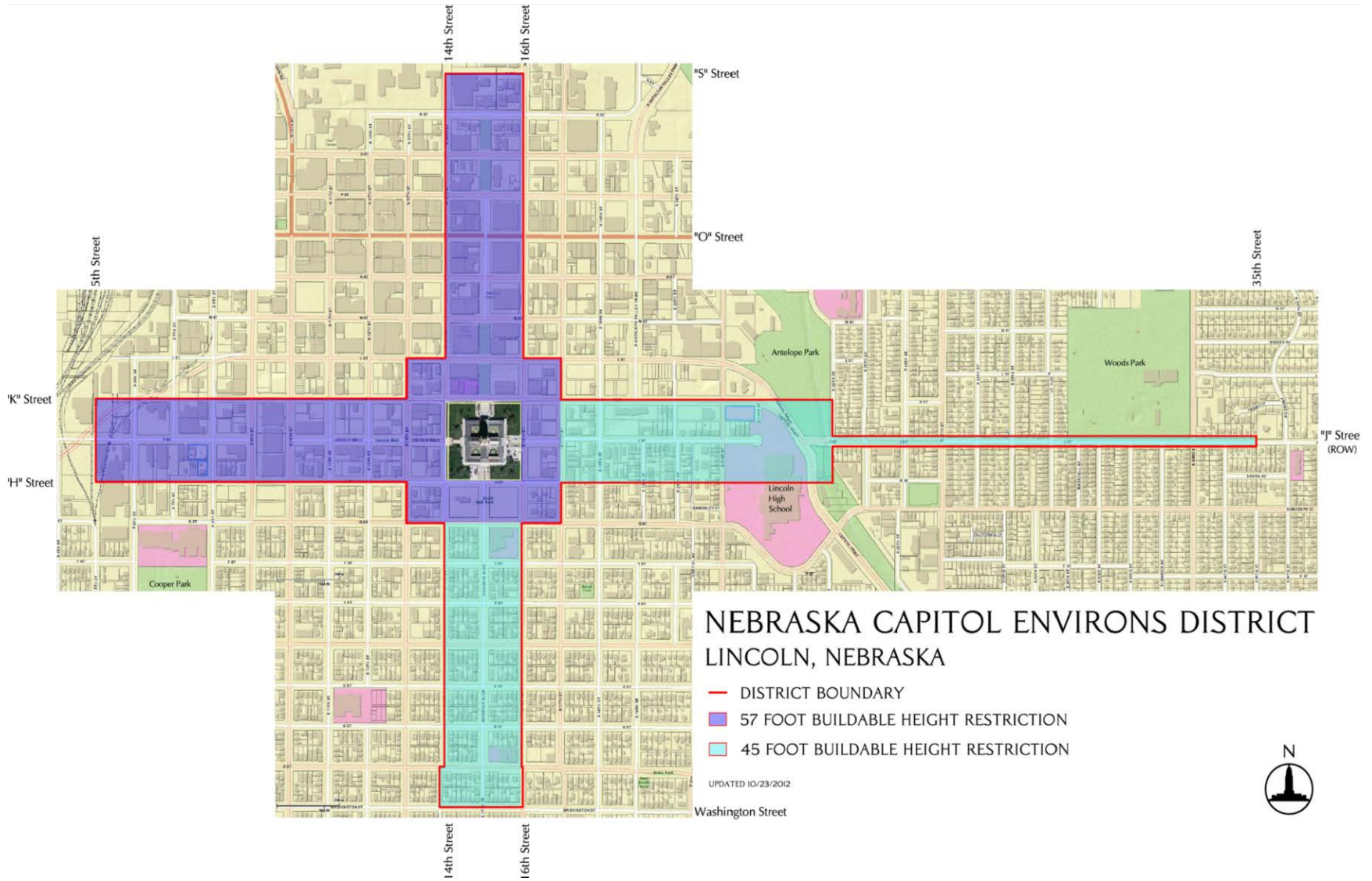


Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission - Annual Report 2013



The Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission was established in 1988 to strengthen existing protections for the setting of Nebraska's landmark State Capitol. Commission membership of seven citizen volunteers includes five members appointed by the City of Lincoln and two appointed by the State of Nebraska.

