning Commission recommendation: APPROVAL, 9-0.
   Public Hearing before City Council tentatively scheduled for Monday, May 23, 2011, 5:30 p.m.
1.2 Change of Zone No. 11013, from AG Agricultural District to B-5 Planned Regional Business District, on property generally located at S. 84th Street and Pine Lake Road.

Staff recommendation: Approval
Staff Planner: Brian Will, 441-6362, bwill@lincoln.ne.gov
Planning Commission recommendation: APPROVAL, 9-0.
Public Hearing before City Council tentatively scheduled for Monday, May 23, 2011, 5:30 p.m.

CHANGE OF ZONE WITH RELATED ITEMS:

1.3a Change of Zone No. 11012, from R-2 Residential District to R-4 Residential District, on property generally located at N. 70th Street and Cleveland Avenue.

Staff recommendation: Approval
Staff Planner: Tom Cajka, 441-5662, tcajka@lincoln.ne.gov
Removed from Consent Agenda and had separate public hearing.
Planning Commission recommendation: APPROVAL, 9-0.
Public Hearing before City Council tentatively scheduled for Monday, May 23, 2011, 5:30 p.m.

1.3b Special Permit No. 399C, an amendment to the Villa Apartments Community Unit Plan, to add two additional buildings for a total of 48 multi-family units, on property generally located at N. 70th Street and Cleveland Avenue.

*** FINAL ACTION ***
Staff recommendation: Conditional Approval
Staff Planner: Tom Cajka, 441-5662, tcajka@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 April 20, 2011, with amendment adding Condition #2.12, as recommended by staff, 9-0.
Resolution No. PC-01229.

PERMITS:

1.4 Use Permit No. 56F, an amendment to increase the building area by adding a seasonal garden center and more outdoor storage, and a waiver request to reduce the required parking ratio, on property generally located at N. 27th Street and Cornhusker Highway.

Staff recommendation: Conditional Approval
Staff Planner: Tom Cajka, 441-5662, tcajka@lincoln.ne.gov
Removed from Consent Agenda and had separate public hearing.
Planning Commission recommendation: CONDITIONAL APPROVAL, as set forth in the revised staff report dated May 2, 2011, 9-0.
Public Hearing before City Council tentatively scheduled for Monday, May 23, 2011, 5:30 p.m.
MISCELLANEOUS:

1.5 Street & Alley Vacation No. 11005, to vacate the right-of-way stub of Windmill Drive on the east side of N. 84th Street.

   Staff recommendation: Conformance with the Comprehensive Plan
   Staff Planner: Tom Cajka, 441-5662, tcajka@lincoln.ne.gov
   Planning Commission recommendation: A FINDING OF CONFORMANCE WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, 9-0.
   Public Hearing before City Council will be scheduled when the provisions of Chapter 14.20 have been satisfied.

2. REQUESTS FOR DEFERRAL: See 5.1a and 5.1b below.

4. PUBLIC HEARING AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION:

CHANGE OF ZONE WITH RELATED ITEMS:

4.1a Change of Zone No. 11014, to designate as a historic landmark on property located at 2943 Garfield Street.

   Staff recommendation: Approval
   Staff Planner: Ed Zimmer, 441-6360, ezimmer@lincoln.ne.gov
   Had public hearing.
   Planning Commission recommendation: APPROVAL, 9-0.
   Public Hearing before City Council is tentatively scheduled for Monday, May 23, 2011, 5:30 p.m.

4.1b Special Permit No. 11007, for historic preservation, to adjust yard and parking requirements, on property located at 2943 Garfield Street.

   Staff recommendation: Conditional Approval
   Staff Planner: Ed Zimmer, 441-6360, ezimmer@lincoln.ne.gov
   Had public hearing.
   Planning Commission recommendation: CONDITIONAL APPROVAL, as set forth in the staff report dated April 22, 2011, with amendment deleting Condition #2, 9-0.
   Public Hearing before City Council is tentatively scheduled for Monday, May 23, 2011, 5:30 p.m.
CHANGE OF ZONE:
4.2 Change of Zone No. 11011, amending Title 27 of the Lincoln Municipal Code, the Zoning Code, to allow Agricultural Attractions in the AG Agriculture District by amending Chapter 27.03 to add a new section numbered 27.03.043 to define “Agricultural Attraction”; amending Section 27.07.030 to establish an Agricultural Attraction as a conditional use in the AG Agriculture District; amending Section 27.67.040 to provide parking requirements for Agricultural Attractions; and repealing Sections 27.07.030 and 27.67.040 of the Lincoln Municipal Code as hitherto existing.

Staff recommendation: Approval
Staff Planner: Mike DeKalb, 441-6370, mdekalb@lincoln.ne.gov

Had public hearing.
Planning Commission recommendation: APPROVAL, 9-0.
Public Hearing before City Council tentatively scheduled for Monday, May 23, 2011, 5:30 p.m.

5. CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION:

CHANGE OF ZONE WITH RELATED ITEMS:
5.1a Change of Zone No. 11009, amending Section 27.63.500 of the Lincoln Municipal Code relating to Zoning Code Special Permits for Scrap Processing Operations, Salvage Yards, and Enclosed Disassembly Operations, to allow outdoor salvage material to be located closer than 500 feet from certain entrance corridors if land forms or screening completely obstructs the view by the traveling public of the salvage material, and to authorize the City Council to decrease the 500-foot setback under limited circumstances; and repealing Section 27.63.500 of the Lincoln Municipal Code as hitherto existing.

Staff recommendation: Approval
Staff Planner: Christy Eichorn, 441-7603, ceichorn@lincoln.ne.gov

Applicant’s request for an additional four-week deferral granted, with CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION scheduled for Wednesday, June 1, 2011, 1:00 p.m.

5.1b Special Permit No. 11006, for a scrap processing operation and to allow salvage material kept outside a building to be located closer than the 500 feet to the West “O” Street entrance corridor, on property generally located at West O Street and Sun Valley Boulevard (545 West “O” Street).

Staff recommendation: Conditional Approval
Staff Planner: Christy Eichorn, 441-7603, ceichorn@lincoln.ne.gov

Applicant’s request for an additional four-week deferral granted, with CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION scheduled for Wednesday, June 1, 2011, 1:00 p.m.
AT THIS TIME, ANYONE WISHING TO SPEAK ON AN ITEM NOT ON THE AGENDA, MAY DO SO

PENDING LIST: None

Planning Dept. staff contacts:

Steve Henrichsen, Development Review Manager . . 441-6473 . . shenrichsen@lincoln.ne.gov
Nicole Fleck-Tooze, Long Range Planning Manager . 441-6363 . ntooze@lincoln.ne.gov
Mike Brienzo, Transportation Planner . . . . . . . . 441-6369 . mbrienzo@lincoln.ne.gov
Tom Cajka, Planner . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 441-5662 . tcajka@lincoln.ne.gov
David Cary, 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
Sara Hartzell, Planner . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 441-6371 . shartzell@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 . . . . . . . . . . 441-6370 . ezimmer@lincoln.ne.gov

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.

The Planning Commission agenda may be accessed on the Internet at
http://www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/plan/pcagenda/index.htm
Japanese Knotweed
The good news is that we have NOT found any new infestations this year. The Lower Platte South NRD has agreed to spray on Dead Mans Run. And one private landowner is controlling theirs by herbicide. The infestations on East Campus, Sunken Gardens and Antelope Park are continuing to cut off new growth at this point while we work on control methods acceptable. I’m sure when it blooms later this fall and is easier to identify we will find more.

Weed Abatement
Two of our three City Inspectors will begin on May 9th with the third beginning on the 23rd. Early season weed abatement is challenging due to the fact that a lot of owners just haven’t gotten the mower out of the garage yet.

Typically we don’t start on weed complaints until mid May, because by the time we make the inspection, the property gets mowed over the weekend and we spend a lot of time wasted making unnecessary inspections. After the May 15th time frame we can usually tell who is going to take care of the weeds and mow and who isn’t.

