

MEETING RECORD

NAME OF GROUP: NEBRASKA CAPITOL ENVIRONS COMMISSION

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING: Thursday, July 15, 2010 8:00 a.m., Room 214, County/City Building, 555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Michael Ryan and Aaron Bowen (The Gathering Place); Becky Martin & Judy Johnson (citizens); 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 8:03 a.m. The Nebraska Open Meetings Act was acknowledged.

Approval of meeting notes of May 27, 2010

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

Certificate of Appropriateness for work at the Gathering Place, 1448 E Street

Zimmer stated that the Gathering Place would like to make considerable improvements to the interior and exterior of the building. The building sits just beyond the property line on the east side. They would like to incorporate an iron fence with brick piers for aesthetic reasons as well as patron control. The fence will need to be in the right-of-way. There is a provision for this type of project to apply to the Director of Public Works. Public Works thought they would be able to apply a functional sight triangle. The key issue for the Commission is how to best create the pedestrian edge beyond the sidewalk.

Bowen stated that their intent is that the improvements serve them well over the next several years. The fence would be a 4 foot wrought iron fence with some shrubbery around the edge. The improvements are being funded by stimulus funding. They also have a great deal of volunteer support for landscaping improvements.

Commissioners did not express any concerns with the project and were supportive of the improvements. A suggestion was made to consider whether the brick piers at the corner are needed because without them, the sight line issues would be minimized.

Certificate of Appropriateness for work at 234 N. 14th Street

Zimmer stated that this project is adjacent to Noodles & Co. There is a small structure at the north edge of the property which will be demolished. It will be replaced with storefronts. It is roughly comparable to the coffee shop just north of it.

Kay was concerned with the design aspects of the presented drawing.

Zimmer stated that he will visit with the design team and see if there are further refinements to the drawing.

Central Lincoln Reliability Project - Route Proposals

Schmidt stated that this project began because of the need to replace aging cables, to meet growing demand for electricity and to improve system reliability. A new 115 kV transmission line is needed and will connect four substations at 56th & Everett, 30th & A, a new substation at 21st & N and 17th & Holdrege.

Another open house will be held in October. A preferred route will be identified in September. The intent is to have a final route proposal to present to the board in November of this year.

Ripley asked about the proposed route alternative in Antelope Valley. Schmidt stated that LES is proposing underground cables in Antelope Valley.

Commissioners recommended that the routes near the substation at 21 & N be underground.

Zimmer stated that one of the key questions for the Commission is the view corridor on 30th Street. The concern is if the view would be impacted to the Capitol from 30th Street if tall poles were placed there.

Becky Martin stated that she would like to see underground lines in historic neighborhoods. She noted that the Wood Parks Association and the Preservation Association of Lincoln both voted the previous evening to use underground lines throughout the project.

Judy Johnson stated that there is an intrinsic value in keeping the City aesthetically pleasing. She would like to see underground lines used throughout the project.

Ripley stated that the citizens of Lincoln bear the responsibility for the entire state to ensure that Lincoln look like the Capital City.

Searcy stated that he appreciates the work of LES in balancing the visual impacts and the financial constraints.

Schmidt stated that he would like to come back to the Commission in September and present the preferred route.

Centennial Mall Redesign

Krout stated that the downtown consultants advised DLA that there is still a viable retail concept which would not require vehicular traffic between P and Q Streets. They also discussed options to circulate traffic for retail accessibility.

Staff Report/ Misc.

Ripley distributed simulated photos showing a new location for the light pole at Capitol Parkway and J Streets at Lincoln High. The current location is directly in the view of the capitol. He asked the Commission to consider taking action on relocating this pole.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:43 a.m.

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