

MEMO

TO: Mayor Beutler

FROM: Lancaster County Board of Commissioners

RE: Wilderness Park Ownership Task Group

DATE: January 18, 2019

Mayor Beutler –

During several monthly meetings between our offices you mentioned the possibility of Lancaster County transferring ownership of Wilderness Park to the City. The Park was created in 1966 pursuant to an Interlocal Agreement between the City and County wherein the County agreed to own the Park and the City agreed to operate and maintain it. Although this partnership has served the Park and its users well, the County Board agrees the time has come to re-examine whether we need to continue the County's passive role as owner of the Park.

Accordingly, the Lancaster County Board is proposing the establishment of a joint County-City Task Group to review the potential of transferring ownership of Wilderness Park from Lancaster County to the City of Lincoln.

The charge to the group will be to review the legal process and/or restrictions that would impact such a potential transfer; identify other fiscal or operational issues that should be considered prior to any potential transfer; and a recommended course of action or alternative actions for the County Board and City of Lincoln to take to complete a transfer.

The Board proposes the following membership:

- Mayor's Office representative (selected by Mayor Beutler)
- County Board Office representative (selected by the County Board)
- City Attorney's Office representative (selection made by the City Attorney)
- County Attorney's Office representative (selected by the Lancaster County Attorney)
- Lancaster County Engineering representative (selected by the County Engineer)
- Lincoln Transportation and Utilities representative (selected by the Department Director)
- Lincoln City Parks and Recreation representative (selected by the Department Director)
- Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Department representative (selected by the Department Director)
- Lower Platte South Natural Resources District representative (selected by the NRD)

Our goal would be to convene the task group by the end of January with the goal of completing the objectives outlined above by the end of April. Please let us know if you think there are other members of the group that should be part of the discussion. With your endorsement, we would plan to send out a joint invitation to the nominators identified above next week. Thank you for your consideration.