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City Council 

Alcohol vote delayed

■ Ordinance would allow alcohol at Pershing Auditorium-sponsored concerts in Pioneers Park.

BY SARAH FOX
Staff writer

The City Council voted 4-2 Monday to delay voting on a proposed ordinance that would have allowed alcohol to be served at Pershing Municipal Auditorium-sponsored concerts in Pioneers Park.

The council voted to discuss the resolution in two weeks because about 10 Lincoln residents at the meeting asked the council to vote against it.

The city of Lincoln does not permit the consumption of alcohol in public parks.

The resolution would have allowed Pershing to serve alcohol at no more than six concerts at Pinewood Bowl, an open-air theater in Pioneers Park.

Pershing Municipal Auditorium brought several concerts to the bowl from 1993 to 1995, but the auditorium lost money from the concerts.

Serving alcohol at the events would help the auditorium "pay bottom line," said Doug Kuhnel, Pershing executive director.

The city of Lincoln gave Pershing a \$400,000 subsidy this year.

Kuhnel said Pershing serves alcohol at some of its concerts in the auditorium and trains its staff, including the janitors, to handle alcohol-related problems.

"The Pinewood Bowl is like a Pershing Auditorium without a roof," Kuhnel said. "We've got that history to live on, and we'll do it right."

Kuhnel said the council would be able to approve the events before he brings them to the Pinewood Bowl.

Councilman Jerry Shoecraft said if the council approved Pershing's request, Lincoln residents would

want the council to approve alcohol consumption in public golf courses.

"You can't separate these two issues," Shoecraft said. "This would open up a can of worms or Pandora's box. It's a whole new set of concerns."

Lincoln resident Mike Morosin said he thinks that too many people in Lincoln drink already.

Morosin, past president of the Malone Neighborhood Association, said he picks up bottles from a neighborhood park that many children play in.

"Kids are very impressionable at these young ages," Morosin said. "I pick up 25 to 30 whiskey bottles in the park and around the park every day."

However, Coby Mach, corporate spokesman for Three Eagles Communications, said Pershing has always served alcohol at concerts with the "utmost responsibility."

Three Eagles Communications, which owns KFOR-AM (1240) and KFRX-FM (102.7), wants to help Pershing bring in concerts.

"The more Pinewood Bowl can be used, the more revenue can be achieved," Mach said. "Pinewood Bowl is probably Lincoln's most underutilized entertainment (area)."

Councilmen Jerry Shoecraft and Jeff Fortenberry were the only council members to vote against delaying the resolution. Councilwoman Coleen Seng was not at the meeting.

City Council waits on stadium decision

BY SARAH FOX
Staff writer

The City Council voted 4-2 Monday to delay consideration on building a \$29.5 million baseball and softball complex.

The city would cooperate with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Nebco Inc. to build the stadium.

If approved, Lincoln would pay \$12.83 million, Nebco would pay \$6.1 million, and UNL would pay \$10.6 million.

The NU Board of Regents approved the university's cooperation in the venture.

The council will hear the resolution again next week.

At the meeting, several City Council members brought concerns to Joel Peterson, assistant city attorney. City Councilman Jon Camp asked Peterson what would happen if UNL or Nebco defaulted on the

agreement. "There's the possibility that the city would have a baseball park with nobody playing, but I don't see that happening in the near future," Peterson said.

The baseball stadium would be used by a Northern League professional baseball team in the summer, when the University of Nebraska baseball team is not playing.

Councilman Jerry Shoecraft also asked what would happen if the Northern League baseball team would fold.

"If they're not making money, there is that possibility," Peterson said. "I can't give you any guarantees."

Peterson said he would look into federal grants to subsidize the city's cost of the stadium.

The complex, which would be built near 6th and Charleston streets, near the Haymarket, is set to open in March 2001.

Feedback sought from new students

BY VERONICA DAEHN
Staff writer

Students new to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln will have the chance to get to know each other and ASUN a little better tonight.

The Association of Students of the University of Nebraska is sponsoring a New Student Forum at 7 p.m. in the Nebraska Union.

Communications Committee Chairman Heath Mello said the forum was designed to give ASUN feedback on what new students think about campus issues.

The forum will focus on parking, representation in student government and campus involvement.

"We're letting them know we're interested in their concerns," Mello said.

ASUN President Andy Schuerman said the organization needed a way to get input from newer students.

"We work very hard to involve new students," Schuerman said. "But there are no senate positions for them."

New students can get involved in ASUN through the Student Impact Team and by applying for committees.

Those groups, though, do not have much contact with senate members.

Schuerman said he gets a lot of input from older students but hopes the forums will bring about more input from the younger ones.

All students are welcome to attend

the New Student Forum, but the discussion will focus on new students.

Mello said he hopes 25-50 students will be at the forum, the first in a year-long series. Each assembly will target a different group of people, he said.

The communications committee is working with the Neihardt Council to plan the next forum, which will aim to dispel honors program misconceptions.

Schuerman said the idea for the forums arose from the "town hall meetings" his party held during its campaign.

"The worst part of a town hall meeting is if they don't have a clear purpose," Schuerman said.

That is why ASUN is focusing on specific groups of students at the forums. Mello said future forums will include one for international students, one for minority students and a forum for all students.

Possible topics for the general forum are whether party names should be included on ASUN election ballots and whether there should be a limit on how much candidates can spend on their campaigns.

Mello said he hopes there can be a forum about every month and a half.

"Things get talked about, and very rarely do they get acted upon," Mello said. "This will be the catalyst for working stronger on issues."

Auctions offer UNL repair funds

From staff reports

People wanting to pick up some of UNL's hand-me-downs may want to check out the next university auction.

The most recent auction held this Saturday was deemed a success, said Julie Davids, Inventory Department manager.

More than 100 pieces of computer equipment and office furniture from University of Nebraska-Lincoln departments were sold to the highest bidders, Davids said.

The sale items included printers, copiers, computers, cabinets, paintings, chairs and assorted audiovisual equipment, according to Ficke & Ficke Auctioneers, the company that handled the auction.

The money from the sale will be used to repair and improve classrooms, Davids said.

UNL holds auctions regularly to get rid of items each department no longer needs. The next auction will probably be held within several months.

All the auctions are held on East Campus and are open to the public. Each is advertised in the Lincoln Journal Star on the Sunday and Friday before the auction, Davids said.

People can add their names to a mailing list at the auctions.

