CITY COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
JULY 13, 2015
555 S. 10th Street, Bill Luxford Studio
Immediately Following Directors’ Meeting

Location Announcement of Nebraska Open Meetings Act: A copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is located on the wall at the back of the room.

I. MINUTES
   1. Directors’ and Organizational meeting minutes of June 22, 2015.

II. ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA

III. BOARDS/COMMITTEES/COMMISSIONS/CONFERENCE REPORTS
   1. Auditors Interview (06.24.15) - Christensen
   2. Downtown Lincoln Association (DLA) (06.23.15) - Eskridge, Gaylor Baird
   3. West Haymarket Joint Public Agency (06.25.15) - Eskridge
   4. Problem Resolution Team (PRT) (06.25.15) - Lamm
   5. Internal Liquor Committee (ILC) (06.29.14) - Christensen, Fellers, Eskridge
   6. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (07.09.15) - Christensen
   7. Information Services Policy Committee (ISPC) (07.09.15) - Raybould

IV. REQUESTS FROM MAYOR

V. MISCELLANEOUS
   1. Web page design.
   2. Possible consolidation of Directors’ and Organizational meetings.

VI. CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

VII. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS
   See invitation list.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT
Present: Trent Fellers, Chair; Leirion Gaylor Baird, Vice Chair; Jon Camp: Roy Christensen; Carl Eskridge; and Jane Raybould

Absent: Cyndi Lamm

Others Present: Rick Hoppe, Chief of Staff; Jeff Kirkpatrick, City Attorney and Mary Meyer, Council Secretary

Chair Fellers opened the meeting at 2:29 p.m. and announced the location of the Open Meetings Act.

I. MINUTES
1. Directors’ and Organizational meeting minutes of June 22, 2015.
   With no corrections the above minutes on file in the City Council office.

II. ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA
Fellers stated it was discussed to move Item #39 First Reading from July 15th to August 15th.

Gaylor Baird had raised the question if the date is agreeable and the Mayor’s office thinks it has plenty of time. Happens to be a Saturday. If we moved to the 17th, would be a Monday. If, for some reason, we did not act we can change. Would Council be in agreement with the reply being yes.

III. BOARDS/COMMITTEES/COMMISSIONS/CONFERENCE REPORTS

1. Auditors Interview (06.24.15) - Christensen
   Christensen stated there were 2 meetings, 1 for process review and looking at applicants in writing, and the 2nd with 3 bidders attending and giving 45 minute presentations with 15 minutes for questions. At the end a vote was taken, but do not know if the bid has been awarded yet and therefore cannot announce.

2. Downtown Lincoln Association (DLA) (06.23.15) - Eskridge, Gaylor Baird
   Eskridge stated the meeting was at Innovation Campus with a tour of the facility following. Dealt with budget issues and had informal discussion on the growing numbers of panhandlers, homeless people on downtown Lincoln streets, with thoughts on the problem from Public Safety Director Casady. He is convening people who need to be part of the discussion at this time.

   Gaylor Baird added in the past the DLA has coordinated some public information on homelessness and considering doing again in the near future. They are also looking and prepping for the next bid cycle, trying to make sure it’s as streamlined and efficient as possible. The DLA is pleased with the goals they can accomplish and think they can reduce the rate as we have more businesses to draw from and still make enough to grow their operation.

   Raybould asked on the homeless and panhandlers, is this well documented, a substantial increase? A seasonal increase? Stark and dramatic? Eskridge didn’t know if there was documentation of increasing numbers but there seems to be an increase, with more aggressive individuals and younger to some extent. Raybould asked if Casady corroborated? He seems to be a numbers person, does he have substantiating incident reports? Eskridge said Casady’s responded by acknowledging and saying it’s not just downtown.
3. **West Haymarket Joint Public Agency (06.25.15) - Eskridge**

Eskridge stated the meeting included appraisal for the Hudl offices property to be built. Looking at expanding the Benesch contract in terms of condemnation of the former Alter Scrap Metal site. Also looked at a contract with Venue Solutions, who will do a financial performance review/operational review of the Pinnacle Bank Arena. The contract was approved for $55,000 and we expect a report by, if not the next meeting, the one following, of how the Pinnacle Bank Arena is doing after two years in terms of the operational budget. What could we do better than other similar venues? Eskridge commented the operational side is not up to the standard we want. Trying to figure out, and what to do to increase.

4. **Problem Resolution Team (PRT) (06.25.15) - Lamm**

Lamm absent.

