

MEETING RECORD

NAME OF GROUP: NEBRASKA CAPITOL ENVIRONS COMMISSION

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING: Thursday, August 27, 2009, 8:00 a.m., Room 206, County-City Building, 555 South 10th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Jim Hewitt, John Kay, Tom Laging, Jeff Searcy and Cecil Steward. Larry Stoll and Kim Todd absent.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: JoAnne Kissel (The Clark Enersen Partners); Lynn Johnson and Jerry Shorney (Parks & Recreation); Bob Ripley (Capitol Commission); Marvin Krout, Ed Zimmer and Michele Abendroth (Planning Department)

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

The meeting was called to order at 8:01 a.m. The Nebraska Open Meetings Act was acknowledged.

Approval of meeting notes of July 23, 2009

Steward moved approval of the July 23, 2009 meeting notes, seconded by Kay. Motion carried over to next meeting 3 ayes-1 abstention (4 ayes required for binding action of Commission). Kay, Searcy, Steward voting 'yes'; Hewitt abstaining; Laging, Stoll and Todd absent.

Centennial Mall redesign: preliminary discussion with design team

Lynn Johnson stated that a Request for Proposals for the Centennial Mall redesign was issued and two teams submitted proposals. The teams were interviewed, and they chose the team of Clark Enersen, BVH, and Tom Laging. They intend to ask for a Certificate of Appropriateness at the November 12 joint meeting.

JoAnne Kissel stated that the first kickoff meeting was Monday, August 24. They are planning to do two design workshops on September 30 and October 21. They will come to the Commission with an update at each monthly meetings. The other review body is the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. Key stakeholders include the Centennial Mall Task Force, the State Historical Society, the UNL College of Journalism, the Children's Museum, Pershing Auditorium, and the State of Nebraska.

Kissel stated that the team believes the communication plan is a very important piece because there are a lot of fundraising efforts to undertake and it is important to get the talking points and supporting data clear. They have had preliminary conversations with the *Journal Star* as they feel there are opportunities for public interest stories. They also plan to get information on Channel 5 and to conduct surveys. Website development will also begin soon.

The goal is to have the legislative report by the end of the year in order to meet the requirements of Senator Avery's study. Design development will begin in December.

Johnson stated that because portions of this project will be supported by fundraising, they want to discuss donor recognition at the next Commission meeting.

Jeff Searcy suggested contacting the *Omaha World Herald* and including them in this effort.

Cecil Steward suggested that the communication plan include special strategies with communities west of

Lincoln as there is anxiety about communication efforts between Lincoln and Omaha and communities west of Lincoln.

Marvin Krout suggested that the team include an artist as he feels it is best to bring an artist in early on in the process in order to have a cohesive design.

Ed Zimmer stated that it is important to acknowledge past studies in the Mall. These include the Downtown Master Plan (DMP), the "Laging Plan," and the Capitol Environs Design Standards. One outcome of the current design effort should be to develop and adopt a unified plan.

Krout also suggested that the team be very explicit in involving the Downtown Lincoln Association which was a part of the Downtown Master Plan. There should be an honest and open process. Johnson suggested that the DMP be brought to the design workshops in an effort to acknowledge past studies and efforts.

Steward stated that he likes the good faith effort to consider the DMP. He feels that if this plan is in conflict with the DMP, there needs to be an explanation as to why that occurred.

Zimmer stated that multiple documents dealing with the Mall are in conflict with each other, and part of this process is to resolve those conflicts.

Steward asked what the Commission's role will be at the design workshops. Zimmer noted that the Commission's role is design review as well as being advocates for the capitol environs.

Staff Report/ Miscellaneous

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:09 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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