

MEETING RECORD

NAME OF GROUP: NEBRASKA CAPITOL ENVIRONS COMMISSION

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING: Thursday, April 28, 2011 8:00 a.m., Room 214, County/City Building, 555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: John Kay, Tom Laging, Karen Nalow, 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. Searcy welcomed Karen Nalow to the Commission.

Approval of meeting notes of February 24, 2011 and March 24, 2011

Steward moved the approval of the February 24, 2011 and March 24, 2011 meeting notes, seconded by Laging. Motion carried 5-0. Kay, Laging, Nalow, Searcy and Steward voting 'yes'; Stoll and Todd absent.

Design Update on Plan for Centennial Mall (Design Team and Parks & Recreation Department)

Scheer stated that they have been working with the center space in front of the State Office Building. They want to delineate this plaza with ecologic regions. This block is about "Our Place Nebraska" with an environmental theme. There are brick pavers defining features of the state. There is a water feature and each county seat is represented. They have made the edges more informal which works with the natural landscape. They have also extended the pavers into the north walkway. These images will be used during the fundraising campaign.

Ripley asked there is interest in an event space. Johnson stated that we need to develop an inventory of the public spaces so that we can identify the types of events that fit into those spaces. We need to develop a strategy on how to manage downtown events. Currently there is not any group that has the capacity to manage events. The design team has been looking at a stage on the Mall to have events.

Steward suggested that the water in the zone of the Ogallala as well as the Platte River could be featured to see how rich and abundant water resources are in this state. Scheer stated that the walls will have murals featuring the Ogallala and Platte River.

Kay asked about the design team's approach with subtlety vs. obviousness. Scheer stated that they want to be more subtle than obvious. They like that when they give subtle messages, you can come back to that space many times and find something new each time.

Laging asked what the design team intends to do with the “Windspirit” sculpture on this block. Thomas stated that they intend to position it in the northwest corner by the seating area. Scheer stated that they intend to keep it in this block.

Laging asked about the transition from the State Office Building to the plaza level. Scheer stated that they have removed all the steps. There is a gradual slope from the two spaces.

Laging asked about the materials being used for the pavers. Scheer stated that it will be unit pavers. Laging asked about the maintenance issue and snow removal. Shorney stated that typically Parks has done the snow removal, but in the past couple years, the State has voluntarily taken over the last couple blocks. Johnson stated that in Parks Dept.’s experience, unit pavers present fewer problems than cast-in-place concrete.

Searcy complimented the design team on the pavers and the subtle approach.

Scheer asked the Commission if they are comfortable with the informal lines on the pavers. Steward stated that he thinks it is terrific, as he likes the break from the rectilinear spaces.

Laging asked about the seating spaces as there are many people who use that area. Thomas stated that there are two seating areas flanking the Scottish Rite Temple and seat walls in several areas.

Laging asked about the lighting. Johnson stated that the lighting will be complementary to and reflective of the lighting at the capitol.

Yost noted that a grant was awarded by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality to do an analysis of how we could harvest and/or treat stormwater runoff on the Mall.

Johnson informed the Commission of an opportunity for sponsorship. The idea is that there would be 18” x 18” cast bronze markers within the mosaic bands bordering the walkways on both sides of the Mall. There would be a motif that comes from the capitol along with text. They are unsure if they will allow images or photos. Ripley stated that he would not recommend using images. Laging stated that we need to raise the level of graphics and coordinate the graphics on the Mall. Searcy requested that specific criteria be developed to be reviewed at the next meeting.

Steward informed the Commission that Saturday there will be an article in the *Neighborhood Extra* on Centennial Mall.

Staff Report/Misc.

Zimmer noted that the arena discussions have included the protection of the views to the capitol, and the graphics are reflecting that as well.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:19 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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