

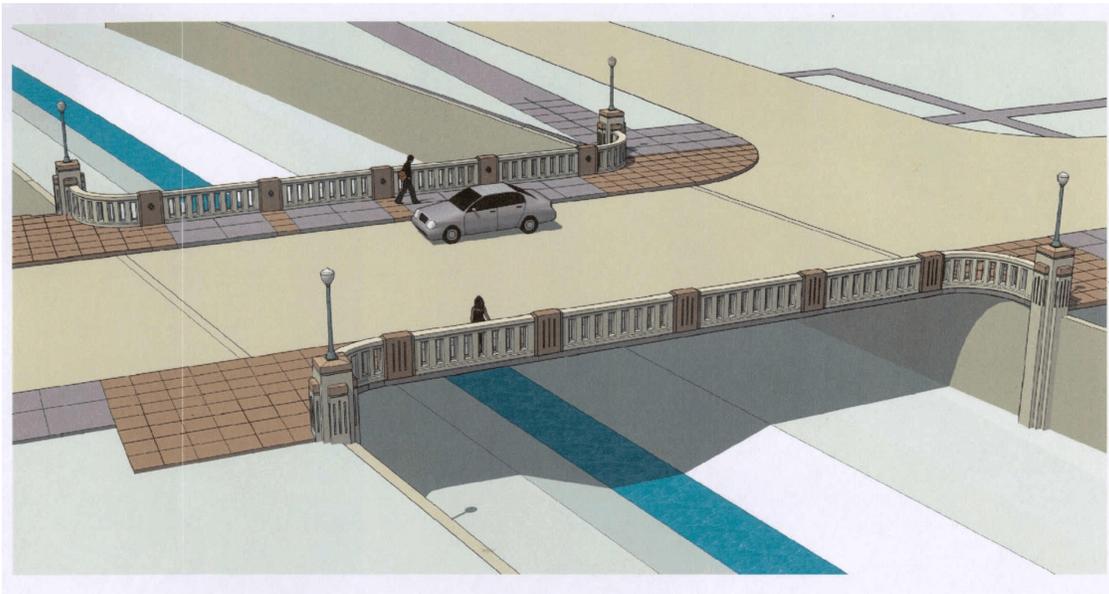
NEBRASKA CAPITOL ENVIRONS COMMISSION
2007 ANNUAL REPORT
(DRAFT)

The Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission was established in 1988 to protect the Nebraska State Capitol by promoting the improvement of the Capitol's setting—its Environs. By Section 27.56.060 of the Lincoln Municipal Code, the Commission is required to meet at least quarterly. Four of the seven appointed citizen members constitute a quorum of the Commission, assisted by three non-voting, ex-officio members representing State and City government.

Including the November 29th meeting, the Commission will have met 8 times in 2007, with quorums present at 6 of the first 7 meetings. Members' diligence in attending has greatly facilitated the work of the Commission and was much appreciated by applicants, the Chairman, and staff.

The year began with an issue to which the Commission had devoted considerable time and counsel in 2006, a public art project involving the Sower and Centennial Mall. The Commission adopted the following statement January 25th:

