

## MEETING RECORD

NAME OF GROUP: **NEBRASKA CAPITOL ENVIRONS COMMISSION**

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING: Thursday, May 22, 2014, 8:00 a.m., Room 214, County/City Building, 555 S. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Christie Dionisopoulos, John Kay, and Jeff Searcy. Tom Laging, Karen Nalow, Cecil Steward and Jon Weinberg absent.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Gwen Belden and Jim Blosser (First Christian Church); Rodney Anderson (A/S Building Division); John Heacock (State Building Division); Lynn Johnson & JJ Yost (Parks & Rec); Bob Ripley and Matt Hansen (Capitol Commission); Ed Zimmer and Stacey Hageman (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.

### **Approval of meeting record of March 27, 2014 and April 24, 2014.**

Due to the lack of a quorum, the meeting record was not voted upon.

### **Certificate of Appropriateness for work at 430 South 16<sup>th</sup> Street, First Christian Church.**

Belden stated that they are proposing new landscaping on the south side of the First Christian Church. There are junipers along the alley which will give some privacy in that area. There is an ornamental fence which will come down from the building. There is a tree so they need to have a break in the fence. There will be ornamental fence posts; there will not be a gate. On the other side, they will take out the yews and add complementary shrubbery, junipers and hydrangeas. They want to add some height to the landscaping.

Zimmer commented that it appears the right-of-way probably involves a little bit of the garden. Lynn Johnson noted that if the tree on the west is in the public right-of-way, they would be willing to take that down. There is also funding available that would assist with tree planting.

Searcy asked when they anticipate starting the project. Belden stated that she hasn't gotten estimates yet. She hopes to put in the fence this summer and the landscaping in the fall.

Johnson asked if the landscaping is irrigated. Belden stated that it is.

Ripley asked about the edge between the turf and the planting. Belden stated that there is a lot of variety, and it is all low maintenance.

Searcy thanked the team for being good neighbors. The Commission cannot recommend a Certificate of Appropriateness today due to the lack of a quorum, and it will be brought back to the next meeting.

## **Certificate of Appropriateness for inscribed plaques in the Spirit of Nebraska Pathway of Nebraska's Centennial Mall, in the Capitol Environs District.**

Johnson stated that Zimmer has revised the inscriptions from the last meeting. The Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs has reviewed and approved these. Zimmer has redrafted the Jagels Farm and Ranch tile inscription, and Conrad will contact the family to see if they are comfortable with the wording.

Searcy stated these will be brought forward to the next meeting.

## **Certificate of Appropriateness for work at the Museum of Nebraska History, 131 Centennial Mall North.**

Kay stated that this is an \$8 million renovation project. The exterior of the building is going to receive minimal changes. It is largely an HVAC system and indoor air quality project. As the temperature conditions of the exterior of the building change, they quickly experience that on the inside. There are four aspects of the project. There are going to be loading doors added on the south façade. The first floor storefront needs to be replaced. There is an existing penthouse without mechanical equipment. The painted steel panels that say 'museum' will move slightly to the west. There is also the impact of the 1%-for-the-arts budget, and there is a separate committee for that. We are currently in the design development phase. It will be bid in August. The museum will close September 1. They anticipate work beginning in November and it will take 13 months, during which time the museum will be closed.

Ripley asked about what the arts budget will result in. Heacock stated that it is not large enough to have a great impact. They are looking at the possibility of using some extra frosted glass at the main entrance to help identify the building as a museum. He suggested using a sculpture or something with glass. Ripley asked if it will be on the building. Kay stated that mostly likely it will.

Kay stated that there is no substantial impact on the north façade. The west façade will share the fence with the building next door. On the second and third level, the proposal is to add loading access. They are going to infill the main center stair, and they want to add doors. They are going to remove the wall panel. There will be a new entry with a planting bed. The entrance will be within the entire column line.

Kay noted that the building is a modernist building. It is a concrete structure, so the concept was that the entryway should have the framed character, but they want to warm it up a little. So they are proposing wood paneling on the interior, so it creates movement. As you come in, there is a compression and then you open up again.

Ripley asked if the gallery space will continue behind the visitor desk. Kay stated that it will. Ripley commented that this is a perfect niche for a really iconic piece. Kay stated that they have limited activity space so they intend to use it as gathering space.

Kay stated that they have an issue with loiters on the north side, so they want to enclose the space but still allow some light back into the office space. They are looking at large laser cut metal panels with high resolution images in them. Other options are a little more abstract. They haven't decided which option to go with yet.

Ripley commented that it looks good.

**Miscellaneous: staff report, etc.**

Zimmer informed the Commission that they will be pursuing the question of funding for the mast arm project to see that good idea turned into reality. Yost stated that the contractor is focused on the south end of the Mall, and hopes to have that completed by the end of October. If winter weather permits, he will get started on the north end of the Mall with a completion date of September of next year.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:07 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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