

**CITY COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
OCTOBER 20, 2014
555 S. 10th STREET, BILL LUXFORD STUDIO
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING DIRECTORS' MEETING**

I. MINUTES

1. Directors' Meeting minutes of October 13, 2014.
2. Organizational Meeting minutes of October 13, 2014.

II. BOARDS/COMMITTEES/COMMISSIONS/CONFERENCE REPORTS

1. Public Building Commission (PBC) (last week report)- Camp, Cook
2. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (last week report) - Cook
3. Board of Health - Emery
4. Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC) - Eskridge

III. REQUESTS FROM MAYOR

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

1. Monday meeting calendar for 2015.

V. CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

VI. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS

See invitation list.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
OCTOBER 20, 2014**

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

Others: Denise Pearce, Senior Policy Counsel

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 October 13, 2014.
2. Organizational Meeting minutes of October 13, 2014.
With no corrections the above minutes placed on file in the City Council office.

II. BOARDS/COMMITTEES/COMMISSIONS/CONFERENCE REPORTS

1. Public Building Commission (PBC) - Camp, Cook

Cook stated the PBC approved the 605 Building phase one remodeling, receiving better bids. Construction costs are up and bids came in higher than expected. Did receive a bid of \$2.8 million, which we rejected as too high. The PBC then gave more flexibility to the bidders extending a few weeks to allow different bidders to submit bids. The PBC accepted a \$2.46 million bid, the best received, to proceed.

Cook stated the PBC also approved moving forward with phase two on the Bensch Building with PBH and Sinclair Hille.

Approved the facilities status update. The plan update shows what's in progress now. We have accomplished numerous projects in the last 5 years such as remodeling, and moving agencies. With the jail opening, we wanted one place constituents could go and see the entire plan for this campus.

Cook commented on the H & H parking lot City landscaping standards were not met, but have now done so. Hired Nebraska Nurseries for the landscaping, and the PBC made the final payment for the parking lot construction.

It was decided Councilman Christensen would determine if the Chamber flag poles are tall enough. Christensen replied affirmatively and stated there are no requirements on height.

2. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board - Cook

Cook stated the Board adopted some new guidelines for neighborhood park improvements. Basically for quite a few years have had an internal check list for neighborhood parks; playground equipment, etc. Felt it was a good idea to have in written form and have the Board approve. The basic work cost for each playground is approximately \$78,000 to create and do all the work in that area. There are alternative plans which the neighborhood should weigh in on, such as drinking fountains, tennis courts, pre-school play structures. What we're looking at now is what is near by. Example, a school near-by with playground equipment so possibly we wouldn't need to duplicate. But if a playground is nearby without playground equipment we will do small children playground equipment. Little children cannot play on the school grounds during school hours. We now have clear options and costs.

Cook added the Golf Committee discussed increasing golf fees 5% or so, each year, possibly over 5 years, to try to reach the \$600,000 or so needed for capital improvements. Now we collect enough just to operate but not fix. A general problem with parks and we don't want our golf courses to continue to be neglected as has happened. The costs were held back for years as we felt there was competition and didn't want to raise prices and lose players because of not maintaining our courses. Should have been raising all along, because we hold down the prices. When we raise our prices the competitors raise theirs. He added fewer people may play golf, a problem nation-wide, and not sure how to deal with this problem. The Golf Committee worked hard and presented their report. We will work with the golf committee on changes to the golf fee structure. At the November meeting would want prices set before the holidays as people buy season passes as gifts.

Cook stated they received a presentation regarding art in Lincoln's parks. Did request an electronic version, and when received would be available for Council.

Fellers asked if they received a report regarding the grounds? Cook replied they didn't discuss. Fellers stated he was curious as they raised the fees and talked about the trend, golf being down, and how it compares. Cook answered it's very difficult to compare because of the weather. Comparing over short periods of time is difficult. Fellers stated should look at a trend of whether golf is expanding or contracting in Lincoln. This year the weather was pretty good, except for the spring, but increasing fees and trying to hit a benchmark to maintain courses. Cook asked Pearce if possibly Fleck-Tooze could look into? And possibly Parks and Rec could send to Council.