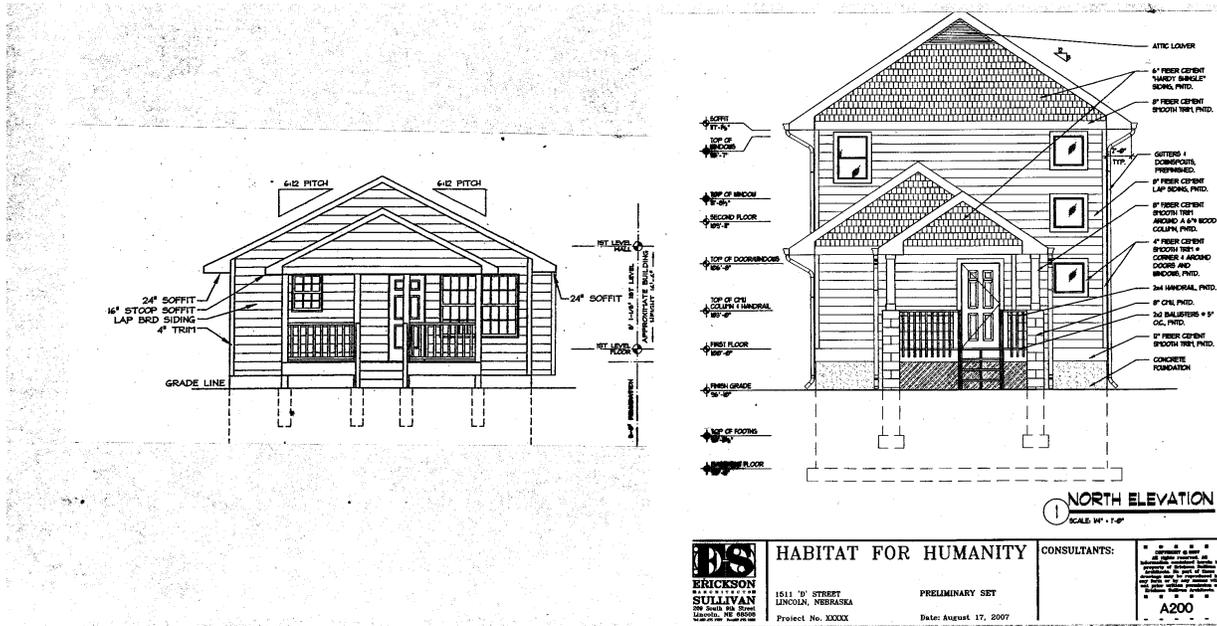
The Commission heartily concurs with Vicki Rankin and Liz Shea-McCoy and with their many supporters that the Nebraska State Capitol and its artwork exemplify the enduring benefits which great art confers upon the human spirit. Raising Nebraskans' and tourists' awareness and enjoyment of the Capitol and its setting on Centennial Mall through art and educational activities is laudable. The activities outlined in "The Sower" project description received by the Commission January 18, 2007 are not within the Commission's jurisdiction but the Commission appreciates the project directors' offer of periodic updates as they go forward.



In February the Commission received revised designs for the Antelope Creek bridge at J Street. The Antelope Valley Project Design Team incorporated the Commission's previous advice of strengthening this bridge's relationship to its location on the east axis of the Capitol. The resulting design was strongly recommended by the Commissioners.

Another Antelope Valley-related project occupied the Commission's April meeting, when a commercial building at 21st and K Streets was approved. The business had relocated from P Street, where it was displaced by the new Antelope Creek channel and park.

In May a preliminary design for a new single family house at 1511 D Street was discussed. A much more compatible house design was approved in August, developed through the volunteer design services of architect Scott Sullivan and the cooperation of the project owner, Habitat for Humanity. (The original proposal is at left, the revised and approved design is on the right.)



In June the Multicultural Center on the UNL City Campus (15th & S) received preliminary review. The design was approved by the Commission in September, with direction to staff to advocate for allowance of the “lantern” feature atop the building’s central atrium. This feature in excess of the district’s 57-foot building height limit was accepted by Lincoln’s Building & Safety Dept., consistent with height exceptions granted by state law for certain mechanical or decorative elements.

At each meeting from May through September, the Commission also discussed potential impacts on the Capitol and the Environs of proposals for a major development project downtown (“Catalyst One” on Q Street between 13th and 14th Streets). Bonnie Armstrong attended several meetings to discuss her concerns pertaining to downtown height limits with the Commission. The Commission formed a subcommittee to consider that issue. The work of that group is continuing.

A signal event of 2007 was the culmination of the Commission’s efforts to rename a portion of South 15th Street as Goodhue Boulevard. The City Council approved that proposal in February. Goodhue Boulevard was dedicated June 14, 2007, with a ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda.

Respectfully submitted
 November 29, 2007
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