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Steinman endorses task force idea

By Kathryn Haugstatter

City Councilman Mike Steinman said he would support a permanent task force of university and city task officials, Chamber of Commerce members and neighborhood people to investigate items like transportation, parking, law enforcement, purchasing and planning. Steinman spoke to about 40 people at a "Face the Chamber" session at the Chamber of Commerce board room at noon Wednesday.

"There is close symbiotic relationship between the city and the university, and everybody involved wants to maintain the relationship," he said.

Steinman, an associate professor of political science at UNL, said the Chamber should recognize the limitations of his position at UNL.

Footsoldier

"I'm only a footsoldier, the only people I boss are my students," he said.

He said if the NU Board of Regents in their official capacity met with the city council, more might be accomplished.

In response to a question, Steinman called the idea that the university might be moved to Omaha "a red herring."

He said city council member Joe Hampton said that voting against the Northeast radial would send a portion of UNL to Omaha, "but I don't buy that."

Steinman said he is opposed to the segment of the Northeast radial that would be east of 27th Street.

"The benefits and effects just don't justify the cost and I don't think we can maintain the right-of-way," he said.

He said he would support one of the options west of 27th Street because it is part of the city's comprehensive plan.

"My initial leaning is towards the 19th Street corridor (as opposed to a 22nd Street option). It would be less destructive to the neighborhoods," he said.

Steinman said his proposal to study composting as a solution to Lincoln's landfill problems will be on the council agenda next week.

A proposal to build an \$85 million plant to burn trash and generate steam for northeast Lincoln industries failed Tuesday.

Omaha study

He said an Omaha study found that that city's needs could be met with a \$1 million composting plant, but the city rejected the idea.

But, Steinman said, Omaha tries to fix the problems after they become problems. Lincoln is far-

sighted enough to anticipate problems and find solutions, he added.

"The question will be, 'Is there a market for the product, the fertilizer, that comes out?' But who cares? It's so cheap in comparison with the \$85 million for trash burning. We could use it (the fertilizer) in the city parks or give it away to public institutions," he said.

Mike Dekalb, city energy planner, said a Lincoln composting plant would cost \$17 million.

"The Omaha study called for the use of sludge and the paunch manure they could get at the Omaha stockyards. We don't have paunch manure or any other bulk materials like wood chips or peanut shells, so we'd have to refine the garbage."

"The cost difference is in the machinery and the separation of organic and inorganic material," he said.

In answer to another question, Steinman said he would not run for mayor in the next election.

"I'm just happy to be doing what I'm doing," he said.

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Budget cuts do not deter Health Center

The UNL Health Center expects no budget cuts this year.

Dr. Garland Bare, medical director, said because so many budget cuts were made last year, the Health Center is at rock bottom.

Last year, the clinic cut its health aid staff from 150 to 100. Bare said they are a little pressed, but can respond to the students health care needs. Bare said some services have been changed to self-supporting, such as dental services, and students will now be charged to see a specialist. This was done to take pressure off student fees, he said.

Bare said he hopes the center can avoid cutting services or raising student fees next year. He said that it will depend upon the increase in cost of medical equipment and services this year.

He said they are running the center tighter than ever and are constantly studying ways to save on costs.

The center is obtaining future financing by way of grants and especially by endowments. Bare said, "I'm hoping that Nebraska citizens will do a great service for the University in providing such things as endowments."

He mentioned the Health centers at Kansas, Kansas State, and Colorado which increased their medical facilities and services because of endowments from private citizens.

The UNL clinic has added oral surgery to its dental program this year, but the service is paid for by the patients.

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