

MEETING RECORD

NAME OF GROUP: NEBRASKA CAPITOL ENVIRONS COMMISSION

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING: Thursday, August 28, 2014, 8:00 a.m., Conference Room 214, 2nd Floor, County-City Building, 555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Christie Dionisopoulos, Tom Laging, Karen Nalow, Cecil Steward and Jeff Searcy; (John Kay and Jon Weinberg absent). Ed Zimmer, Stacey Groshong-Hageman and Teresa McKinstry of the Planning Department; Lynn Johnson and J.J. Yost of Parks and Recreation; Matt Hansen from the Office of the Capitol Commission; Roger Ludemann and Julie Manes from LA Group; Michael Smith from the Nebraska State Historical Society; John Heacock from the State Building Division; Jennifer Honebrink from Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture; and Kevin Abourezk from the *Lincoln Journal Star*.

STATED PURPOSE OF MEETING: Regular Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission Meeting

Chair Jeff Searcy called the meeting to order and acknowledged the posting of the Open Meetings Act in the room.

Searcy then requested a motion approving the minutes for the regular meeting held June 26, 2014 and July 24, 2014. Motion for approval made by Steward, seconded by Laging and carried 5-0: Dionisopoulos, Laging, Nalow, Steward and Searcy voting 'yes'; Kay and Weinberg absent.

A CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS FOR INSCRIBED PLAQUES IN THE SPIRIT OF NEBRASKA PATHWAY OF NEBRASKA'S CENTENNIAL MALL
PUBLIC HEARING: August 28, 2014

Members present: Dionisopoulos, Laging, Nalow, Steward and Searcy; Kay and Weinberg absent.

Ed Zimmer stated that these have been reviewed by the Editorial Committee and he believes they are polished. It has been very helpful to have input from the Historical Society. Julie Manes has been very careful with keeping a close eye on the text. They have been trying hard to have a date or dates in every plaque, so there is some context. With the Commission's approval, these will go off to be carved in granite or cast in bronze..

Searcy thanked everyone for their input on these plaques and the hard work that has been done and continued efforts in the future.

Zimmer stated that the first plaques to be installed will on the K St. to L St. block. The L St. to M St. block will be next. The middle blocks (M-P) will be the second phase, then P St. to Q St., finally Q St. to R St. blocks will be next. The intention is, as construction is finished on the blocks, the plaques will be installed.

Lynn Johnson spoke with Scott Schaeffer of Indian Affairs regarding Chief Standing Bear Trail. They would like to add Chief to the inscription

Searcy referenced the plaque for George W. Norris on page 1. He believes this plaque needs to acknowledge that the Nebraska Unicameral is nonpartisan. Don Walton wrote a great book on the subject. It was very interesting to read about that aspect of the Unicameral. George Norris insisted it be nonpartisan. Searcy would ask for consideration that it be modified to include the word "nonpartisan".

Roger Ludemann is proud of the work the committee did on this. It is interesting to him to find that the Director of Parks & Rec is an exceptional writer. Lynn took a piece that was a challenge and made it fabulous, and Ed did some excellent copy. Mike Smith and Jim Potter of the Historical Society gave some excellent advice. He is very appreciative of the team work and the cooperative fashion in which this was all done. Julie Manes helped coordinate everything, and it has been polished and polished and he feels really good about these plaques.

ACTION:

Dionisopoulos moved approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness, with amendment to the language for George W. Norris to include the word "nonpartisan" before "Nebraska Unicameral Legislature". Motion seconded by Nalow and carried 5-0: Dionisopoulos, Laging, Nalow, Steward and Searcy voting 'yes'; Kay and Weinberg absent.

A CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS FOR WORK AT MUSEUM OF NEBRASKA HISTORY, 131 CENTENNIAL MALL NORTH

PUBLIC HEARING:

August 28, 2014

Members present: Dionisopoulos, Laging, Nalow, Steward and Searcy; Kay and Weinberg absent.

Jennifer Honebrink appeared and provided some photographs of the area and also some mockups of signage for the building. They are proposing a new sign above the front door consisting of aluminum letters that would be backlit at night, on the ledge. It should be easy to get wiring up there. There will be no exposed conduit. They are also asking for small vinyl letters on the glass. This will show hours of operation, basic building information. New penthouse signs are also being proposed. The penthouse color will be changed to match the building. The sign would be simple mill finish

aluminum letters. It would be similar in height to what is there now. Those would not be lit. They would be pinned on the surface. They also discussed having them painted.

