

## MEETING RECORD

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

**DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING:** Thursday, August 23, 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, Patrick O'Donnell, Jeff Searcy, Cecil Steward and Kim Todd.

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Bonnie Armstrong (citizen); Nancy Muehling (Habitat for Humanity); Scott Sullivan (Erickson Sullivan Architects); Lynn Johnson and Jerry Shorney (Parks & Recreation); 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 8:05 a.m.

### **Approval of Meeting Notes of June 28, 2007**

Nelson moved approval of the meeting notes of June 28, 2007, seconded by Steward. Motion carried 6-0. Hewitt, Nelson, O'Donnell, Searcy, Steward and Todd voting 'yes'; Laging absent.

Request from Bonnie Armstrong to update Commission on downtown height limits/high-rise construction in relation to Capitol. Armstrong expressed her opinion favoring setting a height limit in downtown so as not to compete with the capitol. She also voiced these concerns to a developer of a proposed building in downtown.

Steward stated there are two Commission members who were involved in the writing of the 1979 code. The height limitations were not placed on the inner downtown core. Although he feels there should not be a building taller than the capitol anywhere, if we can continue to protect the view corridors and continue to grow, then we are accomplishing what was intended at that time.

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

Sullivan distributed drawings of the proposed home at 1511 D Street. He also addressed the written concerns expressed by Bob Ripley regarding the railing, basement windows, a rear window, plant materials, the exterior color palette, and the front porch.

Zimmer believes the plan meets the neighborhood design standards and that the porch fits the size and scale of the neighborhood.

Hewitt stated that we do not have a definitive definition of what meets the standards. It seems the protection of the capitol is what this Commission is about, and this plan does meet the requisite standards. Zimmer stated there are two focuses of the Commission; first is to protect the capitol environs and the second is to protect the Capitol indirectly by enhancing the area around it.

Searcy acknowledged Sullivan for his volunteer work on this project. He also expressed his gratitude to the Habitat for Humanity for their work.

Steward moved approval of the plan as presented and it was seconded by Todd. Motion carried 6-1. Laging, Nelson, O'Donnell, Searcy, Steward and Todd voting 'yes'; Hewitt voting 'no'.

**Cultural Center, UNL City Campus, 15<sup>th</sup> & S Streets**

Zimmer informed the Commission that the University's internal approval process is proceeding more slowly than they had anticipated and that they hope to bring the exterior design to the Commission at its next meeting.

**Staff Report: Sidewalk Café for “The Roost,” 1451 O Street, etc.**

No discussion took place under this agenda item.

**Miscellaneous**

Todd informed the Commission that the Governor's Mansion is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with many events planned next week.

There being no further discussion, 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. \*\**