

MEETING RECORD

NAME OF GROUP: NEBRASKA CAPITOL ENVIRONS COMMISSION

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING: Thursday, June 28, 2007, 8:00 a.m., Room 206, County-City Building, 555 South 10th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Bonnie Armstrong (Citizen); Mike Leupold, Charlie Francis and Brooke Hay (University of Nebraska); Ed Leach (DLR Group); Bob Ripley (Capitol Commission); Ed Zimmer and Michele Abendroth (Planning Department).

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

Chair Jeff Searcy called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.

Approval of Meeting Notes of May 24, 2007

Hewitt moved approval of the meeting notes of May 24, 2007, seconded by Nelson. Motion carried 4-0. Hewitt, Nelson, Searcy and Steward voting 'yes'; Laging, O'Donnell and Todd absent.

Habitat for Humanity application, new in-fill house at 1511 D Street

Zimmer noted that there is no new information on this project to report at this time.

Sidewalk Cafe for "The Roost," 1451 O Street, in the Capitol Environs District

Zimmer stated that the proposed cafe at 1451 O Street will have a minimal railing. His question to the Commission is whether or not they feel that is enough. Ripley noted that he feels the structure needs to be more substantial. Members questioned the railing separating the adjoining storefront entrances, suggesting it should not encroach on the neighbor's entryway passage. Zimmer said he would seek revisions and report back to the Commission.

Cultural Center, UNL City Campus, 15th & S Streets

Ed Leach stated that they are here in the early schematic design review process. He noted that there are two purposes for bringing the design to the Commission at this point; first is to give an idea of the context of the building and secondly, to ensure they are understanding any concerns of the Commission and to incorporate those concerns in the final schematic design. The building is a multi-cultural center, which serves the unique cultural requirements of the campus. The current space is cramped and not accessible. The University has a program for fees which will fund this building. A firm from Columbus, Ohio is serving as the design architect. He presented photos of the surrounding buildings and area. One of the key questions is how to maintain the service requirements of adjacent buildings and parking. The program will lead to the determination of the height of the building. The most immediate visual relationship is with the Union. The schematic design includes office space on the first floor, a kitchen and activities space on the second floor and a reading room on the third floor. The exterior design of the building has not been decided upon.

Ripley noted that he has always been disappointed in the diminutive scale of the State Historical Society building in relation to the other buildings. He believes that adding some verticality in this specific area would be good. Zimmer noted that designing a building higher than 57 feet would require legislative action. Ripley added that he appreciates the group coming to the Commission early in the process.

Staff Report

No discussion took place under this agenda item.

Miscellaneous

Bonnie Armstrong reiterated her belief that no building should be taller than the bank building so as not to compete with the scenic skyline of the Capitol. She distributed a cartoon drawing as she feels humor is the only approach in this matter.

Ripley thanked the Commissioners who attended the Goodhue Boulevard dedication. Commissioners suggested having an educational event with possibly a plaque describing Goodhue.

Ripley also updated the Commissioners on the building height issue discussed at the last meeting. He has researched and gathered information on the issue and will apprise the Commissioners as appropriate.

Steward stated that he would like to respectfully decline the sub-committee assignment regarding building height in the downtown due to his being a member of the design team for the City plaza.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

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