Membership in 2013 remained unchanged, namely Jeff Searcy continuing as chair, Christine Dionisopoulos, John Kay, Tom Laging, Karen Nalow, Cecil Steward, and Jon Weinberg. The seven appointed citizen members are assisted by three *ex officio* members--Bob Ripley of the Office of the Capitol

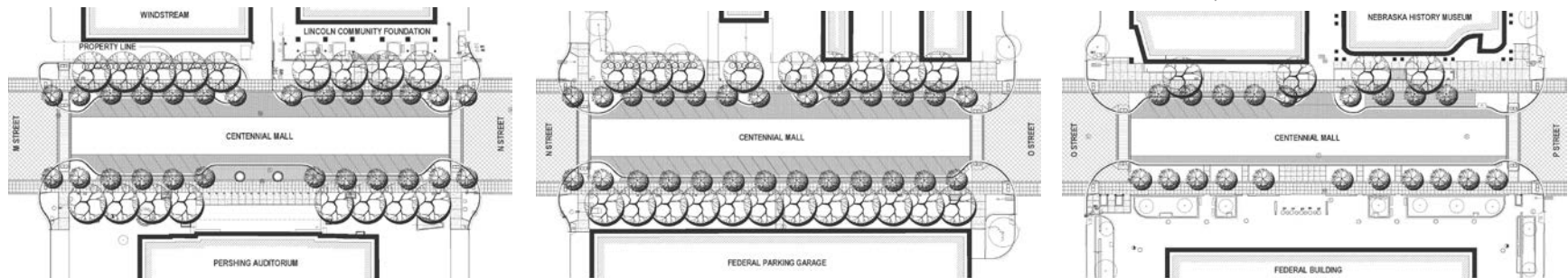
Commission (for the State of Nebraska), Marvin Krout (director, Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department), and Lynn Johnson (director, Lincoln Parks & Recreation Department). Staffing is provided by the Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department.

The Commission is required to meet at least quarterly by Section 27.56.060 of the Lincoln Municipal Code. The Commission met eleven times—in January, March, April, May, July, twice in August, September, October, November (including the annual joint meeting with the Capitol Commission) and December.

Nebraska's Centennial Mall (Centennial Mall, K Street to R Street)

Substantial progress on rebuilding Nebraska's Centennial Mall and the very welcome completion of fund-raising for the project were the headline events of 2013 in the Capitol Environs. Streetscape work on the three central blocks between M and P Streets was substantially completed and the elegant simplicity of the pedestrian and vehicular spaces is

apparent. The next phase of work will address the complex intersections of the Mall and the east-west streets, then the reconstruction of the pairs of park blocks at the north and south ends of the Mall will complete the project in 2015.



The Commission reviewed and helped resolve design challenges at several meetings this year, including enhancing pedestrian safety features planned at the K Street crossing, and incorporating into the Mall more design components relating to Nebraska's first people. At the November and

December meetings, the Commission reviewed and approved the first inscriptions for the Spirit of Nebraska Pathway which honor a broad spectrum of Nebraska people and organizations with granite and bronze "tiles" lining the dual walkways of the Mall.

Farmers Mutual Insurance Building (13th Street, K Street to Lincoln Mall)

While Centennial Mall has been the signal public improvement underway in the Environs in 2013, this year has also seen significant private improvements, such as the completion of the Farmers Mutual Insurance Building at South 13th Street and Lincoln Mall. Farmers Mutual is next undertaking the

renovation of their previous headquarters which shares the Lincoln Mall frontage, as well as improving a parking area on the west side of 12th Street between K and L Streets, just outside the Environs District.

*Approved Design
View from Southeast* ▶



View from West ▼



*View from
Southeast* ▼



III Landmark Centre (Lincoln Mall, 11th Street to 12th Street)

Construction began in 2013 on another major office building, also with associated parking, on Lincoln Mall between 11th and 12th Streets. III Landmark Centre will be similar in materials and overall design with I Landmark Centre west of it, across

11th Street, but will have structured parking on the north half of the block, rather than surface parking. The commencement of this project eliminated the last surface parking lot along Lincoln Mall and will replace it with another high quality urban building.



Approved Design
View from Southwest

Photo of Construction
Progress, Fall 2013



III Landmark
N



State of Nebraska Projects

The renovation of the TSB Building at 14th and M Street is well underway and returning this 1927 structure to its original simple dignity (or better).

The State is also well underway on the renovation of the 1526 Building (former Woodman Accident Life). The Commission reviewed and approved various site improvements, including

parking changes on K and 16th Streets, following a thorough discussion and some modifications. As established by the Unicameral, the Environs Commission is unique in its design review authority within the Environs District, addressing not only private projects but also improvements by all units of local and state government.

Sidewalk Improvements (Goodhue Blvd, F Street to G Street)

In July the Commission reviewed proposals from the Lincoln Parks & Recreation Department and Urban Development Department for sidewalk and street tree work on the F to G Street block of Goodhue Boulevard, primarily on the west side, opposite McPhee School. The original proposals drew strong concern from residents, owners, and others. The Parks Department held an additional, well-attended public meeting at McPhee School to share information and gather input. The Commission approved the Park Department's revised proposal in August, with support from concerned citizens.

Respectfully submitted January 2, 2014

Ed Zimmer, Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Dept.

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