

MEETING RECORD

NAME OF GROUP: NEBRASKA CAPITOL ENVIRONS COMMISSION

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING: Thursday, November 4, 2010 9:00 a.m., State Capitol Building, 14th & K Street, Hearing Room 1510, Lincoln, Nebraska

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Dennis Scheer and Nick Pischel (The Clark Enersen Partners); Ron Larson and Matt Metcalf (Davis Design); Greg Allen, Byron Boslau and Mark Walz (Farmers Mutual Insurance); Tom Kaspar and Matt Hansen (Capitol Commission); Lynn Johnson and Jerry Shorney (Parks & Rec); 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 9:00 a.m. The Nebraska Open Meetings Act was acknowledged.

Approval of meeting notes of August 26, 2010 and September 23, 2010

Steward moved approval of the meeting notes of August 26, 2010 and September 23, 2010, seconded by Hewitt. Motion carried 4-0. Hewitt, Kay, Searcy and Steward voting 'yes'; Laging, Stoll and Todd absent.

Modifications to bus shelters on Centennial Mall (Dennis Scheer, The Clark Enersen Partners, for StarTran)

Scheer stated that they were received approval from the Commission five years ago for Lincoln Mall streetscape improvements, and StarTran has now asked them to make some revisions to the design of the bus shelters. The goals of the project are to address deterioration of the finishes and create greater enclosure/weather protection for patrons. StarTran would like to have the shelters more enclosed by adding in glazed panels and skirt panels under the benches. A more durable finish is planned (similar to a 'bed-liner' for a pickup truck); a wide range of color choices are available in the product. StarTran's recent downtown shelters are a dark gray color and there is an interest in changing the Lincoln Mall shelters to match. StarTran would also like them re-think the trash receptacle and newspaper racks being placed inside the shelter.

Commissioners discussed the overall design of Lincoln Mall and noted these shelters were intended to be different from the others, considering the distinctness and importance of the location. Other street furniture on the mall has the same copper color as the bus shelters and there was concern about deviating from that established pattern. Members also voiced concerns about cluttering the Mall by separating more elements, such as trash receptacles and news racks.

Hewitt moved approval of the proposed design to further enclosed the Lincoln Mall bus shelters, including refinishing them but retaining the copper color and in-shelter placement of trash receptacles and news racks, seconded by Steward. Motion carried 4-0. Hewitt, Kay, Searcy and Steward voting 'yes'; Laging, Stoll and Todd absent.

Pickleman's sidewalk café at 1442 O Street in the Capitol Environs District

Zimmer stated that when this building was remodeled, it was anticipated that they would have a sidewalk café. They are bringing forward a fence design for review by the Commission.

Commissioners were supportive of the presented design.

Kay moved approval of the proposed design, seconded by Hewitt. Motion carried 4-0. Hewitt, Kay, Searcy and Steward voting 'yes'; Laging, Stoll and Todd absent.

Farmers Mutual Insurance Company Headquarters at 13th & K Streets (Matt Metcalf, Davis Design)

Zimmer stated that Farmers Mutual has refined a couple details from the previous presented design, but they have not changed the overall design for this project. Metcalf stated that they are here to update the Commission on the project. They had originally intended a two-level parking structure, but they have now determined that the upper level will be surface parking and the lower level will be entirely underground.

Metcalf added that there will be a rooftop terrace as well as courtyards on the south and north sides. The heating and cooling system will be on west side, between the existing building and the new headquarters, well-screened. Metcalf stressed that this cooling "tower" will be located in a pit and will rise only 4'-6' above grade. Bidding will likely go out in late January or early February with construction beginning in the spring.

Searcy asked the design team to consider using skylights to bring in natural light into the lower level of the garage.

Kay commended Farmers Mutual for the landscaping, the green roof, and the commitment to stay in the core of the city.

Searcy thanked the design team for keeping the Commission updated on the design.

Centennial Mall (Lynn Johnson)

Johnson stated that they will visit with Downtown Lincoln Association about hopefully endorsing the Centennial Mall Master Plan. They want to move forward with the design features as well as fundraising strategies. They submitted grant applications for tree planting systems and LED lighting. They hope to have the Master Plan ready for review by the Commission at its December meeting.

Draft for 2010 Annual Report of Commission

Zimmer stated that due to time constraints, he requested that the report be presented at the joint meeting.

Staff report/Misc.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 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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