3. Board of Health - Emery

Emery stated at the Board of Health meeting most of the discussion focused on the Teach a Child to Fish group. They partner with an Omaha hospital. They will be presenting a clinic and have hands on with some of Lincoln's most obese children. Teach a Child to Fish was an organization started by Dr. Carl Lester, a past president of the Health Board, who deals with obesity. They have a program in Omaha and will bring to Lincoln one day a week to see if they can make a difference. It's a chronic problem, not only in the midwest but nation-wide.

Emery added they discussed the flu season which ordinarily starts in October. An article stated Nebraska may have had it's first flu cases, which led into a discussion on Ebola. People need to understand even with a large concern about Ebola be careful not to overreact as we will lose close to 30,000 people this year because of the flu. At this point the flu is a far more prevalent problem. They did receive a short presentation from Dr. Tim Timmons on Ebola and the flu.

4. Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC) - Eskridge

Eskridge stated Chief Peschong attended answering questions and providing information on how police responded to the issues at the Indian Center, cracking down on activities at that location. There had been concerns from MAC members thinking it was discriminatory, in a sense, in choosing to enforce that particular site, rather than other sites. A short discussion on what was done, and why.

III. REQUESTS FROM MAYOR

IV. MISCELLANEOUS: Monday meeting calendar for 2015

Emery stated two 2015 calendars sent to Council. Will abstain as after May someone will replace me.

Cook stated there are two options. One similar to this year, and one having the Columbus Day holiday. Anyone have a problem with the alternate calendar listing Columbus Day? Cook commented in the federal government everyone has Columbus Day off.

Camp asked what happened to New Years? This year we have the 22nd and the 29th of December. Cook replied the calendar doesn't go to 2016. If listing, would have the first Monday of 2016 off. Camp asked if we have the 5th off this year? Cook stated Christmas is on a Friday, usually if a Friday holiday we take off the following Monday. But if travel schedules, or family events, would work out better, we could take the 21st of 2015 for the Christmas holiday and the 28th for New Years.

Hoppe injected Christmas is on Thursday this year. Camp stated this year we have the 22nd & 29th off. Cook added Thursday can go either way, the week it's in or the next week. But if a Monday through Wednesday holiday we go with Monday; a Friday holiday we tend to go with the next Monday.

Fellers asked on January 5th would we have much of an agenda, with the holiday the previous week? Hoppe commented business tends to be slow at that time. Fellers added a lot depends on what's presented to the Clerk. Cook commented it's easier for staff to have Monday off after a Thursday or Friday holiday. Fellers said if a holiday weekend and we come on Monday, maybe a very short agenda. Cook stated possibly no one has plans at this point to schedule around. He added if during the year Council decides to move the day we can.

Camp thought for New Years could do January 4th of 2016. This year we have the two Mondays off. Cook stated presumably the New Year holiday could fall on January 4, 2016. Camp added this year it's the 5th we take off for New Years.

Camp added for Thanksgiving 2015, have the 30th as the Thanksgiving holiday, the following Monday. Cook stated staff receives Thursday and Friday as holidays. To prepare a packet for the following Monday on Wednesday, is a little difficult. Fellers thought to have Council holiday after the holiday. Discussion on holidays. Cook stated we could list January 4, 2016 on calendar as the New Year holiday. Discussion on time of meetings.

MOTION: Christensen made the motion to accept the alternative 2015 calendar, listing Columbus Day, and January 4, 2016 as the New Year's holiday, with meetings held at 3:00 p.m. and at 5:30 p.m. the last Monday of the month.

VOTE: Fellers, Gaylor Baird, Christensen, Cook, Camp, Eskridge voted aye. Emery abstained.

V. CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Eskridge stated Kit Boesch announced her retirement at the end of the year, and think it would be good to hear from her on her assessment of the department. Set a pre-council in November, before Thanksgiving.

VI. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS

See invitation list.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Emery adjourned the meeting at 2:32 p.m.