

City - county merger stalled

The question of the Lancaster County-Lincoln City merger still is stalled for lack of a charter and a body to write one.

July 22, the City-County Common agreed to ask the Lincoln Foundation, a charitable civic organization, to help draft an acceptable county-city charter and \$33,000 was earmarked for the effort.

But, at a foundation Board of Directors meeting Friday, foundation President John Frey announced that the Lincoln Foundation can not legally contract to perform such services or receive money from public funds.

It then adopted a resolution recommending that the City-County Common appoint an ad hoc committee to choose a task force from the community at large. That committee would draft a charter to be submitted to city and county governments.

County Commissioner Jan Gauger, who originally made the motion to contact the Lincoln Foundation, said she did so because it has a long history of conducting studies related to city and county government. The foundation recommended joint tax collection and in 1971

proposed total merger of the two governments, she said.

Gauger said she is optimistic that the merger eventually will take place, but added she wants to see a finished charter submitted to the voters before she could approve a specific form of government.

Although Gauger did not know what form the merged government would have, she said a logical charter would benefit both Lancaster County and Lincoln citizens.

"It would have to be cheaper in the long run," Gauger said, but added short run costs may be higher.

Frey said all present County Commissioners and City Council members have approved merging in the past but disagree on certain points.

In other action at the Friday meeting, the Lincoln Foundation Board of Directors granted the University of Nebraska Foundation \$40,000 for "tax exempt projects on the Lincoln campus," Frey said.

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Fall's rush begins with 'all-time high'

An "all time high" number of women will attend the Panhellenic Association's annual membership rush beginning today, according to Jayne Wade Anderson, coordinator of fraternities, sororities and cooperatives.

She estimated that more than 650 women, up 100 to 150 from previous years, are participating. Anderson said she could not explain the increase but that total university enrollment will not be significantly larger this fall.

About 510 men already have pledged to fraternities during the Interfraternity Council's summer rush program. Eighty to 90 will attend the council's mini rush August 25 through 27.

Although all sororities are rushing new members this week, Anderson said, six or seven fraternities are not participating "by their own choice" because their chapter houses are filled.

She estimated 450 to 550 women will have pledged when rush ends Sunday, August 28. Nearly 600 men, including those who pledged this summer are expected to have pledged by the end of the mini rush program.

New members will bring Greek membership to between 3800 and 4000, Anderson said. Pledges are initiated at the end of the first semester after achieving academic standards set by the chapter.



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