

MEETING RECORD

NAME OF GROUP: NEBRASKA CAPITOL ENVIRONS COMMISSION

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING: Thursday, March 27, 2008, 8:00 a.m., Room 206, County-City Building, 555 South 10th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Jim Hewitt, V.J. Nelson, Jeff Searcy and Cecil Steward. Tom Laging, Patrick O'Donnell, and Kim Todd absent.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Tim Rupp, T.J. Schimer, and Eric Casper (The Clark Enersen Partners); Scott Wieskamp (Lincoln Public Schools); Bob Ripley (Capitol Commission); Ed Zimmer, Ray Hill and Michele Abendroth (Planning Department)

STATED PURPOSE OF MEETING: Regular Meeting of the Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission

Chair Jeff Searcy called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

Approval of Meeting Notes of February 28, 2008

Hewitt moved approval of the meeting notes of February 28, 2008, seconded by Steward. Motion carried 4-0. Hewitt, Nelson, Searcy, and Steward voting 'yes'; Laging, O'Donnell and Todd absent.

Application by Lincoln Public Schools for a certificate of appropriateness for work at Lincoln High School, 2229 J Street, in the Capitol Environs District.

Scott Wieskamp stated that Lincoln Public Schools began the renovation process at Lincoln High School two years ago, and construction began a year ago. The project is \$29 million. About half is spent on HVAC and other mechanical systems. The other half is on cafeteria and theater space and many other areas of the building. They are here to discuss the exterior of the building. They are going to replace most of the windows. They have tried to replicate the profile of the original building. Eric Casper stated that they want to frame the building with landscape in order to highlight the architectural style of the building. They will remove some of the trees due to safety concerns and because of root expansion. Tim Rupp stated that they are replacing the bronzed-colored windows with white windows which was the original design. The terra cotta will also be repaired. T.J. Schimer stated that they are excited about the project which will respect the historical character of the school.

Ripley asked about the on-axis view for people traveling west on J Street and what kind of visibility there will be. Casper stated that the new trees being planted are small ornamental trees. Ripley stated that this is an entry into the City and he believes there should be strong consideration given to strengthening that axis.

Nelson noted that the light fixtures on the J Street bridge will be different than the bridges north to represent the historical character of the area. Searcy added that he believes the lighting should have a reflective quality of the composition of the capitol.

Commissioners felt that the project is a great improvement and requested that the J Street axis and the lighting choices be brought back to the Commission for their review.

Application by Studio 951 on behalf of Monkey Wrench Cycles for a certificate of appropriateness for work at the McKelvie Building, 210 North 14th Street, in the Capitol Environs District.

There was no further update on this project.

Staff Report: Downtown Neighborhood Design Standards, etc.

Zimmer updated the Commissioners on the Downtown Neighborhood Design Standards. He noted that there were a series of about ten meetings that have been completed. Currently, City staff, the Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Lincoln Association are evaluating the comments received at those meetings. The most frequent comments were about downtown parking issues. The next most frequent area of discussion is how the standards would be applied to existing buildings. The design guideline that has been questioned frequently is the standard of masonry.

Ripley distributed a memo from 1990 regarding overhead utility relocation and abandonment south of the capitol. He asked the Commission to consider drafting a document to Lincoln Electric System regarding this issue. Searcy asked Ripley to draft some language to LES to consider the possibility of relocating the utilities.

Steward asked the Commissioners if they were aware of a citizens group being formed for advocating for funding for Centennial Mall. He stated that he received a call from Liz Shea McCoy asking if he would join that group. Commissioners were not aware of such a group, but felt that this project would take a public-private partnership.

Misc.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:03 a.m.

***Please note that these minutes will not be formally approved until the next meeting of the Capitol Environs Commission. ***

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