

MEETING RECORD

NAME OF GROUP: NEBRASKA CAPITOL ENVIRONS COMMISSION

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING: Thursday, July 24, 2008, 8:00 a.m., Room 206, County-City Building, 555 South 10th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Tom Laging, Cecil Steward and Larry Stoll. Jim Hewitt, Jeff Searcy and Kim Todd 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 was called to order at 8:04 a.m. The Nebraska Open Meetings Act was acknowledged.

Approval of meeting notes of May 22 and June 26, 2008

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

Application by Kaplan University

Kevin Flecky addressed the questions brought forth by the Commission members at the last meeting. In regard to a question about how the area to the north would look with the Antelope Valley project, Flecky presented some photos of the proposed area. There are perforated panels on the east building which help tie the existing building to the addition, and he presented an example of that material. They are keeping a lot of the existing blond brick. The screening devices are on the front and back of the existing building. Flecky stated that they want to maintain an edge on the south side of the parking lot. There is a low masonry wall with landscaping to help soften that. There is wrought iron fencing on the masonry wall as well.

Commissioners recommended that Kaplan consider using the Capitol Environs lighting standard on the J Street side in the parking lot as it is being used east and south of this location.

Zimmer stated that they will be under building permit review by the time the Commission meets again. He also noted that the City is appealing to change the zoning on this parcel to O-1.

Nebraska State Education Association Building, Lincoln Mall

Michael Penn began by noting that this is the third visit to the Commission. The first was to introduce the Commission to the project. The second time they presented the Board-approved option with which they plan to move forward. The one outstanding item was the landscape plan which they will present today. He presented drawings of the site improvements and landscape plan. The critical issue relative to the edge is how to screen the parking lot. They are reconstructing the front entry by modifying the steps and creating an ADA accessible ramp. They are proposing a dense hedge that will begin at 2.5 feet and reach heights of 6 feet.

Penn also noted that NSEA is happy to work with the Capitol Office in regard to mounting a lighting fixture on the NSEA building to project on the Lincoln Statue.

Letter from Downtown Neighborhood Association

Noyes stated that they would like to help in any way they can with renovations on Centennial Mall. Johnson noted that a Task Force will be established to build consensus around the plan and more importantly to develop a funding strategy. Steward believes this is an opportunity to act and push for state-designated funds.

Laging commented that it would be beneficial to the Commission to be briefed on the Pershing Reuse Study. Zimmer noted that Kent Morgan has initiated a study to conduct stakeholder interviews to gather opinions on potential future uses of Pershing. This item will appear on the next agenda.

West Extension of District

Zimmer informed the Commission of the proposed height limitations and extending the height limits to the west leg of the district particularly west of the County/City Building.

Miscellaneous

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 9:09 a.m.

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