

MEETING RECORD

NAME OF GROUP:	NEBRASKA CAPITOL ENVIRONS COMMISSION
DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING:	Thursday, September 22, 2011 8:00 a.m., Room 214, County/City Building, 555 S. 10 th 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:	Dennis Scheer and Elizabeth Thomas (Clark Enersen Partners); Matt Wills (Studio 951); Roger Larson, Susan Larson Rodenburg and Patty Pansing Brooks (Centennial Mall Fundraising Committee); Nancy Hicks (Lincoln Journal Star); Bob Ripley and Matt Hansen (Capitol Commission); Lynn Johnson (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 8:02 a.m. The Nebraska Open Meetings Act was acknowledged.

Approval of meeting notes of July 28, 2011

Searcy moved approval of the July 28, 2011 meeting notes, seconded by Kay. Motion carried 5-0. Kay, Laging, Nalow, Searcy and Steward voting 'yes'; Stoll and Todd absent.

Sidewalk café for Wahoo's Fish Tacos, 210 N. 14th Street, in the Capitol Environs District

Wills stated that he has worked on the McKelvie Building at 14th & P for the past five years. The challenge with this space at the east side of the building is that the ramp starts at grade level and goes up five feet. The main level of the building is raised above grade. The proposal is for an outdoor dining deck for Wahoo's Fish Tacos. It would take up 1.5 bays of the building. The proposal is to match in every way, shape and form Noodles & Company's corner dock. The main difference is that there is no exit to the sidewalk off this dining deck. It is code compliant because there will be an exit inside the building.

Laging asked about awnings and signage. Wills stated that there are existing awnings and there will be building signage but he cannot speak to the location.

Nalow stated that she has a concern with the narrow streetscape and bringing the sidewalk down to 6 feet is a very tight space. Ripley stated that he believes some enhanced landscaping would be beneficial. Johnson stated that they can work with DLA to get a street tree in that location.

Laging moved approval of the sidewalk café for Wahoo's Fish Tacos, seconded by Steward. 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 Dept.)

Johnson began by updating the Commission on the donor recognition tiles for Centennial Mall. He stated that there is an 18" band on the sidewalk and they would like to incorporate tiles with information about leaders who have been influential in the state.

Nalow stated that they would like to get some input from the Commission on the donor tiles.

Johnson stated that they have been reaching out to the federal GSA, and unfortunately they have budgeted no money for repair and replacement this year and next.

Larson Rodenburg stated that they have \$6.9 million committed to the Mall. They have a variety of private and public sources in that mix. Everyone is excited about the project and sees the need for it. They want to make this Mall something that is timeless and they want to weave in an education theme as well. They are looking at a public announcement next year. They want to get their lead donors in place before then.

Pansing Brooks stated that they want to make this a statewide Mall. They want to reach out to everyone across the State to be a part of this.

Nalow stated that the design team has started looking at a font program to fit an 18" x 18" tile. Thomas stated that they are looking for a font that keeps the spirit of the capitol. A possible font option is Optima which is used on the exterior of the capitol. They are considering granite and bronze tiles. There will be a motif in the upper left corner with a border and the words "Nebraska Centennial Mall" on the bottom right. The upper right will be the donor's hometown or city, and the center will contain a quote or information about the donor. There will be single tiles of 18" x 18" or double tiles of 18" x 36". Tile sponsorship levels being considered are \$1000, \$10,000 and \$25,000.

Steward asked if they considered having just single tiles as he feels that would be better from a design standpoint to have a uniform size. Larson Rodenburg stated that they need to make it more compelling from a donation standpoint to get to the \$25,000 donor level.

Steward stated that philosophically he has a problem with the fact that a company that can afford it can have a tile, and there seems to be some inconsistency in the treatment. Larson Rodenburg stated that she agrees with that, and they are generating a list of people and companies that they feel should be on the walkway, and they will share the list with potential donors who may want to sponsor such a tile. She would like to get input from the Commission or another group on who should be on that list.

Larson stated that we want this Mall to be as permanent, significant and classic as the capitol itself, so it is important to have opportunities for future recognition. We want history; we want contributions to the state; we want education.

Searcy asked about the strategy of the tile sponsorship levels. Johnson stated that part of the difference in the levels is the amount of information contained in the tiles. Pansing Brooks stated that they still need to do more research on the levels before a final decision is made on that. Steward stated the

\$1000 price point is affordable for many families and individuals, but he feels there may be some pushback on the higher level.

Larson Rodenburg stated that they appreciate the input and they will take all of the comments into consideration in their future discussions. Scheer added that they are still in the preliminary phases and appreciate all the comments.

Searcy thanked the design and donor team for their work.

Staff report/misc.

Zimmer noted that the joint meeting with the Capitol Commission is on November 3. This meeting will be in place of the October meeting. The final meeting for the year will be in mid-December.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:23 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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