

MEETING RECORD

NAME OF GROUP: NEBRASKA CAPITOL ENVIRONS COMMISSION

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING: Thursday, June 26, 2008, 8:00 a.m., Room 206, County-City Building, 555 South 10th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Kevin Flecky (Schemmer Associates); Lynn Johnson and Jerry Shorney (Parks & Recreation); Bob Ripley (Capitol Commission); Ed Zimmer and Michele Abendroth (Planning Department)

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

The meeting began at 8:04 a.m. The Nebraska Open Meetings Act was acknowledged.

Approval of meeting notes of May 22, 2008

Due to the lack of a quorum, the meeting notes were not voted upon.

Interim repairs to Centennial Mall, K-L block (Parks & Recreation)

Lynn Johnson stated that the main issue with Centennial Mall is that the steps have settled causing cracking. Many of the steps are in disrepair and trees are failing. The first option for repair is to tear out the steps and replace them as originally designed. The cost would be approximately \$11,000. The second option is to open up the concrete at the base of the steps and create planting areas. The estimated cost for this option is \$4000.

Commissioners recommended keeping the steps that are serviceable on the west side and create planting areas on the east side.

Johnson also informed the Commission that the fountain basins on the P to Q block will be filled in as they are inoperable and are a safety issue.

Expansion of non-standard addition (rear porch) at 1445 C Street

Zimmer stated that the house at 1445 C Street was built in 1900. The house is on a partial lot and the porch extends into the yard. The owner would like to expand the non-standard rear porch. Zimmer believes there is no material effect on the Environs District but he wanted to inform the Commission of the request.

Applications by Kaplan University

Zimmer stated that Kaplan University has been looking at making improvements to their campus for a number of years. They have been operating by Special Permit in the R-6 zone, but every time a change comes in they must adjust their Special Permit. Staff felt it would be beneficial to change the zoning to O-1 as it fit that site better. That application is moving forward. When a demolition is proposed, that is in the Commission's jurisdiction.

Kevin Flecky stated that Hamilton asked for a master plan for that block a few years ago, which they did at that time. Kaplan University has decided to demolish the dorms and expand their school. They want to develop this property correctly, as they view it as a flagship campus across the country. About a year ago, they met with the Planning Department. They discussed creating an edge on the

property. They have a low masonry wall with piers and a landscape buffer. There is a public plaza entry on the K Street side and a student plaza on the south side.

They are going to retain some of the existing blond brick as it is a common element in that part of the City.

They anticipate an 8 month timeline to build the addition and 6-8 months to renovate the existing building. The estimated completion date is January 2010.

This item will appear on the next agenda for further review by the Commission.

Landscape work by Lincoln Public Schools at Lincoln High School, 2229 J Street, in the Capitol Environs District

Zimmer stated that there is no update at this time.

Letter from Commission to utilities regarding overhead wires

Zimmer stated that this item will be brought back to the Commission at the next meeting.

Staff Report

Zimmer informed the Commission that Patrick O'Donnell has resigned and a replacement is being sought by the Mayor's Office. He also stated that V.J. Nelson has received a letter from the state thanking her for her service, but the City has not received notification of her replacement yet.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:16 a.m.

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