DIRECTORS’ ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
Monday, March 2, 2020
555 S. 10TH STREET
BILL LUXFORD STUDIO

I. MINUTES
1. Approval of Directors’ minutes from February 10, 2020

II. ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA

III. CITY CLERK

IV. MAYOR’S OFFICE

V. DIRECTORS CORRESPONDENCE
   PLANNING DEPARTMENT
   1. Appian Way Regional Center Phase II

WEED CONTROL AUTHORITY
1. 2019 Combine Weed Program Review

VI. BOARDS/COMMITTEES/COMMISSION REPORTS
1. 2020 Census Complete Count Committee - Shobe
2. BOH - Bowers (02.11.20)
3. MAC - Shobe (02.11.20)
4. LPED - Christensen, Meginnis (02.11.20)
5. PBC - Meginnis, Raybould (02.11.20)
6. ISPC - Washington (02.13.20)
7. Parks & Rec - Christensen (02.13.20)
8. ILC - Christensen, Shobe, Washington (02.24.20)
9. DLA - Meginnis, Ward (02.25.20)
10. PRT - Bowers (02.27.20)
11. WHJPA - Ward (02.27.20)
12. Tele-Communications - Washington (02.27.20)
13. PAC - Shobe, Christensen, Bowers (02.25.20)

VII. CONSTITUENT CORRESPONDENCE
1. Campion Project - Downtown Lincoln Association

VIII. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS
See invitation list.

IX. ADJOURNMENT
Early Detection Rapid Response

Prevention is the most effective method of dealing with weeds. Once a weed has entered an area and become established, eradication is far more expensive and it is likely that greater resources will be required to control its further spread and reduce its impact.

The first step in weed prevention, and the most cost effective means of managing weeds, is preventing the entry of new weeds into an area.

Once a weed has entered an area, Early Detection – Rapid Response (EDRR) is crucial to reduce its potential environmental and economic impacts. It is much easier to treat weeds when present in small numbers than when they are well established.

EDRR requires an awareness and understanding of the factors that favor the establishment and spread of weeds, and applying appropriate management practices that can prevent or reduce the risks.

The importance of weed spread prevention has grown with the recognition that the spread of most weeds occurs through similar pathways, such as the movement of goods, animals and vehicles contaminated with weed seeds. Currently, individual states and counties have different approaches to managing the spread of weeds.

UPLNK App Usage Continues to Increase

The City of Lincoln’s UPLNK App usage continues to increase as more citizens turn to technology to report unmaintained properties.

In 2019 the Weed Authority received a total of 3,155 complaints; UPLNK was responsible for 56% (1,777) of them. Weed abatement is the #2 request for service annually in Lincoln - second only to potholes.

From May through November weed abatement is the #1 request for service from the citizens of Lincoln.

“Once a weed has entered into an area, Early Detection – Rapid Response (EDRR) is crucial to reduce its potential environmental and economic impacts”

PlayCleanGo.org
Any time a property owner does not comply with our legal notice to maintain their property below the city height ordinance; our office hires a contractor to cut the property. Once the cutting is complete we file a “notice of possible unpaid weed assessment” with the Register of Deeds. If the assessment isn’t paid, a lien is attached to the property and is treated the same as unpaid property taxes.

The overall number of abatements in 2019 increased by 88, totaling 270; this is a 48.4% increase. The number of legal notices issued increased from 737 in 2018 to 1,222 in 2019. The number of properties inspected increased from 2,692 to 3,521. In addition to the legal notices, we also sent 1,862 letters, posted 1,717 warning signs and made 122 personal contacts to get properties controlled.

Noxious weeds know no boundaries. They find themselves at home inside the city limits, along the creeks, in wetlands and waste areas just as well as in the rural areas. Saltcedar, purple loosestrife and knotweed were first introduced as ornamentals and planted in our landscapes, so they are found more in the city than in rural areas. It’s important to control them in the city to prevent the spread into rural areas. In 2019, 30.3% of our noxious weed infestations occurred inside the city limits. While these infestations are very small in the total number of acres infested, we continue to find noxious weeds all around the city, many along the creeks and in waste areas. Our city inspectors made 1,168 inspections on 734 sites and found 546 sites infested with noxious weeds.

Lincoln’s Noxious Weeds

- Musk thistle: 195
- Phragmites: 152
- Leafy spurge: 109
- Purple loosestrife: 15
- Knotweed: 21
- Canada thistle: 43
- Teasel: 10
- Saltcedar: 1

City of Lincoln Weed Abatement Program

Weed Abatement (total inspections)
- 2014: 8,310
- 2015: 7,796
- 2016: 6,210
- 2017: 5,843
- 2018: 5,888
- 2019: 8,120

8,120 in 2019, a 37.9% increase. These inspection numbers represent only the 6" height ordinance on overgrown properties; they do NOT include noxious weed inspections. The total number of properties on which these inspections occurred has also increased from 2,692 in 2018 to 3,521 in 2019, a 30.8% increase.

Our office encourages citizens to let us know when their neighbor’s properties become a violation.