5. **Internal Liquor Committee (ILC) (06.29.14) - Christensen, Fellers, Eskridge**

Eskridge stated they discussed two main topics. One - SDL’s and looking at possible expanding, in particular for an event this weekend. Discussed the concerns on police resources, traffic, etc. The owner of the company doing Peddle Pubs attended, outlined his operation and changes which will occur because of the State law change, and being able to serve alcohol on the vehicles. Conversation on figuring out some rules we may need to make sure it continues operating safely. Will discuss at our next meeting.

Christensen in agreement, adding it’s up to the ILC on what we should do to help control time and location of operation of the Peddle Pubs. We want to be sure they’re safe, and the public is safe.

Fellers stated one comment stood out for him on Peddle Pubs. A bar owner said, if you come to my establishment I would rather be the first bar you visit rather than the last. Thought incredibly telling of how he felt. Christensen said the liability concerns, with Fellers agreeing. Fellers added if the Peddle Pub drops off people in front of his bar, as the last stop, the violation doesn’t go to 4 other places they’ve been to, it goes on his bar. Found to be the most profound statement in 30 plus minutes of conversation.

Fellers added if you’re driving downtown on Saturday and get behind a Peddle Pub it can be a dangerous situation, especially if they’re on 9th or 10th Streets and you’re coming off the viaduct. I recommend keeping off of “O” Street, also north and south on 9th and 10th Streets. Observed them crossing “O” on 9th Street.

Raybould asked if Peddle Pubs have seat belts with the reply of no. She stated it’s hard to imagine the liability of someone falling off. Christensen commented the seats are designed to make it difficult to fall out. Fellers added, also people are packed in. Christensen said the large pubs have approximately 14 seats, the smaller half the amount.

Camp asked what type of discretion does this Council have? Christensen replied he understood initially that the time and place is reasonable. Eskridge added the definition of these vehicles as it seems to him in State law also applies to the Peddle Cabs, the two passenger vehicles. He added numerous cities have and in most places there doesn’t seem to be big problems. Indianapolis seems to have more problems than most and part of their problem is that the Pubs have gone through residential areas, and the hours of operation.

6. **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (07.09.15) - Christensen**

Christensen stated a brief meeting where we reviewed old business, and then took our annual tour. First visited the No. 48th Street transfer station area, where there’s a long term plan to create a park with walking and bike trails. Right now the station is only operating for construction waste, no longer household waste. They have capped areas where they’re talking of putting some park area. This is a multi year project, not within 10 years, but stages. We toured several places in the city on our way to Van Dorn park. We were
given details along the way with questions being asked.

Christensen said they then met with the Parks Foundation and a group who proposes we take a long term project at Van Dorn park and put in a botanical conservatory. Discussed as an indoor-outdoor project, using approximately 16 park acres. Heard about the operation and looks. Still in the stage of estimating cost, as it’s the beginning and getting people excited about the idea. Christensen commented before dinner had one other tour at the Knolls, looking at the proposed changes. There is the possibility of using some of the golf area as a public park, towards the east side of the Knolls clubhouse.

7. Information Services Policy Committee (ISPC) (07.09.15) - Raybould

Councilwoman Raybould stated the meeting was rescheduled until August. Interestingly we had discussed web page design at the last meeting and it’s listed on this agenda.

IV. REQUESTS FROM MAYOR

None

V. MISCELLANEOUS

Web Page Design

Fellers stated he discussed with previous Council and now point out there is some information on the Council website, and some not. Some members have bios and pictures, some do not. Want to revisit. Fellers stated Gaylor Baird has brought forth interesting ideas on what we could do better to communicate with the public on our website. He added, one thing at the very least, is to have a bio and picture of each member on the website. Another is to meet, look at the website, and possibly make it more user friendly, rather than having to click 2 or 3 times to pull up information, maybe 1 click. Fellers commented he and Gaylor Baird have discussed and she would like to be a part of the process, which is open to all. We’ll decide if we want Gaylor Baird to be the sole agent, or want more members.

Gaylor Baird stated she contacted Justin Kohmetscher, who does page updates for all departments. Getting him scheduled to act on Council’s decisions would be a preliminary step. She distributed a handout which the previous Council saw and want this Council to see some objectives and questions, considerations, and research of other city websites which may be a model for our website. Don’t know if we have the technical capabilities some cities have, or the staff, but may start a discussion. She added on the back is potentially what it could be like. Would like input on whether it makes sense to include, if Council agrees with these potential suggestions, or if ideas are missing? We want the Mayor’s office support to schedule.

Hoppe stated he’s notified CIC this will be a high priority.

