

**CITY COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
OCTOBER 6, 2014
555 S. 10th STREET, BILL LUXFORD STUDIO
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING DIRECTORS' MEETING**

I. MINUTES

1. Directors' Meeting minutes of September 22, 2014.
2. Organizational Meeting minutes of September 22, 2014.

II. BOARDS/COMMITTEES/COMMISSIONS/CONFERENCE REPORTS

1. West Haymarket Joint Public Agency - Emery
2. Downtown Lincoln Association (DLA) Eskridge, Gaylor Baird
3. Visitors Promotion Committee (VPC) - Fellers
4. Problem Resolution Team (PRT) - Emery
5. Internal Liquor Committee (ILC) - Christensen, Eskridge, Fellers
6. Lancaster County Correctional Facility JPA - Emery
7. Joint Budget Committee - Gaylor Baird, Emery

III. REQUESTS FROM MAYOR

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

V. CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

VI. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS

See invitation list.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
OCTOBER 6, 2014

Present: Doug Emery, Chair; Trent Fellers, Vice Chair; Jon Camp; Carl Eskridge; Leirion Gaylor Baird; Jonathan Cook; and Roy Christensen

Others: Rick Hoppe, Chief of Staff

Chair Emery opened the meeting at 2:10 p.m. and announced the location of the Open Meetings Act.

I. MINUTES

1. Directors' Meeting minutes of September 22, 2014.
2. Organizational Meeting minutes of September 22, 2014.

With no corrections the above minutes will be placed on file in the City Council office.

II. BOARDS/COMMITTEES/COMMISSIONS/CONFERENCE REPORTS

1. West Haymarket Joint Public Agency - Emery

Emery stated they're coming to a close on the last two garages, which are now open. Discussed the final look of the green and red, and how it will shine at night to differentiate. Emery commented during the evenings of the last 2 home football games the block between Q and R Streets on Canopy Street was closed, not to allow drinking but because the number of people standing in the road to watch football on the Cube, as they couldn't get in with it being full.

2. Downtown Lincoln Association (DLA) - Eskridge, Gaylor Baird

Eskridge stated Mixdorf, City Parking Manager, spoke on the parking plan being worked on. Areas identified where they anticipate near future parking needs, one being close to Pershing. As this site is developed future parking is needed as part of the plan as there's already a need for parking regardless of a new development.

Gaylor Baird stated interestingly during his presentation Mixdorf said the Larson Building parking was full in 2 years. Not expected as quickly with 650 spaces. He mentioned when LumberWorks parking garage was discussed there was commentary of being too far away and people wouldn't use. LumberWorks has 500 spaces, all full, and they cannot take any additional monthly parkers. The garage reduced some monthly parkers in order to meet agreements.

Gaylor Baird added the DLA parking garages are coming on line, but there still is need for garages centrally located. On the plans can see where Mixdorf anticipates the greatest future need. Emery asked for locations of greatest need. Gaylor Baird replied between 13th and 18th and between L and K Streets, and logical future areas between 9th and 10th and Rosa Parks Way. The charter future areas being looked at. Also, the DLA is preparing for October 8th - 15th events. The Tower Square ribbon cutting. A run, yoga, and other public events. The DLA had their BID renewal process begin with their consultant, who is from Denver. They will be looking to Lincoln's future, evaluating business districts and looking for ways to simplify them, and in the long-term, looking at the South Haymarket or east towards Antelope Valley, going forward.

3. Visitors Promotion Committee (VPC) - Fellers

Fellers stated the VPC reviewed applications from Woods Park Tennis Center who asked for \$750,000 for the facility they were building. Great presentation from the Woods Park Foundation.

Ultimately the VPC thought the Tennis Center wouldn't have the type of draw which would effect hotels, reservations. Discussed the types of items they would like to see. Ultimately rejected the \$750,000 and proposed to the County Board they do a \$50,000 contribution. The County Board, last week, voted to \$50,000 this year, and \$50,000 next year.

Camp asked for the total annual budget of VPC. Fellers replied he couldn't quote the VPC budget off the top of his head. Do know they are fairly full on projects, and within the next couple of years plan \$600,000 of projects. They committed to the arena and several others. Will get a list. Camp stated possibly the total, not so much the list, know there's more requests.

Emery added it may be helpful if they said, here are the successes. Not sure how many people are aware there were approximately 7500 women in town last weekend for Lincoln Faith. Obviously not as flashy as Katie Perry or those types of events, but a lot of these events go on. A lot more of this type being available then the Pinnacle Bank Arena which people don't know about and they see a gap between a name performer coming and may assume the building sits vacant. Not true and think we need to do a better job letting people know what is happening. The arena doesn't sit vacant as activities go on virtually all the time. Fellers commented Maul does a great job advertising what goes on, not just in the Pinnacle Arena but in all community. Emery agreed to a certain extent, but the more you get the word out it's great for everybody. And may promote an event they hadn't previously thought about who may want to come here. Lincoln is one of the leading midwest cities for church functions. Not sure how many know.

