

**Visitors Promotion Committee
Meeting at Lincoln Chamber of Commerce
March 18, 2026
MINUTES**

In Attendance: Jeff Barclay, Dave Derbin, Jason Hoehne, Tara Knuth, Todd Ogden, Tim Savona, Aaron Stitt and Bryan Sullivan

Guests:

Absent: Sean Flowerday, EK Franks, Bennie Shobe, Riley Slezak and Rick Vest

Staff Attending:, Jeff Maul, Diane Pryor, Katie Bohlmeier and Jason Ball

Call to Order and Introductions:

Chairman Aaron Stitt called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. He welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. Stitt asked the attendees to introduce themselves and for that to serve as the roll call.

2026 Improvement Fund Grants

Next, Chair Stitt said knowing that we have several conflicts that will need to be handled separately, to begin I would entertain a motion to reconsider the motions for Improvement Fund funding recommendations for the following visitor attractions that are not subject to any conflicts: Nebraska State Historical Society – Pershing Mural, Meadowlane Pool, Lincoln Parks Foundation, Star City Optimist Foundation, Museum of American Speed, Lincoln Youth Football, Sheldon Museum, Lincoln Sports Foundation, Lincoln Children’s Zoo, University of Nebraska State Museum, Nebraska for Volleyball, Sandhills Youth Complex and Lied Center.

Todd Ogden made a motion that we reconsider the Improvement Fund funding recommendation motions from our last meeting for the following visitor attractions: Nebraska State Historical Society – Pershing Mural, Meadowlane Pool, Lincoln Parks Foundation, Star City Optimist Foundation, Museum of American Speed, Lincoln Youth Football, Sheldon Museum, Lincoln Sports Foundation, Lincoln Children’s Zoo, University of Nebraska State Museum, Nebraska for Volleyball, Sandhills Youth Complex and Lied Center. Bryan Sullivan seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Stitt called for a vote. Jeff Barclay, Jason Hoehne, Tara Knuth, Todd Ogden, Tim Savona, Aaron Stitt and Bryan Sullivan voted yes. Motion carried.

Stitt said the effect of passing the motion to reconsider places the items in the position in which they were as if the first votes never took place. Stitt said he would entertain a motion regarding a general funding recommendation for this group of visitor attractions. Todd Ogden said he would like to move that we provide a general recommendation that the County Board consider the following visitor attractions for Visitor Improvement Funding: Nebraska State Historical Society – Pershing Mural, Meadowlane Pool, Lincoln Parks Foundation, Star City Optimist Foundation, Museum of American Speed, Lincoln Youth Football, Sheldon Museum, Lincoln Sports Foundation, Lincoln Children’s Zoo, University of Nebraska State Museum, Nebraska for Volleyball, Sandhills Youth Complex and Lied Center. Bryan Sullivan seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Stitt called for a vote. Barclay, Hoehne, Knuth, Ogden, Savona, Stitt and Sullivan voted yes. Motion carried.

Chair Stitt then said to deal with the first of the conflicts, he would entertain a motion to reconsider the Improvement Fund funding recommendation motion for the Lincoln Children's Museum. Hoehne made a motion that they reconsider the Improvement Fund funding recommendation motion from our last meeting for the Lincoln Children's Museum. Sullivan seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Stitt called for a vote. Barclay, Hoehne, Savona, Stitt and Sullivan voted yes. Knuth and Ogden abstained. Motion carried.

Stitt said now he would entertain a motion regarding a general funding recommendation for the Lincoln Children's Museum. Hoehne moved that they provide a general recommendation that the County Board consider the Lincoln Children's Museum for Visitor Improvement Funding. Sullivan seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Stitt called for a vote. Barclay, Hoehne, Savona, Stitt and Sullivan voted yes. Knuth and Ogden abstained. Motion carried.

Stitt then said to deal with the next conflicts, he would entertain a motion to reconsider the Improvement Fund funding recommendation motions for Downtown Lincoln Association and YMCA. Hoehne made a motion to reconsider the Improvement Fund funding recommendation motions from our last meeting for Downtown Lincoln Association and YMCA. Sullivan seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Stitt called for a vote. Barclay, Hoehne, Knuth, Savona, Stitt and Sullivan voted yes. Ogden abstained. Motion carried.

Stitt then said he would entertain a motion regarding a general funding recommendation for Downtown Lincoln Association and YMCA. Hoehne said he would move that they provide a general recommendation that the County Board consider Downtown Lincoln Association and YMCA for Visitor Improvement Funding. Sullivan seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Stitt called for a vote. Barclay, Hoehne, Knuth, Savona, Stitt and Sullivan voted yes. Ogden abstained. Motion carried.

Chair Stitt next said to deal with the last conflict, he would entertain a motion to reconsider the Improvement Fund funding recommendation motion for Pinewood Bowl. Hoehne said he would move that they reconsider the Improvement Fund funding recommendation motion from their last meeting for Pinewood Bowl. Sullivan seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Stitt called for a vote. Barclay, Hoehne, Knuth, Ogden, Stitt and Sullivan voted yes. Savona abstained. Motion carried.

Next, Stitt said now I would entertain a motion regarding a general funding recommendation for the Pinewood Bowl. Hoehne moved that they provide a general recommendation that the County Board consider Pinewood Bowl for Visitor Improvement Funding. Sullivan seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Stitt called for a vote. Barclay, Hoehne, Knuth, Ogden, Stitt and Sullivan voted yes. Savona abstained. Motion carried.

Adjourn:

There was no other business and Stitt thanked everyone again for their attendance. The meeting was adjourned at 1:37 p.m.