Gaylor Baird stated to go through some:
* Calendar. A large piece is wanting to make easier for people to know how to testify, how to attend and be a part of the process, whether in person or writing. Believe for some it’s confusing when resolutions have the vote their second reading, and ordinances have their vote the next week. Even the media sometimes cover the wrong date as it may be hard to know when we’re going to take action. Think a key function for clear communication.
* Bios. Gaylor Baird stated the bios as mentioned.
* Relevant to discussion about the transportation network, what’s the plan? Update road closures. Possibly the City Council could offer our version.
* Links to Community Partners.
* Search Function. An improved search function. Make more functional. We’ll rely on Justin.

Gaylor Baird added these are suggestions for making our page a better site to serve the public.
Fellers stated he would be happy to be part of this process. At the very least let’s gather information on bios and pictures. Now Eskridge’s and Camp’s looks nice. Submit to Meyer. Gaylor Baird added possibly within the next week, or two, everyone send their information and picture.

Hoppe will set a meeting, but asked Gonzolas (Citizen Information Center Manager) if she wants to wait until the process is concluded or if Council wants to start the conversation? Fellers replied we can start the conversation. Hoppe stated he would arrange.

Consolidation of Directors’ and Organizational Meetings
Fellers stated he feels a consolidation is worthy of discussion. Now feels like the Organizational meeting and the Directors’ meeting run concurrently, and there may be a strategy to make one agenda. Then the Mayor’s office wouldn’t have to chose whether he speaks early, or not. Some items seem to be fairly duplicative. Fellers asked if Council had objections to merging the two meetings, having the Directors’ & Organizational Meeting, with one set of minutes. Maybe more efficient with one agenda, one meeting. Possibly take an at ease for time to speak to directors at the beginning, but then not calling minutes again, or miscellaneous. We’ll have to fine tune, but now it seems like one meeting. Objections to merging the two agendas for one meeting?

Christensen asked City Attorney Kirkpatrick is he sees any complications? Kirkpatrick replied he thinks it’s solely a function of what the Council wants. Could not find anything in the code. He stated he worked with Cook on changing the code with one comment he made several times, we use to do it this way, and over time we started doing it this way. Believe Camp could tell you the Council has evolved over time and this would be another evolution.

Camp stated this was a brown bag luncheon before. He added the Directors’ meeting would be in the morning and the Council meeting started at 1:30 p.m. The meeting was more informal, with the idea of having ample conversation. We evolved in a different path.

Raybould would like to see a sample agenda if combined. She stated the City Clerk would still speak, the Mayor or representative would have the opportunity to speak. Then, would you put Requests from the Mayor directly under Mayor? The Mayor’s representative could leave and we would do Directors’ with an opportunity to meet with Directors, and after they could leave, with Council going onto Boards and Committees?

Fellers replied possibly start with City Clerk, have Mayor’s and Directors’ correspondence which would eliminate the Request from the Mayor, then Directors’ and Adjustments to the Agenda, Boards and Committees, Council Members, Meetings & Invitations, Correspondence, Adjournment.

Camp asked do we want to keep the Directors here and have them listen to our committee reports? Fellers answered they wouldn’t have to stay. Keep the top part of the Directors’ agenda and we would merge the Organizational meeting. Will work on a draft and have a copy to everyone before the meeting. If there’s fine tuning, we’ll do at that time.

Gaylor Baird hopes to keep Council time with Directors, plus the Organizational Meeting is our time for communication. Potentially with a merge would lose the second part. It’s already lost a little. Camp commented before they talked for 45 minutes to a hour and a nice opportunity to visit and go through items.

Fellers stated we’ll do for a week and if it doesn’t work will go back. Raybould asked about the timeline? Will it be at 1:30 p.m., 2:00 p.m.? Fellers answered would start at 2:00 p.m., just be one agenda rather than two separate.
Camp asked what if it’s a joint meeting but possibly break for 5 minutes, like we do now between meetings, to visit with the Directors? Would be a continuation so it almost follows the present two agendas but consolidating the two. The Directors could exit if they want, with Fellers in agreement. Camp appreciates the opportunity to talk with Directors and maybe this may encourage us to discuss more.

VI. CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Roy Christensen stated he also attended the VA Campus meeting, which was very productive. One large concern from the neighbors was a 40 foot set back on the southside of the park. In response to their concerns, as you’ve read, the development has agreed to change. People left feeling very good. Very encouraged about the project.

VII. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS

See invitation list.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Fellers adjourned the meeting at 2:58 p.m.