Zimmer questioned if the penthouse will still be ribbed. Honebrink believes so. We could look at making is smoother.

Laging asked if the letters have any depth. Honebrink replied it would be minimal. Laging noted that ribbing would have depth. Zimmer believes smoother would be better.

Steward thinks that flat metal that minimizes seams would give a better appearance.

Nalow sees this as a great improvement from what is there now. She would question if the east side sign is necessary, being that this side is more pedestrian oriented.

Michael Smith stated that he believes they do need that sign. The Centennial Mall project places a row of trees in front of the lower sign.

Zimmer would note that the sign above the door is very pedestrian oriented, whereas the penthouse signs address a wider area.

Honebrink didn't pay much attention to the P Street signage until she started to work on the project. Nalow was just questioning the east side. Dionisopoulos believes it is kind of a duplication. Steward doesn't think redundancy in advertising is a bad thing

Laging noted it is one way coming down P Street. This is a major access point.

Zimmer wondered if it would be worth considering a similar sign on the ledge on P Street at the second-story level. Laging thinks perhaps at the pedestrian level. There is an underneath piece that might make some sense to have a blade sign.

Dionisopoulos likes what has been proposed. She thinks it is simple and classic.

Johnson asked if there is wayfinding signage in P Street. Nalow replied yes. Some of that signage is on P Street. Johnson wondered if there is also signage for the State History Museum. Nalow believes so, but can't recall where they are specifically located. Steward sees this as an opportunity for this museum and the Children's Museum. Nalow stated there are two types of signage; a kiosk with a map, and signs that are more guide signs. Most of the current ones installed are oriented to help people find the arena.

Stacey Groshong-Hageman doesn't know if there are current, funded plans to expand those.

Zimmer stated that the commission could encourage P Street opportunities.

ACTON:

Laging moved approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness for the sign package as presented, with encouragement for the applicant to look into opportunities on "P" Street, seconded by Steward.

Steward thinks this is a much cleaner piece of architecture.

Searcy sees this as a vast improvement. The upgrade is very welcomed. He inquired about the timeframe. Smith replied that the bid will be opened on September 18, 2014. They hope to have construction started in late October or early November of this year.

John Heacock stated that they are hoping to have a completion date of December 15, 2015.

Update on Centennial Mall

JJ Yost stated that construction has been progressing nicely. The O Street intersection is complete and open. The N Street intersection is about half complete and ongoing. In three weeks, it should be complete and open. There are only certain intersections that could be undertaken this Fall due to the upcoming football schedule. The contractor continues to work on the K St. to L St. block. They were about to start installing new features on the fountain. This work was slowed down based on the wet weather. They just started some demo work on the L St. to M St. block. The intention is to focus on those two blocks through this Fall, before Winter weather sets in. They will focus on the north end of the wall after Winter. The first set of plaques is ready to go to the engravers and casters. They are still working on final details. He guesses that we probably won't see any of those on the mall until next Spring. Substantial completion by this contractor is set for July, 2015. They will start doing some landscaping in the Spring of next year. The majority will happen in Fall of 2015.

Searcy thinks this is fantastic news.

Johnson stated that the College of Journalism has requested to do some signage. He is waiting to hear back from them on their proposal.

Matt Hansen is curious where things stand on traffic signal provisions from Public Works. Johnson is waiting to see where we are from a funding standpoint. Hansen wondered if this will be potentially wrapped up in July or the next phase. Yost replied that is hard to say. It depends on funding.

Searcy noted this is a high priority to this Commission. He further added that as this goes north to the next block, we want to double check that contractors are aware there is a 1976 Bicentennial time capsule that needs to be appropriately handled and moved. He wants to make sure the integrity is ensured. Yost is coordinating with John from the

State and making sure there is some means of access for State employees to get from the parking garage to the office building.

Laging questioned if the State has proposed any changes to their entrance to the State Office Building. Yost believes they were looking at modification and perhaps a food court on the southeast corner of their building. He doesn't know what their timeline is. Hansen believes that area of the building is vacant.

Hansen stated that Ripley has wanted to talk with Windstream about the possibility that their tower could go away. Searcy stated there has been many conversations over the year. Maybe it could be painted a color that blends better?

Johnson stated there was a conversation with them during the talks for Centennial Mall renovation. They say it is too expensive to be removed.

Searcy asked Yost to find out more information on the traffic signal arms.

Nalow has seen some careless construction on the Lincoln Mall right-of-way and has been in touch with Public Works regarding the trees.

Zimmer stated that the committee will meet on Centennial Mall plaques for M-to-P Street next month.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 a.m.