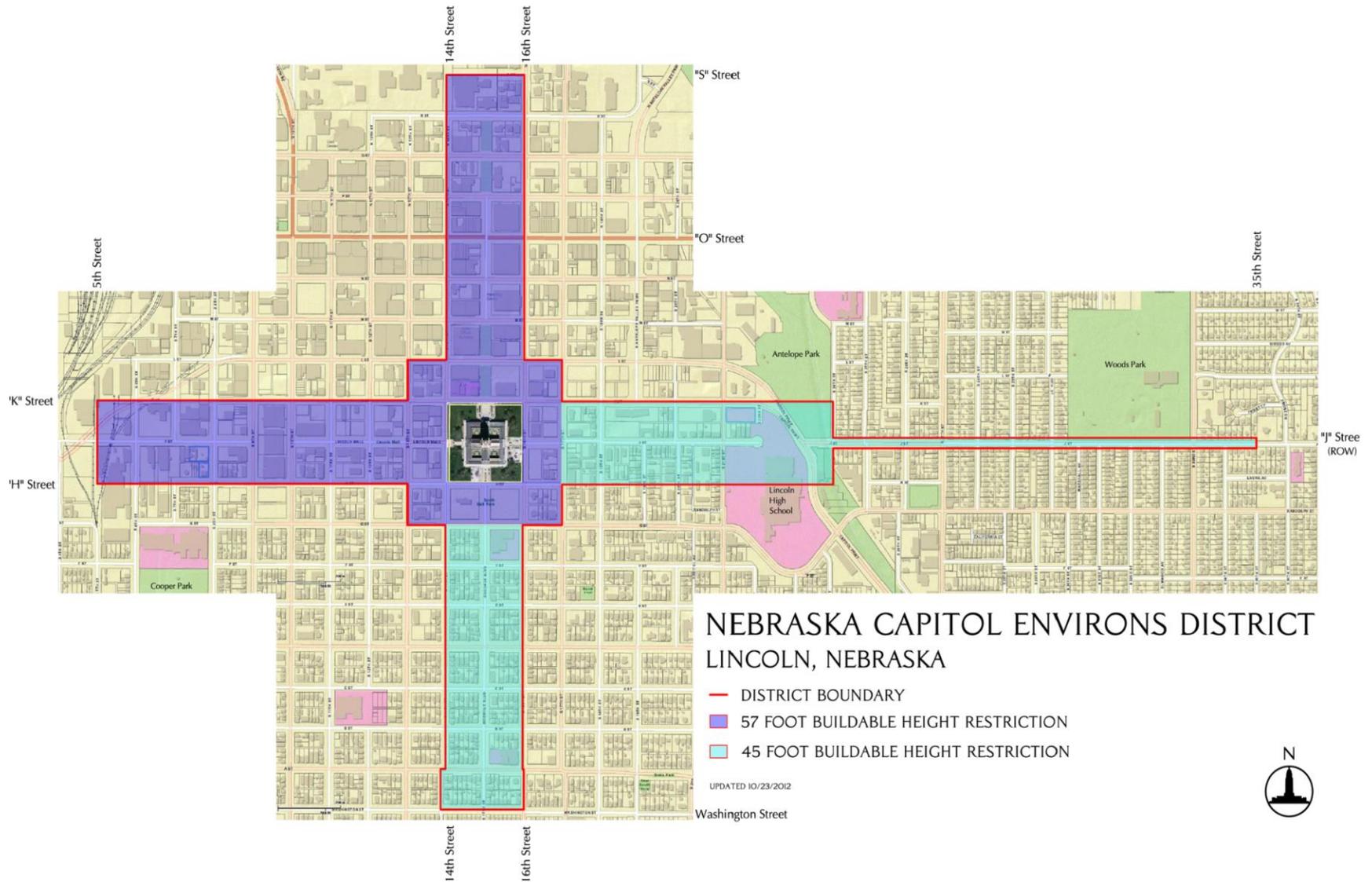


Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission - Annual Report 2017



The Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission was established in 1988 to strengthen existing protections for the setting of Nebraska's landmark State Capitol. Commission membership of seven citizen volunteers includes five members appointed by the City of Lincoln and two appointed by the State of Nebraska.