New logo: We are replacing the old worn out, faded door logos on our cars with this new logo. We also put our web address on the back of all our vehicles to try and increase public awareness.

Mayor’s Action Center
We have been receiving a number of complaints via the new smart phone complaint system. This has introduced us to some new challenges on trying to figure out the exact location. When the picture is attached it helps a lot, but even with that it depends on the location they sent the complaint from. One complaint had 3 different addresses on the same complaint and one was actually a location in Norfolk. *(we didn't inspect that one!)* In time it will be a useful tool for the public and it is nice on our end to have a picture.

Noxious Weed Control Act Q & A
Q: Whenever special weed control problems exist in a county involving weeds not included in the rules and regulations, what option(s) are available to the control authority?
A: The control authority may petition the director to bring such weeds under the county control program.

Inspection Activity
Our Noxious Weed Inspectors began on April 18th and along with doing the rural noxious weed inspections have completed 86 inspections within the Lincoln city limits.

- **Musk thistle:**
  - 82 sites inspected – 502.5 acres
  - 62 sites infested – 115.19 acres

- **Leafy spurge:**
  - 04 sites inspected – 3.3 acres
  - 04 sites infested – 1.15 acres

May Planned Activities in Lincoln
- 2 Leafy spurge inspections
- 9 Inspector training
- 9 Begin City Weed Abatement inspections
- 16 Maps to ROW applicators for BNSF Railroad
- 16 Maps to Chem-Trol for UP Railroad
- 16 Maps to MUD for Nebraska City Line
- 16 Contracts for landfills
Mary M. Meyer

From: elza1@windstream.net
Sent: Monday, May 02, 2011 9:58 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Painting Fire Hydrants Funding

Dear Councilman Emery,
My name is Linda Shamburg, living in the University Place Area. Recently, I attended a meeting of the University Place Community Organization (UPCO). An idea came to me as an improvement to “spiff” up the look of our area, should there be City funding for supplies.

That being said, my idea is to paint the fire hydrants in the University Place area. I spoke with the Fire Chief at the station located near 33rd & Holdrege St. I asked him whose responsibility it might be to paint a fire hydrant in our location? He responded, “the UPC Organization” should supply the labor, should it be available. As understood, all hydrants should be painted RED. “However, the City may be able to show support in supplying monies to purchase the paint for this project, dependent on the availability of the funds.”

Many, many, of the fire hydrants in this area are sun bleached and do not show themselves as being apparent as they would if painted and trimmed around. Fire hydrants would obviously need to be counted and reported back to the City providing some kind of idea as to what kind of project this would be amounting into. Unless of course, there is an easier way of knowing this information.

The labor is something I have not checked into as of yet, as I’m presently all about checking into the money side of this situation first. Then, presenting the idea to the UPCO for future thought, as a project so funding for supplies such as paint brushes, being purchased, etc., to make the project a shared expense.

Perhaps, proposing to the UPCO a recruitment of Boy and Girl Scout Troups, as well, obviously volunteers of neighbors to a hydrant(s). I myself am a neighbor of two fire hydrants.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Linda Shamburg
elza1@windstream.net

Not knowing if you are able to assist in answering my question, I chose to look to you first.
InterLinc: City Council Feedback for General Council

Name: Jason Chambers
Address: 6030 Fremont Street
City: Lincoln, NE 68507
Phone: (402) 467-5416 or (402) 610-4260
Fax:
Email: jason.chambers@lincolnindustries.com

Comment or Question:
May 2nd, 2011

Jason Chambers
6030 Fremont Street
Lincoln, NE

Good evening City Council members,

I wanted to thank you for your time today at the City Council meeting. I appreciated your comments after my testimony concerning the damages with my mailbox. I couldn't help but think my situation was one that warranted an approval for the claim I submitted.

Some of the comments following my testimony touched on the wording of the law and how it specifically called out many improvements, yet did not include the mailbox. My interpretation of the statute was that if it was specific enough to call out things such as decorative stone, mulch, rock, etc that whatever it left out could not be included or implied in the statute.

Another thing that was noted by Mr. Camp was the approval of a claim submitted by Mr. Donald H. Swanson of 7611 Colby Street where his mailbox was struck by a Star Tran Bus yet it was approved. (See City Council agenda notes from today, 5-2-2011) This claim was approved in the amount of $104.16. When Rod Confer was specifically asked about this he said that the mailbox, "he thought", was not in the right of way and that he did however agree that the Star Tran Bus would fall under the same guidelines as the city's snowplow truck. I did some preliminary research on this case and found the address of Donald H. Swanson to be 7611 Colby Street. Clearly the mailbox at this address is under the same circumstances as mine and is in the right of way property.

Further research, browsing through previous City Council meeting notes, uncovered another circumstance where Ruth E. Gunther of 4065 Woods Blvd had her mailbox hit by a Star Tran bus. Damages for her claim totaled $299.02. (See City Council meeting agenda notes from 3-14-2011). Her claim, like Donald Swanson's, was approved and was also in the right of way property.

What this suggests to me is that previous cases have used this statute when convenient for the law office and not the same way on every case involving city vehicles as Mr. Rod Confer
suggested at today’s City Council meeting. Upon browsing many of the city’s previous agenda meeting notes I see that snow plow cases involving mailboxes easily outnumber Star Tran cases involving mail boxes. Thus the law department has chosen to apply the statute when convenient and it just so happens to not apply on the cases that are few and far between. I think this only further supports my argument that when they truly apply the law the way it is written, like in the Star Tran cases, the mailboxes are replaced at a cost to the city and not the property owner.

Rod Confer referred to the cost of approving my claim not to be the $65 I was requesting, but rather thousands of dollars because of all the prior cases and cases to come that now would have to fall under my interpretation of the statute. I think that the idea and potential cost of doing what was right was more than anyone was comfortable approving today. My only suggestion going forward is that we reconsider the verbiage in this statute and potentially add a negligence factor. That if there is negligence involved by the city worker/operator that they should own it and not be totally released from any and all damages. That just seems to me to not be the right way to apply this law.

I realize it is probably too late but I hope that my research and the bringing up of past circumstances (above) that contradict what Rod Confer said today will in some small way give me a moral victory. I have invested this research and my time giving my point of view because I truly believe in doing the right thing. After the final vote today I have to think that the implied risk and potential costs that Rod Confer brought up as a concern only helped me lose the vote 5 to 2. This and the fact that past snow plow cases have always been denied so why change how the law has always been applied. Yet further research of mine shows that it has not always been applied the same. I can only think that this would have further strengthened my claim today had we all known the inconsistent application of this law.

I truly want to thank you for your time and for again listening to my testimony today. I welcome any insight, questions, or perspective that you have considering my above comments. I only wish there were a way to bring up the past circumstances that I found noted above prior to the vote today. I think that if everyone knew that what Rod Confer said today was not entirely true in all previous circumstances and that the law has been applied in different ways in the past, seemingly based only on frequency of occurrence rather than in similar circumstances, that today’s outcome might have been approved in my favor.

Best regards,
Jason Chambers
Telephone Message

05.03.11
12:00 Noon

Paula Nicholls
Regarding the widening of Old Cheney Road. Would like Plan A - The Engineers Plan. Four (4) lanes will be needed in the future.
Telephone Message

05.03.11
1:43 p.m.

Virginia Carter
Regarding the widening of Old Cheney Road.
Use the Engineers Plan for safety, and future traffic flow.
I. CITY CLERK

II. CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE MAYOR & DIRECTORS

MAYOR
1. NEWS RELEASE. Channels 5 and 21 to air Thomas commencement address.
2. NEWS RELEASE. Mayor Beutler’s public schedule for the week of May 7, 2011 through May 13, 2011.
3. NEWS RELEASE. Parade Home is sustainable and affordable.

III. DIRECTORS

PARKS AND RECREATION
1. Notice of Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting on May 12, 2011 and April 14, 2011 meeting minutes.
   a) Memo regarding delaying the Futures action item on the May 12th agenda.

PLANNING COMMISSION
1. Notice of final action by the Planning Commission, May 4, 2011.

PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES
1. Memo from Greg MacLean, Public Works and Utilities Director, explaining attachments regarding Old Cheney Road project.
   a) Old Cheney Road from 70th Street to 82nd Street, timeline and background information;
   b) Tracking changes in design elements along Old Cheney between 70th and 84th due to the public involvement process; and
   c) Photographic comparisons.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

IV. CORRESPONDENCE FROM CITIZENS TO COUNCIL
1. Email from Alan and Donna Hersch supporting the full widening as recommended by the City Engineers on the Old Cheney Road project.
2. Email from Alan Green, Mental Health Association of Nebraska, updating Council on the Keya House progress to date.
   a) Letter to the Lincoln City Council, May 9, 2011;
   b) Keya House Annual Report: 2010; and
   c) Keya House brochure.

V. INVITATIONS

See invitation list.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 6, 2011
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Diane Gonzolas, Citizen Information Center, 402-441-7831
Charlene Henninger, NET Foundation, 402-472-9333, ext. 289

CHANNELS 5 AND 21 TO AIR THOMAS COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

The commencement address by Clarence Thomas, Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, will air live Saturday, May 7 on 5 CITY-TV and 21 Educational Access (Time Warner Cable channels 5 and 21). Thomas, who took his seat on the Supreme Court in 1991, will speak to graduates of the University of Nebraska College of Law at the Lied Center for the Performing Arts. The ceremony will begin at 3 p.m. and is expected to last about two hours.

The ceremony and address also can be viewed online at netnebraska.org and lincoln.ne.gov.

- 30 -
Date: May 6, 2011
Contact: Diane Gonzolas, Citizen Information Center, 441-7831

Mayor Beutler’s Public Schedule
Week of May 7 through May 13, 2011
Schedule subject to change

Monday, May 9
• Swearing-in Ceremony - 3 p.m., City Council Chambers, County-City Building, 555 S. 10th St.
• Mayor’s Award of Excellence presentation - following Swearing-in Ceremony, City Council Chambers
• Re-election Reception - following Award of Excellence, Room 303, County-City Building
• Mayor’s Neighborhood Roundtable meeting - 5:30 p.m., Mayor’s Conference Room, County-City Building

Tuesday, May 10
• Ribbon-cutting for Nebraska Bank of Commerce, remarks - 10:30 a.m., southeast corner of 14th and “Q” streets
• News conference, “Taking Charge” initiative - 1 p.m., Mayor’s Conference Room
PARADE HOME IS SUSTAINABLE AND AFFORDABLE

A home that demonstrates sustainable and affordable revitalization will be open to the public May 8 through 14 as part of the Parade of Homes sponsored by the Home Builders Association of Lincoln. Mayor Chris Beutler’s Cleaner Greener Lincoln initiative will host the open house at 901 Garfield Street from 1 to 6 p.m. weekends and 6 to 9 p.m. during the week.

Project partners are the Housing Rehabilitation Program of the City Urban Development Department; Black Hills Energy; the Lincoln Electric System; the Nebraska Department of Economic Development; Green Built Projects; and Skyline Homes.

Urban Development purchased the property with federal grant funds from the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. The previous home was torn down, and builders recycled as much material as possible, including drywall, piping and windows. The new home is “Certified Green,” by the National Association of Homebuilders and has a “5-Star ENERGY STAR” rating. Features include:

- Reflective ENERGY STAR shingles and triple-paned ENERGY STAR windows
- ENERGY STAR appliances and a high-efficiency furnace
- Carpet made from 100 percent recycled plastic bottles
- Environmentally friendly landscaping plans using drought-tolerant grass and rain barrels (with assistance from the Watershed Management Division of Public Works and Utilities)
- High-efficiency bath fan with timer
- Framing techniques that used less lumber and improved insulation.
- Water-based stain and varnish on doorframes

Black Hills representative Greg Shinaut said the sustainable design will save $840 every year on natural gas energy bills compared to the former house at the site. Skyline Homes owner Ken Inness said the home helps revitalize a low-income neighborhood. “I think the best thing you can do for a low- to moderate-income buyer is to build a sustainable home because they’ll save money for years and years to come,” he said.

More information on Urban Development’s Housing Rehabilitation Programs is available at lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: urban). For more information on the Parade of Homes visit hbal.org.
NOTICE OF ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

TO: Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Mayor, City Council, City Clerk, Media
FROM: Lynn Johnson, Director, Lincoln Parks & Recreation Department
MEETING DATE: May 12, 2011
LOCATION: Room 113 - County-City Building
TIME: 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.
CHAIRMAN: Joe Tidball

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Recognition of "Open Meetings Act"
3. Approval of Minutes: * April 14, 2011, meeting
4. Comments from the Public for Items not Listed on the Agenda
5. Committee Reports
   A. Fees & Facilities Committee - Susan Deitchler (Chair) - 488-4224
      * Recommendation re: entering into an agreement to allow operation of a
        "zorbing operation" at a Parks facility.
   B. Futures Committee - Bob Ripley (Chair) 471-0419 or 488-5131
      * Recommendation re: an amendment to the Lincoln Municipal Code restricting
        enclosed tents in parks.
   C. Golf Report
      * Golf Program status report
   D. Executive Committee - Joe Tidball (Chair) - 730-5638
5. Committee Reports
7. Staff Report:
   * No report
8. Announcements:
   * 'Wake up the Beds' volunteer planting event at Sunken Gardens beginning at
     8:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 14th.

* Denotes Action Items
MINUTES
Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
Room 113, City-County Bldg.,
Thursday, April 14, 2011

Members Present:
Andrew Barry  Molly Brommond  Keelan Chapman  Jonathan Cook
Susan Deitchler  Curt Donaldson  Todd Fitzgerald  Karen Hand
Jane Raybould  Bob Ripley  Susan Rodenburg  Dennis Scheer
Jeff Schwebke  Joe Tidball

Members Absent:
Andrew Barry  Justin Carlson  Anne Pagel

Others Present:
Representatives from National Manufacturing

Recognition of 'Open Meetings Act': As per law, Chairperson Joe Tidball announced that the Board follows the regulations of this Act, as posted.

* APPROVAL OF MINUTES: It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2011, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting as mailed. Motion carried by unanimous vote of members present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS (other than those listed on the current Agenda): None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fees & Facilities Committee - Susan Deitchler, Chair - 488-4224
No report.

Futures Committee - Bob Ripley (Chair) 471-0419 or 488-5131

* Recommendation re: acceptance of a metal art piece to be placed in Witherbee Park:
Bob Ripley reported on a proposal put forth by Witherbee Park, located at 46th & "O" Street, regarding acceptance of donated artwork to be placed in Witherbee Park. The sculpture was made by TMCO and is fabricated from stainless steel, and will be approximately 7 feet tall and 40 inches wide. A poem titled "If I had My Child To Raise Over Again" is proposed to be integrated into the base of the artwork. The artwork will most likely be placed in the south end where most pedestrians would see it. The guidelines for acceptance of artwork states that it should be contextually appropriate for the proposed display location, that it be durable, and that it not pose a public safety concern. This artwork conforms with these guidelines. If approved by the Board this would go to the City Council and then the City Council would accept the piece of art by resolution. After brief discussion, it was moved by the Futures Committee to make a recommendation to the City Council to accept the stainless steel sculpture and poem "If I Had My Child To Raise Over Again" and that it be placed in the pedestrian area of Witherbee Park at 46th & "O" Street. Motion carried by unanimous vote of members present.

