

MEETING RECORD

NAME OF GROUP: NEBRASKA CAPITOL ENVIRONS COMMISSION

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING: Tuesday, November 18, 2014, 10:00 a.m., Hearing Room 1510, Nebraska State Capitol, 15th & K Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Christie Dionisopoulos, John Kay, Tom Laging, Karen Nalow, Jeff Searcy, Cecil Steward and Jon Weinberg. Ed Zimmer, Stacey Groshong-Hageman and Teresa McKinstry of the Planning Department; J.J. Yost of Parks and Recreation and Matt Hansen from the Office of the Capitol Commission.

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 October 23, 2014. Motion for approval made by Kay, seconded by Laging and carried 7-0: Dionisopoulos, Kay, Laging, Nalow, Searcy, Steward and Weinberg voting 'yes'.

PROPOSAL BY NEAR SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION OR A MONUMENT AT GOODHUE BOULEVARD AND A STREET

PUBLIC HEARING: **November 18, 2014**

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

Zimmer stated that he has no further information. Brayden McLaughlin of the Near South Neighborhood Association intends to meet again with the Commission, but he is not present today. Zimmer is not aware if they have changed their request from the center of the median.

Searcy looks forward to more information at a future meeting.

REVIEW OF PRELIMINARY DRAFT, COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT

PUBLIC HEARING: **November 18, 2014**

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

Zimmer stated that Planning Commission took action on the text amendment to section 27.67.075 LMC, regarding residential parking in the Capitol Environs District. This commission heard about the proposed amendment last month. This will go on to City Council for public hearing and action. The Ambassador project has also cleared the next steps. There has been a lot of construction and

progress in the Capitol Environs area in the last year.

Kay noted that "Nebraska History Museum" is the proper title of the building.

Dionisopoulos wondered if any approved inscriptions for the Spirit of Nebraska Pathway of Nebraska's Centennial Mall will be included in the annual report. Zimmer believes it might be a nice appendix. Weinberg questioned how many have been approved so far. Zimmer believes 46. Searcy thinks it makes sense to include them.

Steward would like to see parking plans be developed by both the State and Federal facilities in the Environs. Zimmer noted that this is the first year State offices have occupied the former Assurity/Woodman building. They have made some on-street parking adjustments.

Zimmer will reflect completion of the Farmers Mutual project in the final report. That project includes both structured and surface parking.

Laging noted that K Street has become a corridor lined with parking lots and structures and inquired about plans for landscaping along the right-of-way. Nalow stated that as part of the new Nebco building and parking garage, the south side of K Street, from 10th to 12th, will be receiving new landscape trees. Laging thinks it would be nice to encourage a continuity of the streetscape.

Miscellaneous

- Steward stated that the Joslyn Institute, in context of their grant for a feasibility study from NIFA on a Southeast Nebraska Food Hub, has included a detailed study of mixed uses of Pershing Auditorium. A public discussion/charrette is scheduled for December 16, 2014 at Mahoney State Park in the attempt to draw both Lincoln and Omaha producers and marketing interests together at that time. They will present some conceptual ideas of a Pershing retrofit, with some preliminary cost estimates. Anyone is welcome to attend. It starts at 10:00 a.m. and ends at 2:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided. They are working with Clark Enersen on the imagery for the retrofit proposals.

Searcy thinks it sounds like this has gained some traction, beginning in that direction. Steward replied it is a live study project. Laging questioned if the library lost interest. Steward replied that one of the first things we did was to investigate if the library and food hub could both be accommodated in this structure. This charrette will mostly concentrate on the food hub. Zimmer added that he knows the library interest remains strong.

Laging questioned if there are any associated parking issues on the east side that would accommodate uses in Pershing. Zimmer believes that the City's most recent parking effort indicates that the east downtown garage is the priority. He believes it was more of a demand study than a focus on a specific site.

Kay stated that next year, the Lincoln Community Foundation is embarking on a south downtown vitalization effort from A Street to M Street, 6th Street to 17th Street. NIFA is a partner. He will be encouraging them to come talk to this commission. This also includes the neighborhoods around Everett and west. There are three different neighborhood associations which will be contacted in the next couple of weeks.

Steward stated that the Pershing study is not unrelated to that. It is seen as a potential generator to other urban development.

- Laging wondered about the plan for Centennial Mall. He is not sure what is happening at the steps of the State office building. Nalow responded that the plaza space will spill out from the State office building. The planters were filled in or covered at some point. After that, plants were added back and a wood structure was constructed to hold the soil in. As part of the renovation, the wood is being removed and the planters will be uncapped and used as originally intended.
- Searcy questioned if anything has happened yet with the Bicentennial time capsule that is in front of the State office building. Nalow stated there are plans to remove it and move it to Reflection Plaza. Searcy would like to be brought up to speed with relation to the integrity of the capsule and the timeline of moving it.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.