4. Problem Resolution Team (PRT) - Emery

Emery stated the PRT just mitigated a problem on their 3rd property this year. We were given permission by the Court to go and clean the property. We pay out of a small amount of PRT funds. Going forward this does go as a lien against the property and when the property is sold the PRT regains its money. Gives the PRT a way to resolve and continue to have funds. We have at least one more property where we'll go to Court, with the likelihood of a Court battle, but after we may have an opportunity to go and clean up, probably in the spring. These are some of the worst and have been on the PRT list a long time. We're finally seeing judges who will tell them they have 15 days to clean up, and if it doesn't happen, it goes to the PRT.

Eskridge stated there was a difficult property in the Capital Beach area with Attorney Connolly working diligently on this PRT case. Frustrating as the owner's brother lived at the property and the brother (resident of house) would go throughout the city looking through people's garbage, and haul home. Numerous items in the yard. The owner kept trying to clean up but the brother living there continued to accumulate. Emery added the one brother had made a promise to their mother that he would take care of the younger brother. A delicate position.

Emery commented the truth is there's a lot of hoarders and it's a delicate disease. They're don't do just make life difficult, but something a hoarder cannot control. You could see the anguish the hoarding brother went through as they were pulling items off. Very hard to fathom until you actually see how really attached they are to their items. But, we have several more which we are may bring to a point where judges finally say, the way to solve these problems is if we allow the City to go forward, but this does come with cost.

5. Internal Liquor Committee (ILC) - Christensen, Eskridge, Fellers

Eskridge stated the ILC had a good discussion with some vendors and the community on how they feel about the arena and how changes in the City impact them. Then talked about issues relative to tailgating. Obviously we're not taking away tailgating. During football season it's a part of the culture but being able to control situations in a better way. We don't want a situation like what

happened at the Indian Center property. Looking at what we can do legally to fix some problems. The Board at the Indian Center will make future changes as they did for the subsequent game.

Christensen added one thing we need to deal with in the long term is that kind of behavior will move locations and will happen unless a more self policing takes place. Of concern is where will they move to? We'll have to, over time, develop a long term strategy for dealing with this behavior. We can't have what happened at the Indian Center anywhere. Not thinking this is only a long term problem but that we have to deal with tailgating everywhere. The same day of the Indian Center problem a tailgate party in Louisville called for the Sheriff's department.

Emery commented we have issues and as we think of a long term solution there are other cities dealing with this and much like the idea as with meters. I don't think anyone who watched gameday on Saturday saw the gameday at the Grove in Mississippi, which would make much of what happened in Lincoln look very tame. They're more fortunate as they put tailgating together to keep watch, all in one central area. Our problem is we have a downtown stadium and people spread out.

6. Lancaster County Correctional Facility JPA - Emery

Emery stated they have a storage shed being constructed, which should be completed shortly. At that time we may go to quarterly meetings as now mostly we meet, and talk about paying bills. Minor landscaping needs to be done and if it turns cold quickly it may go to spring.

7. Joint Budget Committee (JBC) - Gaylor Baird, Emery

Gaylor Baird stated the JBC met at the arena which was the site for the project, Homeless Connect. A one day process, basically a one-stop shopping center, for community people. A remarkable day to witness. People lined up outside the arena, before the doors opened. Inside each homeless person met by student volunteers from Doane and Concordia Colleges who acted as their navigator for the event. They segregated between Veterans and non-Veterans. Volunteers were trained to assist in looking for eligible services. Guests start with a hot donated meal, and then moved to any number of options. The longest line was for vaccine shots. Also there was clothing for Veterans, with other options of foot care, hair cuts. A lot of technology with access to libraries, explaining how they fit in, and legal assistance. Locker rooms set aside for medical exams, with ladies receiving pap smears. Very well organized. A tremendous event. Over 75 different organizations.

Gaylor Baird added this project happens once a year from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Lincoln has a lot of people in transition with this project lending help. Very impressive to see all the people who are working on this problem and the arena made it possible for everyone to gather.

III. REQUESTS FROM MAYOR

Hoppe stated no requests today.

Hoppe added the Parks Department did a great job Sunday. Emery commented yesterday one of the largest golf scrambles for charity occurred in Lincoln at the Highlands Golf Course. When he arrived neither one of mens' standing facilities were working. People literally drove to the port-a-johns. Decided to call Hoppe who made a phone call, or two. Emery stated by the time he was done with the front 9 the facilities were working. We're trying to sell golf in the City and it didn't look professional to have the two standing facilities not working. Reiterated he appreciated Hoppe and others to have it fixed.

Hoppe stated very grateful to the Parks employees who gave up part of their Sunday to make sure

this was fixed.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

V. CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

No comments

VI. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS

See invitation list.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Emery adjourned the meeting at 2:35 p.m.