* Recommendation re: proposed revisions to the Parks, Recreation & Open Space Chapter of the Environmental Resources Chapter of the Lincoln-Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan in conjunction with the Lplan 2040 Update: Lynn Johnson distributed
copies of the LPlan2040 to Board members (a copy will be attached to the file copy of these minutes). The Plan includes sections on: Regional Parks & Tournament Sports Facilities, Community Parks, Neighborhood Parks, Greenways, Aquatic Facilities, Recreation/Community Centers & Full Service Community Schools, Trails & Complete Streets, Emerging Recreation Activities, Dog Parks/Runs, Community Gardens, Indoor Ice Center and Indoor Aquatics Center along with the Department’s recommendations for most of the sections. A brief overview of the Plan is as follows: The Lincoln-Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan guides land use planning, community growth and development and community infrastructure planning and investment. The Comprehensive Plan is reviewed and updated on a 10-year basis. A major review and update of the Comp Plan, identified as LPlan2040 is in progress. During the last six months, the Futures Committee has been systematically reviewing sections of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Chapter and the Environmental Resource Chapter of the current Comp Plan, and making recommendations regarding revisions to the Plan (refer to the handout for the proposed revisions). In addition to review and recommendations by the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, the Community Forestry Advisory Board is reviewing the urban forest section of the Comp Plan, and the Pedestrian/Bicycle Advisory Committee is reviewing the bicycle and pedestrian transportation sections of the Plan.

The Pedestrian/Bicycle Facility Plan for Lplan2040 has to be packaged so it is fiscally constrained, similar to what is being done for street projects. The plans presented are based on the level of funding we have received in the past. The options presented include one emphasizing capital and maintenance, a second with just a capital emphasis, and the third option is the needs based plan. The plan emphasizing capital and maintenance would spend 50% of the funds available on each maintenance and new construction. The plan emphasizing just capital would spend 70% on new construction and 30% on maintenance and the needs based plan would provide funding to continue constructing new as well as providing necessary funds to maintain existing facilities. The public is being asked if they are willing to support additional funding for the needs based plan as the Comp Plan moves forward. Surveys are available on-line seeking the public's support of the proposals being presented. The results will determine the plan that moves forward.

The recommendations of each of the advisory boards will be reviewed and incorporated in the proposed Comprehensive Plan. The Proposed Comp Plan will then be reviewed by the Planning Commission, and reviewed and approved by the Lincoln City Council and the Lancaster County Commissioners. After discussion among Board members, it was moved (Futures Committee) to recommend to the Parks & Recreation and Planning Departments to incorporate the discussed elements into the draft Comprehensive Plan. That Comp Plan would then go before the Planning Commission, and, ultimately to the City Council and County Board for their approval in late summer. Motion carried by majority vote of members present with Cook abstaining.

Golf Committee
- No report

Executive Committee - Joe Tidball (Chair) - 730-5638
- No report

Announcements:
- April 14, 2011, 12:00 noon - Dedication of Jan Pitsch Green
- April 16, 2011 - 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. - Nature's Market at Pioneers Park Nature Ctr.
  including auction of artistic birdhouses.
- April 28th - 10:00 a.m. - Arbor Day Celebration, Rosseau Elementary/RI Trail/Bishop Hts.
  Park, 33rd & Calvert.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.
Subject: Agenda Item Delay

Please note the Futures action item on the May 12th agenda re: tents in park will be delayed until a later meeting.

Jeanne Bowling
Executive Secretary to the Director
Lincoln Parks & Recreation Dept.
2740 "A" Street
Lincoln, NE  68502
402-441-8264
fax: 402-441-8706
Please be advised that on May 4, 2011, the Lincoln City-Lancaster County Planning Commission adopted the following resolution:

**Resolution No. PC-01229**, approving Special Permit No. 399C, for authority to amend the Villa Apartments Community Unit Plan to add up to 50 additional dwelling units for a total of 116, on property generally located at North 70th Street and Cleveland Avenue.

This is final action unless appealed to the City Council within 14 days of the action by the Planning Commission.

The Planning Commission Resolutions may be accessed on the internet at [www.lincoln.ne.gov](http://www.lincoln.ne.gov) (Keyword = PATS). Use the “Search Selection” screen and search by application number (i.e. SP399C). The Resolution and Planning Department staff report are in the “Related Documents” under the application number.
Dear Council Members:

Please find attached a WORD file containing discussion and response to inquiries related to the Old Cheney project. The document contains information related to questions and requests for additional information that resulted in my request for delay on the final vote for Old Cheney. Also included are clarifications and answers to questions raised after the request for delay. Representatives of Public Works will be present at Monday’s Council meeting to present and answer any questions.

I have also attached documents previously presented so you will have everything together. Please forward these documents to any constituents that you feel may benefit from this information.

Sincerely,

Greg MacLean
Director of Public Works & Utilities
Timeline and Background Information

b. 1998 – Ordinance 17366 – detailed the roadway section on Old Cheney Rd. to include 4-lanes, left turn lanes and raised medians with public hearing before council.
c. 1999 – Southeast Fringe Study Functional Plans – updated per Ordinance 17366
d. 2003 – Ordinance 17366 amended – now Ordinance 18214 – changed roadway section on Old Cheney Rd. to include right turn lanes.
e. 2003 to 2009 – Funding not available for the construction of this project until 2009 so design was investigated on an as needed basis.
f. Summer 2010 – Project resurveyed to note changes since 1997 original survey was completed when many improvements/homes had not yet been built.
g. August 12, 2010 – Public Open House
h. August – November 2010 – Modification of Design to Reduce Impacts
   • Changes made based on public meeting comments, individual property owner meetings, and meetings with Councilman Camp, Councilman Emery, and Mayor
i. November – December 2010 – Group/Individual Meetings with 21 different Property Owners to give out information regarding the Updated Design
j. Recap of Public Involvement
   i. In total have met with or heard from 53 property owners/area residents and 2 homeowners associations.
   ii. From these meetings, many of the adjacent property owners understand the project will affect them and accept the current design. Many do not wish the project affect them at all and want project to stay with existing right of way no matter what it takes to do so.
   iii. The area residents who live in area/travel the corridor but don’t have property directly affected are mostly in favor of making improvements as designed as soon as possible.
   iv. Many Changes in the Design have been incorporated to the construction plans as a result.
k. Construction Schedule
   i. Anticipated two year right of way acquisition time frame. In August 2010, the hope was for fall 2012 construction bid letting with 2013 construction time frame.
   ii. Currently this is very much in doubt with delays in getting right of way acquisition underway most likely either split year construction (with temporary driving conditions during winter) between 2013/2014 or a straight 2014 construction schedule. Any further delays will ensure project is delayed to 2014 and beyond.

Summation of the changes resulting from August meeting comments and public process through today:
- Many of the changes that occurred since the August Meeting through the public process will represent some decreases in the potential safety and capacity of this stretch of roadway for the traveling public, including the property owners who will be traveling Old Cheney to get to and from their homes.
- These changes from the original do not represent unacceptable levels of safety and capacity, but it should be noted the design is not what most professional engineers would consider optimal in terms of getting the “biggest bang for the buck.”
- Further changes will erode safety and capacity to the point that the benefits seen with improving the roadway may not outweigh the costs associated with making those improvements, nor what is best for the long-term (40 to 50 years) life expectancy of this road. The causes the City (and the taxpayers we all represent) to make the difficult choice of whether to continue this project or not.
DESIGN ELEMENTS

1) **Right Turn Lanes** – There are two reasons that right turn lanes should be incorporated into the design of all arterial streets. They are as follows:
   a. **Safety.** Right turn lanes are an effective design element to separate lower speed vehicles turning off of the main roadway from the higher speed vehicles traveling through this corridor. Separating vehicles with relatively large differences in speed helps to reduce rear end collisions and increase the overall safety of motorists and pedestrians using the roadway.
   b. **Capacity.** There is a clear relationship between the number of vehicles attempting a right-turn in a through traffic lane and the corresponding delay to through traffic. This relationship is exponential in that each additional vehicle that must wait for a right-turn will increase delay more than the previous vehicle. At intersections with substantial right-turn movements, a dedicated right-turn lane segregates these vehicles from through traffic and increases the capacity of the road.
   c. **Commercial vs. Residential** – These reasons are valid for all abutting land uses whether commercial or residential. As most trips to and from commercial properties start from and are completed at residential properties.