In 2017 Jon Weinberg completed his term of service on the Commission and Ann Post, JD, was appointed by the Governor in his place. Otherwise membership remained unchanged with Jeff Searcy continuing as chair, and Commissioners Mary Campbell, Gene Crump, Christine Dionisopoulos, Karen Nalow, and John Sinclair. However, Christine Dionisopoulos has indicated that her family is relocating to Wisconsin and hence she is resigning from the Commission. The seven appointed

citizen members are assisted by three *ex officio* members—Bob Ripley of the Office of the Capitol Commission (for the State of Nebraska), the director of Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department (David Cary), and Lynn Johnson (director of Lincoln Parks & Recreation Department). Staffing is provided by the Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department, including planners Stacey Groshong Hageman and Ed Zimmer and administrative assistant Teresa McKinstry.

The Commission is required to meet at least quarterly by Section 27.56.060 of the Lincoln Municipal Code. The Commission has met seven times in 2017, with a quorum at each meeting.

Project Reviews

The Commission reviewed projects on each of the Environs District's four "legs" in 2017, as well as on Capitol Square.

In April and July, projects at the former Trinity Methodist Church at 16th & A Streets were approved. The initial request involved a discrete installation of wireless communications antennae in the bell tower of the church, while the second request was to install new windows in the west education wing of the complex. The building is a designated Lincoln landmark as well as a prominent feature of the Environs District. Especially welcome was the news that the applications reflected the sale of the property to a growing congregation, Grace Chapel, which is undertaking much-needed work on the building, and that the

Photo-simulation of antennae in Trinity Church tower ▶



vibrant early childhood education program in the building is continuing.

Another improvement to the south part of the Environs underway in 2017 has been the “undergrounding” of utility wires that crossed Goodhue Blvd., alley-to-alley, at several of the mid-block points. Lincoln Electric System is meeting this long-standing goal of the Commission to improve the appearance of Goodhue Blvd. by enhancing the views north to the Capitol tower along the oldest of the Environ’s landscaped malls, which was first improved in the 1910s.

In June, a request was received to install a historic marker on Lincoln Mall, identifying the location of Mari Sandoz’s residence at the start of her writing career and providing information about her connections to the Capitol and its environs. With advice on improving the placement for pedestrian comfort and safety, the request was approved.

The Commission reviewed requests in July and September pertaining to expansion of a business at 21st and K Street, Glenn’s Carstar. The Commission approved a compatible addition to the building and its parking, with appropriate landscape screening, and supported a Change of Zone to B-4 (Lincoln Center Business District) to guide any future redevelopment of the site.

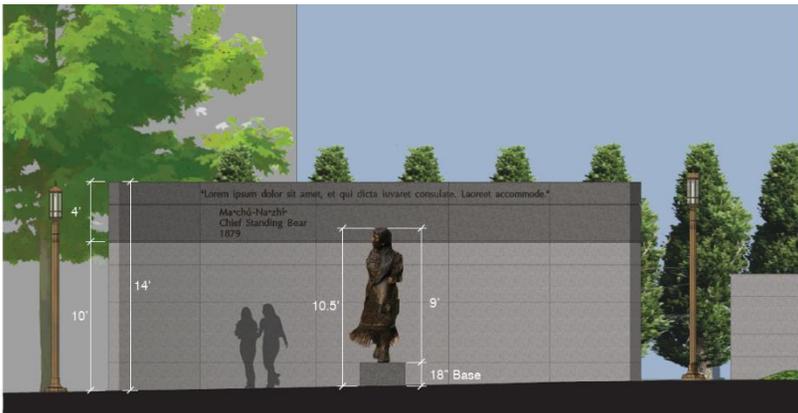


*Photo-simulation of Sandoz
Marker on Lincoln Mall*

In September and October, the Commission reviewed nearly a dozen requests to install “small cell” wireless communication antennae on replacement streetlight poles in the Environs District east and north of the Capitol. The Commission approved ten requests for locations not directly on Environs malls, and denied a request at 16th & K on Capitol Square. With the Commission’s guidance, substitute sites were identified for two prospective locations on Centennial Mall.