With the ease of turning in complaints electronically on UPLNK, our web site, smart phones and tablets we received 3,155 complaints from the public.
2019 Noxious Weed Locations

Map Key
- Phragmites
- Saltcedar
- Leafy spurge
- Purple loosestrife
- Canada thistle
- Teasel
- Knotweed
- Sericea lespedeza
- Musk thistle
To be listed as “noxious” there is a process used to evaluate the plant before it is considered for the noxious weed list, and before it would go to the Director of Agriculture for consideration. Nebraska Law requires a plant meet at least 6 of 9 criteria developed to help evaluate the plant. The process begins with a scientific review of the plant called a Weed Risk Assessment (WRA). This Assessment is used to determine if the plant poses a threat to Nebraska. A few of the criteria include; the plant poses a threat to Nebraska’s economy, environment, social welfare, wildlife, or safety; the plant is listed as noxious in at least two neighboring states; the plant reproduces and disseminates rapidly; the plant is not native to Nebraska; Infestation levels have been surveyed and documented in the State.

There are “invasive” plants we recommend controlling, but they do not meet the necessary criteria to be listed as noxious. Being non-native is the one criteria required for any plant to be considered as noxious. Example; Poison ivy is often considered an invasive plant and some think it should be “noxious”, but poison ivy is a native plant to Nebraska, so it will not likely ever make it to Nebraska’s noxious weed list.

In the plant world we often throw around the terms “noxious” and “invasive” when referring to plants. This often raises the question - What's the difference? Confused? Let me explain... only the worst of the worst weeds make it to the Nebraska’s noxious weed list. When a plant becomes noxious, it requires landowners to control the plant on their property to prevent spread to neighboring properties. I would consider all of Nebraska’s noxious weeds to also be invasive. According to Nebraska’s Weed Control Act: The term Noxious weeds means and includes any weeds designated and listed as noxious in rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the Director of Agriculture.

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Hello,

Attached is a letter to City Council from the Downtown Lincoln Association Board of Directors regarding the Campion Project.

Katey Hulewicz
Office Manager

DOWNTOWN LINCOLN ASSOCIATION
P 402.434.6900 | F 402.434.6907
@DowntownLincoln | downtownlincoln.org
February 25, 2020

Mr. James Michael Bowers  
Mr. Roy Christensen  
Mr. Richard Meginnis, Vice Chair  
Ms. Jane Raybould, Chair  
Mr. Bennie Shobe  
Ms. Tammy Ward  
Ms. Sandra Washington

Lincoln City Council  
555 South 10th Street  
Lincoln, NE 68508

RE: Campion Project

Dear City Council Members,

On February 18th, 2020, the Downtown Lincoln Association (DLA) Board of Directors had the opportunity to hear Campion’s team present its proposed student housing project at 10th & M Street in detail. After thoughtful discussion, DLA unanimously voted to take a neutral position on the project, while relaying our key priorities to the City. The equivocal nature of a large, widely discussed development like this deserves an outline of the implications derived from the project.

DLA is pleased that more private developers continue to take an interest in investing in our Downtown area. Campion has a record of developing other housing projects in the southeast region of the country, and they clearly see compelling reasons for choosing Downtown Lincoln as the location for their next project. The development team does not have an extensive history in downtown-specific housing projects; however, we are encouraged that they will be using local contractors to build the project.

The proposed site is in a blighted area of Downtown Lincoln that has proven difficult to redevelop, and while DLA is supportive of private investment in the area, it is important to point out that in December of 2018 the City and DLA adopted our Downtown Lincoln Master Plan, which clearly defines our need for a diverse mix of housing:

*Given Downtown’s current imbalance between student and non-student housing (approximately two-thirds of residents are students), moving forward policies and incentives should support ways to diversify Downtown’s housing stock, and create opportunities for young professionals, empty nesters, State employees, and UNL graduate students, faculty and staff.*
The statement from the Master Plan does not mean that DLA is against student housing; however, the board would also like to see the City provide an incentive for the development of housing that will diversify our current mix, especially given that our neighboring University has already experienced strong signs of oversaturation as it relates to student housing.

In the end, the board feels that it is not our role to decide what the market can bear in terms of student housing demand, but we want to encourage the City to take into account the following factors if the redevelopment agreement is approved:

- **Future projects:** We strongly encourage the City to continue to work with developers on projects that will diversify our housing mix moving forward. An improved mix of housing opportunities can benefit all residential users by keeping supply even with specific demographic demand.

- **Parking:** This project will intensify the need to continue with an aggressive timeline for future city parking garages. Knowing the demand this causes, we encourage the City to maintain a healthy Parking Enterprise Fund, making it easier to plan and build future parking facilities.

- **Building Quality:** We are encouraged that Campion and the City have worked hard on improving the exterior design of the project. If the project is approved, we strongly encourage the City to continue efforts to maintain the design elements as promised, as well as the quality of construction.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this project and we hope our discussion has made it easier to determine the best direction for Downtown Lincoln moving forward.

Sincerely,

Todd Ogden, President & CEO
Downtown Lincoln Association

Ken Fougeron, Chair
Downtown Lincoln Association