2) **Left Turn Lanes, Raised Medians, & Median Widths** – The main reason that left-turn lanes, raised medians, and width of that median needs to be considered and incorporated into the design of all arterial streets is safety, along with the additional reasons that follow:
   a. **Safety.** The main reason for raised center medians to be incorporated into the design of arterial streets is to provide safety for vehicles travelling the corridor.
      i. The raised median provides safety in that it is a redirector or reducer of speed for errant vehicles crossing the centerline along Old Cheney Rd.
      ii. Curb and gutter medians also eliminate the potential of head to head traffic that a shared center left turn lane can create.
   b. **Safety & Capacity.**
      i. The 20 foot width is needed at intersections to provide 4 foot of paved median, a 12 foot turn lane and an additional 4 foot of space to provide line of sight around vehicles in the opposing left turn lane. The 28 foot width is needed at major intersections to provide a 4 foot paved median and dual 12 foot turn lanes.
      ii. This additional sight distance allows for safer turning movements at intersections
      iii. This additional sight distance allows for left-turns on green ball movement and increases the number of vehicles that can get through the light during the cycle.
   c. **Safety & Aesthetics** Raised medians provide an option for green area in the middle of the roadway which breaks up the overall roadway surface and gives the driver a better sense of the traveled way for safer travel.
   d. **Commercial vs. Residential** – These reasons are valid for all abutting land uses whether commercial or residential. As most trips to and from commercial properties start from and are completed at residential properties.
3) Pedestrian Accommodations
   a. **Bike Path (north side)** – The City of Lincoln’s Multi-Use Trails and Bicycle Facilities Plan, a portion of the Comprehensive Plan, shows the inclusion of a 10 foot wide trail along many arterial street sections in the City. These trails provide a safe means of passage east and west for users. The location is based on the recommendations of the Pedestrian Bike Advisory Committee and guidance from the Comprehensive Plan.

   b. **Sidewalk (south side)** – The 5 foot sidewalk on the south side of arterials is typically included in the design to provide a means of passage along the corridor for those pedestrians on the south side of the arterial street. Providing this walk improves safety to individuals and motorists by not forcing pedestrians (south of the arterial) to cross a major thoroughfare to go east-west on a 10 foot bike trail that is typically present on the north side of the street.

   c. **Green Space** – (The area between the curb and sidewalk/trail)
      i. A 10’ minimum space from behind the curb to sidewalk should be the standard striven for in all projects where practical. In general this highly desirable space allows for 6 feet from the curb to any object such as a street tree, street light, or utility pole. It also allows for a 2 foot clearance from the sidewalk to any object. This space will permit snow to be removed from the road and not piled on a sidewalk or trail. It allows utilities a space to go where they can be maintained with less disruption to vehicle and pedestrian facilities. Provide for a buffer between users of the road and users of the sidewalk, be an area for future expansion of additional lanes or bicycle facilities, and improve stormwater runoff.
      ii. August meeting design was 9 feet in all locations.
      iii. This was changed from August 2010 public meeting design during public process from 9 feet in all locations to 6 feet, 5 feet, and 0 feet depending on specific circumstance for the project. Will reduce area to place snow in winter and will place pedestrians closer to traffic lanes.

   d. **Commercial vs. Residential** – These reasons are valid for all abutting land uses whether commercial or residential. As most trips to and from commercial properties start from and are completed at residential properties. Additional most recreational use of the pedestrian accommodations will begin and end at the residential property.

4) **Design Speed**
   a. Standard Practice on all arterial roadways is to design for 5 mph over the posted speed limit for increased safety for someone traveling over the posted speed limit.
   b. The Speed limit is set through an engineering study. Failure to post the speed limit according to the results of this study may result in traffic safety issues and increase City’s liability.
   c. It is allowable and is the case for this project after discussion that the design speed will be the posted speed. This allows the roadway alignment to more closely follow the existing terrain and reduce impacts to adjacent properties.
   d. The trade-off is a more rolling vertical alignment (hills), meaning less sight distance is available for drivers to make decisions when turning and stopping. May increase public pressure for adding traffic signals at currently unsignalized intersections, making for potential increased taxpayer costs. Also has increased cost to some of the utilities like Lincoln Water System, while reducing others.
e. This was changed following the August 2010 public meeting design during public process from 50 mph to 45 mph.

5) Reducing the limits of grading or limiting construction impacts to extent possible on Private Property Owners

a. Backslope
   i. Was changed following the August 2010 public meeting from 4:1 to 3:1 (made steeper) during public process, this creates less private property impacts, but creates a situation where it may be more difficult for the property owner to mow or maintain their property.

b. Green Space Reduction (See #3 Pedestrian Accomodations, letter c)
   i. Was changed from 9 feet to between 6 and 0 feet.

c. Retaining Wall Construction
   i. Was changed from a 1:1 slope to 4 foot benches.
   ii. This helps reduce impacts to private property owners.
   iii. This increases the cost of construction and project in total.

d. Right of Way Width
   i. Comprehensive Plan suggests all arterial roads regardless of type should be:
      1. Minimum of 120 feet of right of way
      2. additional 6 extra feet for bikeways
      3. Plus 10 extra feet in areas of right turn lanes.
      4. Total ROW Width = 136 feet
   ii. Right of Way for this project
      1. Minimum of 100 feet for right of way
      2. Additional 6 extra feet for bikeway
      3. Plus 10 extra feet in areas of right turn lanes
      4. Total ROW width = 116 feet, a difference of 20 feet.
   iii. Additional 5 feet of permanent easement required for Retaining wall. Many locations will most likely still need retaining walls no matter what cross section/design speed is used.
   iv. ROW both fee acquisition and easements has been reduced with these changes made during the public process following the August 2010 meeting.
      1. A 20,000 square foot reduction in ROW (38% decrease)
      2. A 79,000 square foot reduction in Easements (30% decrease)

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**Summation of the changes resulting from August meeting comments and public process through today:**

- Many of the changes that occurred since the August Meeting through the public process will represent some decreases in the potential safety and capacity of this stretch of roadway for the traveling public, including the property owners who will be traveling Old Cheney to get to and from their homes.
- **These changes from the original do not represent unacceptable levels of safety and capacity, but it should be noted the design is not what most professional engineers would consider optimal in terms of getting the “biggest bang for the buck.”**
- Further changes will erode safety and capacity to the point that the benefits seen with improving the roadway may not outweigh the costs associated with making those improvements, nor what is best for the long-term (40 to 50 years) life expectancy of this road. This causes the City (and the taxpayers we all represent) to make the difficult choice of whether to continue this project or not.
Residential vs. Commercial Area Comparisons

a. Trips Generated (During PM Peak – Trips Entering Only)
   i. Commercial Example -- SE corner of 70th & Van Dorn
      1. Supermarket (50,000 sf) = 286 trips
      2. Specialty Retail Center (11,000 sf) = 22 trips
      3. Drinking Place (9,000 sf) = 69 trips
      4. Fast Food Restaurant with Drive-Through Window (2,000 sf) = 36 trips
      5. General Office (80,000 sf) = 30 trips

   Total Trips for Commercial Area = 443 trips / (7 access points) = 63 Trips/Access

   ii. Residential Example -- 3/8 mile north and south of Old Cheney Rd. from 70th St. to 84th St.
      1. Single Family Detached Housing (1,200 units) = 621 trips
      2. Elementary School (870 students) = 59 trips

   Total Trips for Residential Area = 680 trips / (9 access points) = 76 Trips/Access

   iii. Only 13 less trips in the peak hour.

