

MEETING RECORD

NAME OF GROUP:	NEBRASKA CAPITOL ENVIRONS COMMISSION
DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING:	Thursday, August 26, 2010 8:00 a.m., Room 214, County/City Building, 555 S. 10 th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska
MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:	Jim Hewitt, John Kay, Tom Laging, Jeff Searcy, Larry Stoll and Kim Todd. Cecil Steward absent.
OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:	Rob Schmidt (LES); Theresa Booker (HDR); Matt Wills, Dave Johnson (Studio 951); Bob Ripley (Capitol Commission); Jon Carlson (Stronger Safer Neighborhoods); Lynn Johnson, Jerry Shorney, Mark Canney (Parks & Rec); 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 May 27, 2010; receive meeting notes of July 15, 2010

Laging moved approval of the meeting notes of May 27, 2010 and receipt of meeting notes of July 15, 2010; seconded by Stoll. Motion carried 5-0. Hewitt, Kay, Laging, Searcy and Stoll voting 'yes'; Steward and Todd absent.

Goodhue Blvd street tree planting (Parks & Rec)

Johnson stated that in 1986, there was a Master Plan developed for Goodhue Boulevard. He presented a diagram of the current tree plantings along Goodhue. Their recommendation is to leave the sidewalk alignment and street tree planting as it is, and infill it over time. They are proposing to remove three trees south of F Street. They would like to establish some fall color in the area. One of the most disturbing things is the strong appearance of the overhead lines crossing the capitol view corridor. Canney stated that most of the trees are pin oaks. They are going to salvage the oaks that are in good standing. From A to H Streets, they are proposing lindens on the McPhee block, maple on the next block, then sugar maples, red oaks, lindens and maples again.

Laging complimented Parks staff on creating a vista on Goodhue and commented that he likes the grass median.

Ripley stated he would like to work on alignment. Tree placement from A to F becomes less critical. As you get closer to the capitol, that view becomes more important. He believes the McPhee block needs to be cleaned up especially the long curb cut.

Kay commented that approving this plan would be contrary to the 1986 Master Plan. Zimmer stated that he does not believe approving this proposal would require an amendment to the Master Plan. This proposal follows the Master Plan in terms of adding fall color and keeping the sidewalk alignment between A & F Streets.

Ripley stated that the size and canopy of the selection of trees is very important in terms of maintenance and keeping the vista open.

Laging moved to approve the plan from A to F Streets and to entertain further planning from F to G Streets and include LES, LPS & Public Works in those discussions; seconded by Stoll. Hewitt, Kay, Laging, Searcy and Stoll voting 'yes'; Steward and Todd absent.

Central Lincoln Reliability Project – route recommendations (Rob Schmidt, LES)

Schmidt stated that they have made a lot of progress on the project and want to update the Commission and request comments. They have a staff recommended route and an alternate route, but it is important to remember that adjustments can still be made. The final recommended route will go to the Board in November. The biggest concern that came out of their survey was the proximity to houses. They honored the Commission's recommendation to bury cables in the capitol environs district. Other comments received were to protect the trees, minimize the visual impact and minimize costs, consider the visual impact in parks, historic sites and areas, in Antelope Valley, and to not show preference to certain neighborhoods.

Schmidt then presented the map identifying the staff recommended route. It includes a combination of both underground and overhead segments. The proposed route includes overhead cables from the substation at 17th & Holdrege substation to the new substation at 21st & N Streets. Underground cables are proposed from the 21st & N substation through the 30th & A substation and continuing to 30th & South Streets. Overhead cables are proposed to complete the route to the substation at 56th & Everett Streets.

Laging asked if there is a budget for street trees. Schmidt stated that there is not a budget for street trees, but there is only a small section around 56th & South Street that does not have trees already.

Todd suggested locating the underground portion within Capitol Parkway to one side of median (rather than centered) to allow for the possibility of tree planting in the center of that space.

Simulated photos were shown of overhead cables in some locations. Schmidt stated that they are considering gray galvanized poles or painted white poles. Ripley noted that the gray poles blend in better with the sky and surroundings.

The Commission indicated support for the route proposal offered as not impacting the Capitol Environs District.

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

Zimmer stated that he has not received further updates on this project.

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

Wills stated that the project is the Noodles & Co. building at 14th & P Streets. They are proposing a one-story, two-tenant structure. The current proposal is for Chipotle and Red Mango, an ice cream/yogurt shop. They are proposing to closely match the red brick of the Noodles & Co. building and add in some gold brick.

Laging moved approval of the proposed plan at 234 N. 14th Street, seconded by Kay. Hewitt, Kay, Laging, Searcy and Stoll voting 'yes'; Steward and Todd absent.

Staff report/misc

Searcy noted that the joint Capitol Commission and Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission meeting is scheduled for November 4.

Zimmer noted that LPS would like to update the Commission on its renovation project at McPhee Elementary on Goodhue Blvd. Farmers Mutual would like to give an update on their project in October.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:39 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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