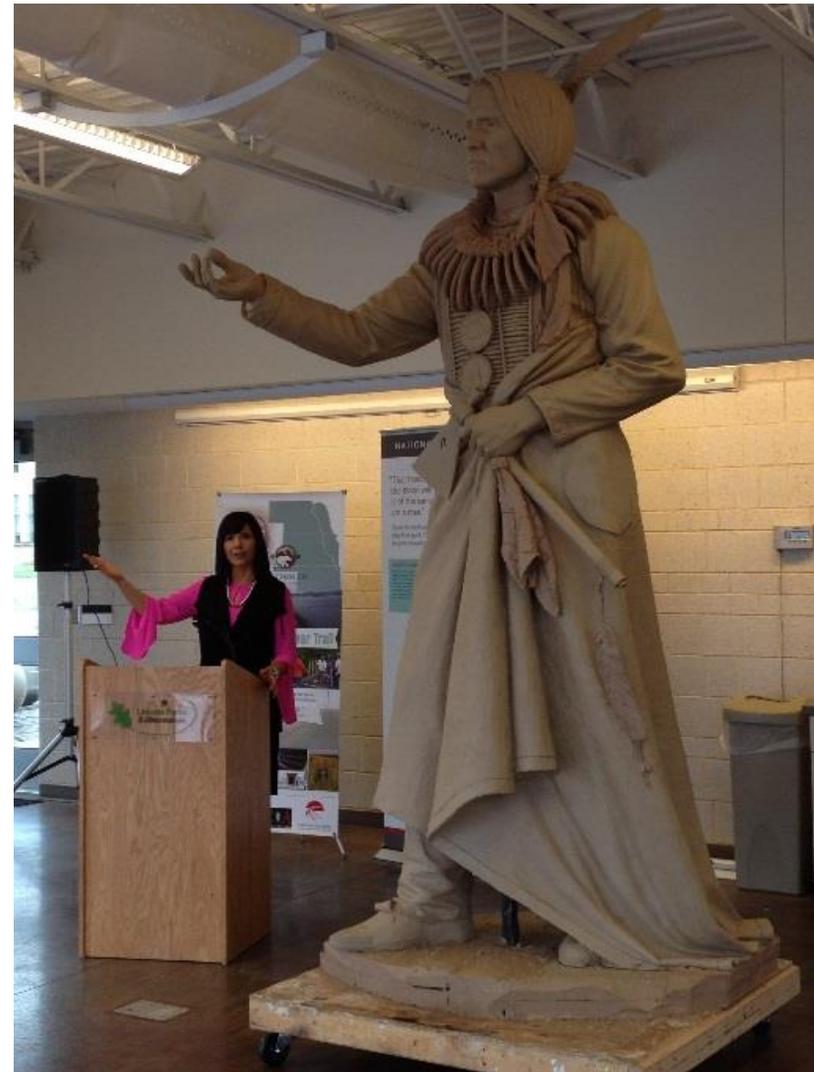
Nebraska's Centennial Mall: Chief Standing Bear monument

The premier improvement in the Capitol Environs in 2017, and the subject of the Commission's greatest attention and input, has been the monumental sculpture of Ponca Chief Standing Bear. Early in the year, the Commission reviewed a study by The Clark Enersen Partners, in consultation with sculptor Ben Victor, of the most appropriate materials and dimensions for a base for the bronze. Commissioners also approved needed modifications to the sculptural niche built as part of the Centennial Mall renovations and reconstruction. A granite-clad addition to the top of the concrete wall provided the necessary height and area for inscriptions.



Centennial Mall, Chief Standing Bear Study

Victor brought the unfinished clay model-in-process to the Snyder Trail Center in March and received dozens of interested visitors, including Commissioners.



Judi gajahskibos, Exec. Director of Nebr. Commission on Indian Affairs at Snyder Trails Center, March 2017



The sculpture was cast at Eagle Bronze Foundry in Lander, Wyoming.

On October 15th hundreds participated in the unveiling of the Standing Bear monument, filling the mid-block plaza on Centennial Mall.





◀ Chief Standing Bear Monument
Centennial Mall
October 2017





ABOUT OUR PARTNERS EVENTS & PROGRAMS APPLICATIONS TEACHERS SHOP

SALUTE TO THE GOOD LIFE

A gala tribute to Nebraska's history, culture and military personnel

Three weeks before the Standing Bear celebration, Centennial Mall was the venue for the capstone of the Nebraska Sesquicentennial, the Salute to the Good Life Spectacular which was held on September 22nd before an enthralled throng.

*FIRST DRAFT ----- November 2017
Ed Zimmer, Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department*