b. Left and Right Turn Lanes
   i. Based on traffic volumes for commercial and residential trips above suggest the need for turn lanes on arterials at ALL access locations in the City.
   ii. Commercial Areas generally require:
       1. Longer turn lane lengths (both right and left turns up to 350’ in some cases)
       2. Have dual left-turn lanes
   iii. This project has:
       1. The minimum 200 foot turn lane lengths along Old Cheney.
       2. A Single Left-turn Lane at intersections
       3. Proposed Right Turn Lanes at 70th and Old Cheney that are 250 foot in length

c. Median Width and Type
   i. Based on Safety for traveling public a raised median provides the safer alternative.
   ii. Commercial Areas generally require a twenty-eight foot (28’) wide median to accommodate the dual left turns
   iii. This project has a twenty foot (20’) median

d. Two-Way Shared Left Turn Lanes
   i. The use of a paved two-way center-turn lane seen in some residential applications is typically when there are multiple driveways with direct access to street.
   ii. This particular stretch of roadway does not have direct access by private homeowners to the road. All drivers must access Old Cheney by way of a public street access.
Has the appropriate balance been reached in terms of the needs of the private property owners, the needs of the users (drivers, bikers, and pedestrians), and the use of community resources as a whole for this project?
## Tracking changes in design elements along Old Cheney between 70th to 84th due to the public involvement process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>1998 Ordinance</th>
<th>2003 Ordinance</th>
<th>August Meeting</th>
<th>Changes following August meeting</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Design Speed</td>
<td>50 mph</td>
<td>50 mph</td>
<td>50 mph</td>
<td>45 mph</td>
<td>Currently at the lowest standard allowable. More rolling hills with less sight available to driver to make decisions. Increases amount of earthwork disposal on this project. Reduces some utility relocation costs, increases other utility relocation costs including Lincoln Water System.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backslopes</td>
<td>4:1</td>
<td>4:1</td>
<td>4:1</td>
<td>3:1</td>
<td>More difficult to mow/maintain for the individual private property owners, but less private property impacts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Space between Curb and Sidewalk (generally)</td>
<td>9 feet</td>
<td>9 feet</td>
<td>9 feet</td>
<td>6 feet / 5 feet</td>
<td>Less area for street trees, snow storage, and puts pedestrian closer to moving traffic. 6 feet in areas without wall, 5 feet in areas with retaining walls, reduces private property impacts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Space between Curb and Sidewalk (right turn lanes)</td>
<td>Not specifically addressed</td>
<td>10 feet</td>
<td>9 feet</td>
<td>At the back of curb</td>
<td>No area for snow storage. Puts pedestrian next to moving traffic, but decreases private property impacts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raised Medain</td>
<td>Included</td>
<td>Included</td>
<td>Included</td>
<td>Included</td>
<td>Allows redirection or reduction in speed of errant vehicles from crossing over into on-coming traffic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Width</td>
<td>20 feet</td>
<td>20 feet</td>
<td>20 feet</td>
<td>20 feet</td>
<td>28 feet used in areas needing dual left turns, normally more commercial in nature.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROW Width (general)</td>
<td>100' with 120' at turn lanes</td>
<td>120' with 130' at turn lanes</td>
<td>Varied from 100' to 116'</td>
<td>Varies from 100' to 112'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bike Trail</td>
<td>Included</td>
<td>Included</td>
<td>Included</td>
<td>Included</td>
<td>Shown in City’s Comprehensive Plan and based on the recommendations of the Pedestrian Bike Advisory Committee, both have public members and input.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional ROW Width (bike trails)</td>
<td>6'</td>
<td>6'</td>
<td>6'</td>
<td>6'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left-Turn Lanes</td>
<td>Included</td>
<td>Included</td>
<td>Included</td>
<td>Included</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right-Turn Lanes</td>
<td>Not Included</td>
<td>Included</td>
<td>Included</td>
<td>Included</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional ROW Width for turn lanes</td>
<td>20'</td>
<td>10'</td>
<td>10'</td>
<td>6' north / 7' south</td>
<td>ROW reduction attributable to reduction in green space area between curb and sidewalk/trail.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total ROW width</td>
<td>106' to 126'</td>
<td>126' to 136'</td>
<td>106' to 116'</td>
<td>106' to 113'</td>
<td>Current Design reduced ROW acquisition by 38% and need for easements by 31% from August meeting. Over 20,000 sq. ft to remain as private property and over 79,000 sq. ft. of private property to remain undisturbed by construction due to these changes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retaining Wall Construction</td>
<td>Not Designed</td>
<td>Not Designed</td>
<td>1:1 Slope</td>
<td>4' benches</td>
<td>Increased Construction Costs, but lessens private property impacts.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
May 9, 2011

City Council,

I'll be out town today or would comment in person at the Council Meeting.

Donna and I want to go on record supporting the full widening project as recommended by the City Engineers. We have resided in Edenton South for 23 years, so our view is directly from the affected area. We use this road several times every day.

This stretch of road is grossly behind the times. There are thousands of homes, many businesses and several schools on both sides, with no turning lanes and dangerous driving.

The project should not be scaled back because of a few residents along the street, at least one of whom built a swimming pool just this past year! His action should not influence your decision on the project.

Lincoln needs a good road to carry the traffic on Old Cheney Road. Please approve and build the full-scale project as soon as possible. Thank you.

Alan & Donna Hersch
5940 Dobsons Court
Subject: Keya House Update

City Council members –

This email is to update the Council on the Keya House progress to date. Enclosed are copies of the 2010 Keya House Annual Report, a letter of support from the Lincoln Police Department and articles from local and national publications.

The project has found great support from its neighbors and the Indian Village Neighborhood Association, where the House is a member and its representative serving on the Association’s Board of Directors. There have been no emergency or crisis situations at the house, and the project has developed strong collaborative relationships with clinical and emergency service providers who step in if a guest request assistance in areas outside the program’s expertise.

I want to thank the Council for allowing this important program to be implemented in Lincoln. All members of the community benefit when people receive the level of services they need, and our first year numbers show significant outcomes.

I want to invite you and the other council members to visit the house if you get the chance. It is an impressive program and without your support it wouldn’t exist.

Alan Green, M.P.A.
Executive Director
Mental Health Association of Nebraska
1645 'N' Street, Suite A
Lincoln, NE 68508
402-441-4371
FAX 402-441-4377
www.mha-ne.org

“The mental health system has learned to speak the language of recovery, but without really accepting what it means in terms of changing practice. Helping people to recover means helping them to fulfill their own dreams, moving away from compliance as a prime value and toward a much more complex kind of service that is individualized and which allows people the dignity of risk.” Judi Chamberlin, Psychiatric Survivor, Author, Consultant, Activist, Speaker/Lecturer

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May 9, 2011

John Spatz, Chair
Lincoln City Council
555 South 10th Street, Room 111
Lincoln, NE 68508

RE: Project Update, Keya House

Dear Chairman Spatz:

In August, 2009, the Lincoln City Council approved the Special Use for the Mental Health Association’s hospital diversion project, the Keya House. This innovative program continues to be the only program of its kind in the mid-west and has helped over 100 adults living with mental health issues avoid costly and intrusive crisis services.

This letter is to update the Council on the program’s progress. Enclosed are copies of the 2010 Keya House Annual Report, a letter of support from the Lincoln Police Department and articles from local and national publications.

The project has found great support from its neighbors and the Indian Village Neighborhood Association, where the House is a member and its representative serving on the Association’s Board of Directors. There have been no emergency or crisis situations at the house, and the project has developed strong collaborative relationships with clinical and emergency service providers who step in if a guest request assistance in areas outside the program’s expertise.

In April, 2011, the House welcomed its 100 [unduplicated] guest, with all guests staying for a total of 886 days. As the enclosed documents show, 3 out of 4 guests who have used emergency services in the past have not returned to those services after staying at the House. However, lessening the demand for costly crisis services is only part of the equation. A significant number of guests were employed at the time of their visit, and report that they would have likely lost their job if they had to use extended crisis level services, and every guest had permanent housing at the time of their visit, housing that could be jeopardized if lengthy hospitalization were required.
I want to thank the Council for allowing this important program to be implemented in Lincoln. All members of the community benefit when people receive the level of services they need, and our first year numbers show significant outcomes.

I want to invite you and the other council members to visit the house if you get the chance. It is an impressive program and without your support it wouldn’t exist.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Alan M. Green, M.P.A.
Executive Director
Keya House
Annual Report: 2010

Total Guests (Unduplicated Count): 83
Total Guest Days: 718
Average Length of Stay: 4.8

*****

Unit Cost per Contract: $182 / Day Year Total: $266,000
Crisis Center $600 / Day 718 day Total: $430,000*
Hospital (avg) $1,200 / Day 718 day Total: $861,600*

*does not include the cost of additional emergency services (e.g. police department or emergency medical services)
Nebraska Behavioral Health Region V provided the following data for Keya House guests’ service utilization for 2 years prior to the opening of the house through the first year of operation.

