

MEETING RECORD

NAME OF GROUP:	NEBRASKA CAPITOL ENVIRONS COMMISSION
DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING:	Thursday, February 24, 2011 8:00 a.m., Room 214, County/City Building, 555 S. 10 th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska
MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:	John Kay, Tom Laging, Jeff Searcy and Cecil Steward. Larry Stoll and Kim Todd absent.
OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:	Bob Ripley (Capitol Commission); Dennis Scheer, Karen Nalow and Elizabeth Thomas (The Clark Enersen Partners); Lynn Johnson, Jerry Shorney and JJ Yost (Parks & Rec); 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 8:03 a.m. The Nebraska Open Meetings Act was acknowledged.

Approval of meeting notes of January 27, 2011

Searcy moved approval of the January 27, 2011 meeting notes, seconded by Kay. The motion carried 4-0. Kay, Laging, Searcy and Steward voting 'yes'; Todd absent.

Design Update on Plan for Centennial Mall, with emphasis on Themes and Cross Sections (Design Team and Parks & Recreation Department)

Nalow began by reviewing the thematic development for each block of Centennial Mall. The first block, K to L Street, has a citizenship theme acknowledging citizens, leaders and achievements of Nebraska and the people. The L to M Street block has a natural resources theme. The next three blocks focus on the community. The north two blocks are still in development, but the general theme is imagination, innovation and creativity.

Steward stated that in the resources area, he believes it is important to emphasize fresh water sources. In the creativity theme, there may be opportunities to highlight people who have had influences beyond Nebraska.

Steward stated that he would like to begin a conversation about urban design framework. He believes we are moving toward nodes, corridors and infill districts and away from urban and suburban design interests. He believes that now is the time to design for sustainability, maintainability, economy, and public use. This is not design as usual.

Scheer added that the original Centennial Mall was a well-designed space, but the reason it has failed is because it is not sustainable and maintainable.

Steward stated that one possible goal is that every project in the capitol environs district would have a sustainability element.

Johnson noted that the design team will present the donor recognition names at the next meeting. Ripley added that will be important for the fundraising team.

Searcy stated that testimony was given last week on LB496. There were several people and groups who testified on behalf of the bill. He believes the message resonated, and unofficially they have heard that the appropriations committee is considering putting money in the budget for this project. Johnson added that it will be late March or early April before a recommendation comes out of the appropriations committee.

Staff Report/State Office Building, etc.

Zimmer stated that he and Ripley have received correspondence from Near South interests about putting a Goodhue plaque in the capitol environs district.

Zimmer informed the Commission that he will provide an update on the furnishings at the State Office Building at the next meeting.

Searcy stated that he believes the Commission should be involved in the discussions regarding the capitol view vista from the arena. Zimmer stated that there is strong emphasis in the design to preserve the capitol view.

Ripley informed the Commission that he has had good experiences with LES on the 115 kv line through the City and improvements on Goodhue Boulevard on the McPhee block. He recently took the opportunity to publicly thank LES staff at an LES Board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 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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