

## MEETING RECORD

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

**DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING:** Thursday, January 25, 2007, 8:00 a.m., Room 206, County-City Building, 555 South 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Jim Hewitt, Tom Laging, V.J. Nelson, Jeff Searcy and Cecil Steward. Patrick O'Donnell and Kim Todd absent.

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Liz Shea-McCoy, Michael McCoy, Vicki Rankin, Randy Rankin and Gary Hill (Sower Project); Bob Ripley (Capitol Commission); Lynn Johnson and Jerry Shorney (Parks and Recreation); Ed Zimmer and Michele Abendroth (Planning Department).

**STATED PURPOSE OF MEETING:** Regular Meeting of the Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission

Chair Searcy called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m.

### **Approval of meeting notes of November 30, 2006**

Nelson moved approval of the November 30, 2006 minutes; seconded by Hewitt. Motion carried 4-0. Hewitt, Laging, Nelson and Searcy voting 'yes'; Steward abstaining; O'Donnell and Todd absent.

### **Update and Commission response on "The Sower – Sowing Statewide Pride" project**

Rankin began by stating that she and Shea-McCoy have met with several members of the Appropriations Committee regarding "The Sower - Sowing Statewide Pride" project, and there was a positive response from them. They have informed the Governor and have had a positive response from him as well. Shea-McCoy noted that the first question from the Appropriations Committee was if they want state money. Their response was that they do not want money at this time. They are just providing a purview of the project. They will continue to inform people of the project. Rankin added their hope is that as the seed gets planted, the Appropriations Committee will allocate state money for the project. There has been a concern about the Sower image, but she reassured that they will have criteria to maintain the dignity of the Sower.

Hewitt stated that since there is not any immediate action to place the images on the mall, his question is regarding the jurisdiction of the Commission in this stage of the proceedings. Zimmer noted that his recommendation is that the project as currently described does not require action by the Commission.

Hewitt asked if the image of the Sower is protected legally. Ripley stated that it is not. It is considered in the public domain.

Johnson stated that since the project is written as an art educational project, he feels this is a positive direction. He also agrees that it is probably not in the purview of the Commission at this stage.

Shea-McCoy thanked the Commission as she feels they have strengthened the project through the comments and collaboration with the Commission. Rankin stated that they would appreciate the Commission's support of the project in the community.

Laging moved approval of the statement below, seconded by Hewitt. Motion carried 5-0. Hewitt, Laging, Nelson, Searcy and Steward voting 'yes'; O'Donnell and Todd absent.

*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.*

### **Staff Report**

Zimmer stated that there has been a request by Planning to review the idea of placing a bus stop at M Street adjacent to the state office building within the span of Centennial Mall. They have stated that they would not put a shelter there but possibly a bench. He feels this is a good location.

Zimmer noted that he also has had a request for a possible project in the Capitol view corridor, as occurs from time to time. He assesses whether or not it appears that a project would detract from the public viewing of the Capitol, and brings any issues of concern to the Commission.

### **Miscellaneous**

Hewitt stated that he has written a letter of support to the City Council for the Goodhue Boulevard name change. Ripley stated that he will testify at the City Council meeting in support for the name change.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:56 a.m.

*\*\*Please note that these minutes will not be formally approved until the next meeting of the Capitol Environs Commission. \*\**