Overall, there was a **70% drop in utilization** of state and county-run emergency services:
What are the demographic and clinical characteristics of Keya House guests?

- **GENDER:** 80% Female; 20% Male
- **RACE:** 90% White; 4% Black; 4% Hispanic/Latino; 2% Biracial
- **EMPLOYMENT:** 22% Employed; 3% Veteran
- **HOUSING:** 81% Independent Living
What do people like and dislike about their experiences at the Keya House?

Overall, guests indicate satisfaction with their stays at the Keya House.

86% Strongly Agree that coming to the Keya House helped them avoid going to the Emergency Room or Crisis Center.

77.8% Strongly Agree that guests get an orientation to the program and have a chance to discuss their reason for coming to the Keya House.

100% Strongly Agree that staff are available 24/7.

88.9% Strongly Agree that the quality of time spent with staff was good.

88.9% Strongly Agree that staff and guests are respected equally.

97.2% Strongly Agree that the house was neat and attractive, and that the facilities were clean and sanitary.

97.2% Agree or Strongly Agree that overall, they felt comfortable in the Keya House.

What circumstances stimulate people to use the Keya House?

[Diagram showing the following percentages: 25% Isolation, 20% Symptoms/Thoughts of Self-Harm, 15% Learn Skills/Gain Support, 10% Environmental Stress, 5% Prevent Hospitalization, 5% Sobriety.]

February 26, 2011

Mr. Alan Green  
Executive Director  
Mental Health Association of Nebraska  
1645 N Street, Suite A  
Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear Alan,

Please accept this letter as enthusiastic acknowledgement from local law enforcement that the Keya House has become a successful and important part of our community. During our first discussions about what a hospital diversion house would look like and how it would integrate into our crisis response framework, I was impressed with the width of the audience you chose to engage. Not only did you immediately involve representatives from all levels of care, prevention to hospitalization, but you were sure to involve consumers, neighborhood organizations and city officials as well. While your choice to cast such a wide net wasn’t clear to me at first, I can’t help but think that the Keya House would not have ever come to be if you had not started your efforts to partner with all aspects of the community as soon as you did.

I am especially appreciative of your election to involve law enforcement at the start of the project. A crisis diversion house is sure to arouse worry when introduced to any community. Citizens naturally look to their police to keep them safe and identify what is and what is not dangerous to them. By educating us about your plan at the start, we were able to provide an endorsement for the project when other city entities and community groups were first contacted. I think this made a big difference in terms of how well your proposals were received by everyone who needed to give you a “green light” to proceed with the project.

Keeping law enforcement involved will be just as important. While we can always speak to the efficacy of the level of care you provide, what will be very useful to the long term success of the house is our
capability to inform the public of the absence of police calls at the Keya House—the very things our community members had concerns about before you helped your first guest.

Police officers are all too familiar with being sent help someone who is in a crisis and finding that the mere presence of their badge has criminalized the person they are trying to serve for no reason other than there are no alternative sources of assistance. The Keya House is a strong step in the right direction; please keep up the great work.

Joseph Wright, Captain
Lincoln Police Department
575 S. 10th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508
In the mental health arena, innovation and timing can reap great rewards.

Stigma, fear, limited resources, and increasing demand have long plagued mental health care. Traditionally, these forces have worked together to necessitate a utilitarian solution for the delivery of publicly funded mental health services: available and sought out primarily in times of crisis, and generally aimed at stabilization or reduction of crisis. However, the objective should and can be different: meaningful treatment options available for people where and when they need them. Peer-run respite programs are one form of effective, efficient, person-centered services that meet the needs of diverse people with unique situations. Peer-run services are cost-effective, consistent with the recovery model, and can prevent escalation to the “crisis” phase, thereby circumventing exorbitant cost to the service system, the individual, and their loved ones.

The concept of peer-run respite programs as an alternative to hospitalization dates back to the early 1990’s. The consumer recovery movement got its jump-start in 2003 with the publication of the President’s New Freedom Commission on Mental Health’s Achieving the Promise: Transforming Mental Health Care in America, which asserted that mental health services need to be person-centered, and “care must focus on increasing consumer’s ability to successfully cope with life’s challenges, on facilitating recovery, and on building resilience.” Since that date close to a dozen peer-run respite programs have opened in the United States.

One such program is the Mental Health Association of Nebraska’s Keya House, which opened in 2009. The program is modeled after PEOPLE, Inc.’s Rose House in New York, and is the first peer-run respite house in the Midwest.

The Keya House is completely peer-run; there are no clinical services or clinicians associated with the house, only trained peer companions. The house is a place of respite and refuge; utilization of the house and activities is entirely voluntary. The Keya House is situated in a residential neighborhood in Lincoln, Nebraska. It is available, free of charge, to adults who are experiencing the “red flags” of escalating symptoms associated with their mental health issue. The house is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Guests are welcome to stay for up to 5 days and then return to the house for another visit after 30 days. This policy may be modified on an individual basis, and requires a specific plan of action to avoid creating a dependency relationship.

Trained peer companions are on hand at all times to work with house guests. When a guest registers for their stay at the house, they identify the problems and/or issues with which they are having difficulties. They then work on solutions with the support from trained staff. Guests must be able to function independently, practice good personal hygiene, and respect other guest’s privacy. Individual responsibility is the foundation upon which all support services are built, including the expectation that each guest will adhere to their individual treatment regimens as arranged with their doctors. To help facilitate this, each of the four bedrooms has a keyed entryway and lockbox for valuables, medications and other personal items. In addition, guests are also expected to provide their own food, cook their own meals and clean up after themselves.

Services at the house are a third the cost of the local crisis center and a sixth as much as the hospital emergency room. In its first year of operation, the Keya House had 78 unduplicated guests, who stayed for a total of 718 days. According to Magellan service data for Nebraska, 3 out of 4 house guests that received emergency level services prior to coming to the house have not returned to those services after visiting the house.

The Keya House enjoys a close working relationship with local clinical service providers, emergency services and law enforcement. If a guest requests or requires services beyond those provided at the house, the program partners step in and fill that particular function. For example, the house collaborates closely with local partial hospitalization programs which provide the participant with structured counseling and medication management during the day, and informal peer-to-peer support services when they return to the house in the evening.

Meaningful collaborations between peer-run recovery services and traditional clinical care are both effective and efficient. The house has surpassed its goal of providing an alternative to traditional crisis services, it also serves to connect and empower people with mental illness thereby advancing both resiliency and recovery.

Alan M. Green, M.P.A., Executive Director, Mental Health Association of Nebraska
Felicie Reddy, M.A., Doctoral candidate in psychology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Keya House is low-cost alternative in crisis

By NANCY HICKS / Lincoln Journal Star | Posted: Tuesday, January 18, 2011 5:30 pm

The two-story house on South 14th Street has offered more than 75 people a safe haven during emotional crises since it opened in December 2009.

The Keya House likely saved taxpayers at least $700,000 in its first 10 months of operation, serving as an alternative to more expensive services such as an emergency room or the Lincoln Crisis Center, said Alan Green, executive director of the Mental Health Association of Nebraska.

The house offers an alternative to more traditional medical-oriented crisis services for as many as four people at a time with mental health problems.

It is 100 percent consumer-run, -managed and -operated by people who have had mental health diagnoses.

"All folks working, volunteering and staying at the house are people living with mental health issues -- something no other organization can claim in Nebraska," Green said.

And it does not have a clinical approach, he said.

"It's like going into a friend's home and spending the day there," said Sparkel Otero, who has been a guest, a volunteer and now is a full-time paid staff member at Keya (pronounced Kay-a) House.

There are no schedules at Keya House. You don't have to wake up at a certain time, eat at a certain time. There's no group therapy, but there's always a volunteer or staff member available, staffer Chad Magdanz said.

Guests, who can stay as many as five days, can go shopping or stay home. They can visit with friends or watch TV. They remain in control of their lives, Green said.

