

## MEETING RECORD

<b>NAME OF GROUP:</b>	NEBRASKA CAPITOL ENVIRONS COMMISSION
<b>DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING:</b>	Thursday, November 3, 2011 9:00 a.m., State Capitol Building, 14 <sup>th</sup> & K Street, Hearing Room 1113, Lincoln, Nebraska
<b>MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	Karen Nalow, Jeff Searcy and Cecil Steward. John Kay, Tom Laging, Kim Todd and Jon Weinberg absent.
<b>OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	Elizabeth Thomas (Clark Enersen Partners); Susan Larson Rodenburg and Patty Pansing Brooks (Centennial Mall Fundraising Committee); Nancy Hicks (Lincoln Journal Star); Matt Hansen (Capitol Commission); Lynn Johnson, Jerry Shorney and JJ Yost (Parks & Rec); Ed Zimmer, Nicole Fleck-Tooze and Michele Abendroth (Planning Department)
<b>STATED PURPOSE OF MEETING:</b>	Regular Meeting of the Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. The Nebraska Open Meetings Act was acknowledged. Those present introduced themselves.

### **Approval of meeting notes of September 3, 2011**

Due to the lack of a quorum, the meeting notes were not voted upon.

### **Update on Centennial Mall design process**

Nalow presented an overview of the thematic development for Centennial Mall. The overriding goals are to be functional, safe, beautiful and sustainable. The design team is developing some new images for fundraising. On the south blocks you can start to see the main water feature as you look south to the capitol. You can also see the patterns in the pavement. The water fountain is a basin-less fountain. The two water features make the connection from the south plaza to the upper plaza. The water feature starts to focus your eye to the capitol. The theme on the L to N blocks is "Our Home Nebraska". The pavement patterns represent different eco-regions. As they are working through development with the pavement, they are starting to look at what materials they will be using. The theme on the M to N block is "Community Mosaic". On the north two blocks, you can start to see how we go from an active space by the Children's Museum and transitions to campus with campus quality. We transition from a formal space to a less active, informal space.

Zimmer stated that we are trying to further develop the themes with decorative and educational content. He distributed a report on the Educational and Interpretive Features of the Mall.

Steward complimented the design team as he believes the design dramatically shows more respect for the properties up and down the Mall. He asked if it was possible to change paving surfaces between the walkways on each of the streets. Nalow stated that from crosswalk to crosswalk, they will look at a specialty pavement, although they have not determined what that is yet. Steward noted that would further emphasize that this is a connection.

Zimmer provided a summary of the interpretive components. This focuses primarily on the southernmost block. There are three parts. The lawn portion is seen as the broadest community and it is mostly a grass surface. There is abundant opportunity for interpretation, and one idea is to name all 93 counties with a map. At the center of the block on the lower plaza is where we will try to emphasize people who have emerged as Nebraska leaders. Because we have the pathway plaques, we could amplify key figures on the ground. The southern plaza will be the most important space. There are eight major opportunities, but we do not intend to use all of those. The L to M block emphasizes the natural setting of the state. Pathway plaques will feature individuals who have spoken or written about our relationship with the land. The three center blocks will be opportunities for individuals who contribute to the societal fabric of Nebraska. The P to Q block will focus on individuals notable for contributions to arts, humanities, science and entrepreneurship. The Q to R block is an opportunity to reflect on the history of the capitol and its environs.

Steward commented on the region of the Mall on imagination and innovation and asked if it is possible to provide opportunities for new innovators. Zimmer stated that there are a huge number of opportunities on the pathway, and they should not all be filled initially.

Zimmer stated that the pathway program has three basic concepts for donor plaques. The three types are two variations on the granite with a name and brief descriptor. The second possibility is a bronze inset into granite and has more opportunity for text. The third one is double the size with bronze set into granite. The plaques will be focused on the center blocks. The key to this is creating an endowment for maintenance of the Mall.

### **Capitol Vista from West Haymarket Arena**

Zimmer stated that as the arena and West Haymarket are developed, it is important to address the constraints on the top of the tower view. He presented several photos from the Haymarket with views to the capitol. We have protected vistas where there is an important viewing opportunity of the capitol.

Nalow stated that they have been developing views out to the rest of West Haymarket to make sure they are making a connection between the two.

Zimmer stated that the design team is working on maintaining a capitol tower view from the concourse level inside the arena.

Searcy stated that he would recommend the Commission enforce the notion of maintaining those views. Steward stated that it is important in this project and for future construction as well. He recommends that the Commission have official protection of the corridor for this project and future projects.

### **Review of draft annual report**

Zimmer stated that the Centennial Mall project has been the focus of 2011 meetings. The annual report will include several elements of the Centennial Mall design.

### **Miscellaneous**

Steward stated that we are coming close to breaking ground on the Centennial Mall project. At this time, the Capitol Commission has taken no stance on this project. He is inclined to bring this topic up at the next meeting and make a request that both the Capitol Commission and Environs Commission make public resolution in support of the Centennial Mall project. Hansen stated that he would like to see the Capitol Commission take a position as well, so he supports that recommendation.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 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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