

## MEETING RECORD

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

**DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING:** Thursday, February 25, 2010 8:00 a.m., Room 106, County/City Building, 555 S. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

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

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Mike Eckert (Civil Design Group); Lynn Johnson (Parks & Recreation); Bob Ripley (Capitol Commission); Marvin Krout, Ed Zimmer & Michele Abendroth (Planning Department)

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

The meeting was called to order at 8:01 a.m. The Nebraska Open Meetings Act was acknowledged.

### **Approval of meeting notes of December 17, 2009**

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

### **Review of landscape/screening plan for soil mining in a Capitol View Corridor at N. 56<sup>th</sup> (Highway 77) and Interstate 80 (northwest corner), a condition of Special Permit 10004**

Zimmer stated that the Commission will be in an advisory role on this project. Krout added that the feedback from the Commission will be needed to complete discussions on the project.

Eckert stated that they have been involved with a local development group on a soil mining project at N. 56<sup>th</sup> Street and Interstate 80. They acquired some land in an attempt to bring on potential employers. As the economy took a turn for the worse, the project has been somewhat stagnant. They know they will need to do grading of the site at some point. They want to keep the berm along 56<sup>th</sup> Street in place during the mining process. They are in negotiations to sell some of the dirt. The site is at N. 56<sup>th</sup> and Interstate 80 and there is a view of the capitol. He provided a series of photos approaching the southwest and showing the view toward the capitol. The visibility of the capitol diminishes due to the berm. The view corridor would remain unchanged.

Zimmer stated that normally we are concerned with structures that rise up into the capitol corridor. This is more of a distraction factor that we want to analyze carefully. We do not want the Highway 77 entry to the capitol corridor denigrated.

Searcy asked what negatives would be associated with the project. Eckert stated that the biggest concerns are the truck traffic on the highway and the dust created. Searcy asked if there are any negatives in terms of the capitol view corridor. Eckert stated that they are committed to preserving what is in place today, and he does not see any negatives in that respect. From a screening perspective, it worked out as well as could be expected.

Searcy asked about future impacts for the City. Eckert stated that their hope is to create enough money through the soil mining to bring in utilities. That will attract large employers and ultimately be a benefit to the City. They anticipate a business building in the area in five years. He noted that they will continue to come before the Commission as development occurs.

Commissioners supported the project and did not see any serious impacts on the view corridor. Ripley noted that the issue is what will go on that land and those potential impacts on the corridor.

**2009 Annual Report**

This item will be placed on the next agenda.

**Centennial Mall redesign**

Johnson stated that the intent is to bring the Centennial Mall Master Plan to the Commission for its review at the March 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. Senator Avery introduced a bill to educate the Legislature about Centennial Mall. There were also three bills introduced that would affect the turnback tax.

**Staff report/miscellaneous**

Krout stated that he presented the wayfinding study to the Visitors Promotion Advisory Committee this week. Zimmer is the project coordinator for this study.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:14 a.m.

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

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