About a quarter of the first 78 guests were employed and went off to jobs.

About 20 of the first 46 guests had used crisis-level services -- from the detox center to the local crisis center -- within two years of their visits to Keya House, according to information collected by Magellan, which works with the state Medicaid program.

Nine of the 46 used another crisis service in the months after their stay at Keya House.

The data do not include local hospital emergency visits, information now being collected by Keya House staff.

Eighty-six percent of Keya House guests said the house helped them avoid going to an emergency room or crisis center.

"Sometimes people just need a little break, a little hope, and they can run with that," said Destenie Commuso, Keya staff member.

The house operates on about $166,000 a year, channeled through the Region V behavioral health system, money saved after Nebraska reduced clients at state-run psychiatric regional centers.

A stay at Keya House costs about one-third as much as the Lincoln Crisis Center and about one-sixth as much as an overnight stay in the hospital, Green said.
Keya House

The word “Keya” means “turtle” in Lakota, a Native American language.

Keya is believed to be a symbol of good health and long life. Keya demonstrates the ability to adapt to changes and new surroundings by living in and out of water—a trait symbolizing the power of individuals to adapt to healthier activities and a new lifestyle.

Keya is also accepting and uncomplaining, and it moves with a slow and steady pace forward—traits symbolizing an individual’s realization that health improvements don’t happen quickly and it takes a steady pace of growth and change in order to recover and attain a state of wellness.

How Can You Help?
We accept any donations that promote recovery and wellness. For more information, call 402-441-4371, or e-mail Alan Green at agreen@mha-ne.org.

Who We Are

The Mental Health Association of Nebraska (MHA-NE) is a consumer-run, voluntary, non-profit, statewide association with chapters located in communities throughout Nebraska.

MHA-NE brings together people with lived experience with mental illness, families, professionals, advocates, and concerned citizens to address all aspects of mental health and mental illness.

We are dedicated to ensuring that public mental health policy is just, fair, and promotes equality and opportunity.

MHA-NE supports freedom for individuals with mental illness. Freedom to take advantage of life’s opportunities. Freedom to decide where one lives, works, the important things people will do with their lives, the relationships they establish, how they choose to contribute to the community, and what services they will use.

Keya House is made possible through the generous support of Region V Systems and the Nebraska Division of Behavioral Health Services.
Who Qualifies?
Keya House is for adults at least nineteen years old with a behavioral health diagnosis, and who live in the Region V Systems service area.

Why Peers?
Peers have all experienced what it is like to be on the verge of crisis, if not surrounded by it. We understand the need for support during those difficult times, which is why we offer strength, hope, and knowledge about recovery to those individuals who need a supportive and healing environment.

What We Offer

- Peers helping peers with crisis prevention and diversion from psychiatric distress that may lead to hospitalization.
- A comfortable, clean, and furnished four-bedroom house in a quiet and safe neighborhood.
- Self help and proactive recovery tools to regain and maintain wellness.
- Trained peer companions who are compassionate, understanding, empowering, and available twenty-four hours a day.

How It's Done
This program is strictly voluntary and free of charge. You can self-refer or be referred by a health professional or a family member. There is a registration process to ensure the appropriateness of the program for each individual as well as for the comfort of other guests.

- We offer a stay of up to five days.
- Peer companions staff the house twenty-four hours a day.
- Staff can maintain contact and support at your request after you finish your stay.

Guidelines

- You must not be in crisis or severe emotional distress.
- You must have transportation to and from the house.
- You must not have any known physical illness (e.g., fever, flu symptoms, intestinal distress).
- You must be able to maintain acceptable personal hygiene.
- You must be responsible for preparing your meals and cleaning up after yourself.
- You must understand and sign a safety and responsibility contract.
- You must have permanent housing after your stay.
- You must follow the house rules which will be fully explained when you enter the house.
Present: John Spatz, Chair; Gene Carroll, Vice Chair; Jayne Snyder; Doug Emery; Jon Camp; and Jonathan Cook

Absent: Adam Hornung

Others: Joan Ross, City Clerk; Rick Hoppe, Chief of Staff; and Mary Meyer, Council Office

Chair Spatz opened the meeting at 2:02 p.m. and announced the location of the Open Meetings Act.

**I. CITY CLERK**

Ross stated they have reappointments, and an appointment, first. Do not know if anyone will appear. On ordinances, #13 through #18, will call together, but will not read each one individually as they are very similar. Will announce the various code sections and state the vacation, funeral, holiday leaves. Spatz agreed on the order. Ross said #24 is an appeal and have been advised that Brad Williams will attend to speak on behalf of Judy and Jim Lerdahl.

Hoppe stated regarding #46, the appointments to the new EMS Oversight Authority Board, did not previously realize he would be out of town. Hoping for a week’s delay in order to appear and answer questions. He thought it would be beneficial to delay a week in order for him to attend. Cook agreed. Ross added when the resolutions are moved forward will note Item 46 will be held.

Spatz asked if special procedure on the swearing-in? Ross stated first we’ll make sure the Mayor is on camera. Once the meeting is called to order the Chair can announce the Oath of Office. Ross stated she would stand at the podium, facing Council, with the Mayor on the dias. Discussed with City 5 and will have the U. S. flag as the backdrop as the oath is administered.

**II. MAYOR**

1. NEWS RELEASE. “O” Street to close Tuesday, May 3rd, during evening hours for pavement marking.
2. NEWS RELEASE. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON #1. Only lane closures needed in the area to complete crosswalk markings.
3. NEWS ADVISORY. Mayor Beutler, Lincoln Water System officials, and members of the Mayor’s Water Conservation Task Force will hold a news conference Thursday, May 5th, 10:00 a.m. at 555 S. 10th, Room 303, to recognize Mayor’s Water Conservation Task Force’s poster winners and the status of the City’s water supply and water conservation efforts.
4. Invitation to Mayor Chris Beutler’s Swearing-In Ceremony, Monday, May 9, 2011.
5. NEWS RELEASE. Mayor not recommending watering restrictions.
6. NEWS RELEASE. Mayor announces winners of annual Water Conservation Art Contest.

No comments

**WEST HAYMARKET JOINT PUBLIC AGENCY**

1. The West Haymarket Joint Public Agency will meet on Thursday, May 5, 2011, City County Building, Room 303. Revised agenda and substitute resolution for Bill No. WH 11-34 are posted on
II. Additional Information: Motion to Amend No. 1 (WH11-35M1) will be presented at the meeting on Thursday. Posted at http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/finance/account/jpa-mtgs.htm.

No comments

III. DIRECTORS

HEALTH DEPARTMENT
1. NEWS RELEASE. Lincoln and Lancaster County Environmental Leadership Awards.
No comments

CITY LIBRARIES
1. Library goes live with new online catalog and checkout system on May 4, 2011.
No comments

PLANNING DEPARTMENT
1. Administrative approvals by the Planning Director from April 26, 2011 through May 2, 2011.
No comments

PLANNING COMMISSION
1. Action by the Planning Commission on May 4, 2011.
No comments

WEED AUTHORITY
1. Combined Weed Program, City of Lincoln, April 2011 monthly report. Also on line at http://lancaster.ne.gov/weeds/planrpts.htm
No comments

IV. COUNCIL MEMBERS

DOUG EMERY
1. Correspondence from Linda Shamburg, University Place Community Organization, suggesting an area improvement in painting fire hydrants.
No comments

V. MISCELLANEOUS

Cook No comments
Snyder No comments
Carroll No comments
Camp No comments
Emery No comments
Spatz No comments

VI. CORRESPONDENCE FROM CITIZENS
1. InterLinc correspondence from Jason Chambers on his testimony and research concerning the claim for damages with his mailbox.
2. Telephone message from Paula Nicholls on the widening of Old Cheney Road. Would like to see the engineers plan used.
3. Telephone message from Virginia Carter on the widening of Old Cheney Road. Use the engineers plan for safety and future traffic flow.
No comments

VII. ADJOURNMENT
Chair Spatz adjourned the meeting at 2:07 p.m.