

MEETING RECORD

NAME OF GROUP: NEBRASKA CAPITOL ENVIRONS COMMISSION

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING: Thursday, May 28, 2009, 8:00 a.m., Room 206, County-City Building, 555 South 10th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Jim Hewitt, John Kay, Tom Laging, Jeff Searcy, Cecil Steward, Larry Stoll and Kim Todd.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Alan Ebner (The Clark Enersen Partners); Jerry Shorney and JJ Yost (Parks & Recreation); Bob Ripley (Capitol Commission); Ed Zimmer, Caitlin Bazemore and Michele Abendroth (Planning Department), Mike Isaacson (Nebr. Neon Sign Co.)

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

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m.

Approval of meeting notes of March 26, 2009

Hewitt moved approval of the March 26, 2009 meeting notes, seconded by Stoll. Hewitt, Kay, Searcy and Stoll voting 'yes'; Steward and Todd abstaining; Laging absent.

Certificate of Appropriateness for ground sign for Kaplan University, 1821 K Street

Ed Zimmer stated that the proposed sign at Kaplan University is a ground or monument sign. It is on the non-Mall side of the building, and it is positioned in relationship to the new Antelope Valley road when built. He believes it fits the design standards.

Steward asked about the location. Mike Isaacson stated that the sign is behind all property lines, approximately eight to ten feet within the sidewalk. He also noted that the only illumination is the logo and the copy; the background does not illuminate.

Hewitt moved to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness for the ground sign at Kaplan University, seconded by Todd. Hewitt, Kay, Searcy, Steward, Stoll and Todd voting 'yes'; Laging absent.

Miscellaneous

Alan Ebner stated that the building at 500 S. 16th Street was originally owned by Midwest Life. It is currently owned by the Nebraska Department of Labor but is unoccupied. They have done several projects on this building, and this is the most recent phase. They are working on floors one through three now. Much of the renovation work has been done. They are basically gutting the interior and supplying a new interior. They will be adding lighting. The client would like to add a vestibule addition to the back of the building and provide a stairway corridor to add more natural light. There is a small canopy over the top. The intent of the design is to try to mimic some of the existing features of the building. They want to provide a glass box, which is open on two sides. The third side does not have glass because of the mechanical structures there. They want to use a metal panel that matches the limestone.

Zimmer stated that there are two directions available to the Commission with this application. They could view this as a preliminary design review or they could find that there is no material affect to the capitol environs.

Laging moved that there is no material affect on the capitol environs district, seconded by Stoll. Motion carried 7-0. Hewitt, Kay, Laging, Searcy, Steward, Stoll & Todd voting 'yes'.

Staff Report

Update on LB450

Ripley stated that LB450 passed last week. He noted that Senator Campbell and staff did a terrific job of shepherding this through the process. He noted that there are some things the Commission may want to review on the design standards of the west leg of the district. Zimmer noted that the map of the district has changed and stated that he would bring that to the Commission.

Capitol Environs Redevelopment Project/ Centennial Mall Task Force

Shorney stated that Parks & Rec is tasked with maintenance of Centennial Mall. They have done some temporary fixes, but they are not permanent solutions. Yost stated that they received approval from the Mayor to proceed with the renovation of the Mall. A committee of approximately 20 people has been formed. They have contracted with People for Public Spaces to do consulting work on the project. An RFP will be issued for design and architectural services. The goal is to have an RFP out within the next two months. They will have a Master Plan for the entire Mall. They are looking for guidance from the Commission on the south two blocks of the Mall. They also need to develop a strategy for fundraising.

Zimmer stated that the commission has dual duty as an advocate and as design review.

Steward stated that he believes the new design must recognize that people are safer when there are more people on the Mall, takes into consideration all four sides of the Mall, and that there are new sustainability opportunities in the context of the Mall.

Commission members questioned the need for a consultant considering the past history and insight on this project.

Todd suggested that the project involve landscape design students in some way.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:51 a.m.

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