

MEETING RECORD

NAME OF GROUP:	NEBRASKA CAPITOL ENVIRONS COMMISSION
DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING:	Thursday, January 12, 2012, 8:00 a.m., Room 210, County/City Building, 555 S. 10 th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska
MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:	Tom Laging, Karen Nalow, Jeff Searcy, Cecil Steward and Jon Weinberg. John Kay and Kim Todd absent.
OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:	Dennis Scheer and Elizabeth Thomas (Clark Enersen Partners); Bob Ripley (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 8:03 a.m. The Nebraska Open Meetings Act was acknowledged.

Update on Centennial Mall design; endorsement of Spirit of Nebraska Pathway plaque program (Parks & Recreation Dept)

Johnson shared a video on the Nebraska Pathway Program with the group.

Scheer stated that the team has been working through the images or motifs for the tiles. They have scale representations of both the granite and bronze tiles. He noted that the tour of the capitol was very informative in terms of the images. Thomas stated that a suggestion was made by Cecil Steward to use the five domains of sustainability for the motifs. Nalow stated that this plays nicely into the concept that has already been developed with the seven blocks. Thomas described the motifs which include the bison, thunderbird, lamp of knowledge, anvil, plow and wheat, wheat and corn, and the scale. Nalow noted that in the bronze tile, the image is raised, and in the granite, the image is incised (sandblasted).

The group viewed the representations of the tiles. Steward stated that he strongly supports the thunderbird as he believes we should give recognition to the native culture and he believes the human characteristic fits well with the theme. During their tour of the capitol, he had suggested the anvil but now seeing the rendering, he believes it may be too abstract. Laging suggested simplifying the drawings so none of the lines are so fine, and they will be more durable. The group suggested simplifying the plow so it appears as a plow and refining the wheat so it is more prominent.

Commissioners agreed upon the following five motifs: bison, thunderbird, corn, plow & wheat, and scales of justice.

Weinberg moved to approve the five motifs representing the five domains of sustainability, seconded by Steward. The motion carried 4-0. Laging, Searcy, Steward and Weinberg voted 'yes'; Nalow abstaining; Kay and Todd absent.

Johnson noted that the design team will request a Certificate of Appropriateness at the February meeting to begin Phase I of the construction.

Miscellaneous

Steward proposed an item to the Commission. For several years, he has been trying to get action to remove the Windstream tower from the Mall. He would like official communication with the corporation to request a change to the structure, as even a change in color would be helpful, but ultimately, removal of the tower is ideal. Ripley stated it was lamentable to know that after this Commission was formed, LT&T stated that the tower could have been placed anywhere. He believes maintenance on the tower will be required in the near future, so the timing is appropriate. If the Commission takes an official stance, further discussion with the telephone officials will be warranted.

Steward moved to have the Commission organize a document of communication to the appropriate Windstream officials to begin exploration of alternatives to improvements to that setting; it was seconded by Nalow. The motion carried 5-0. Laging, Nalow, Searcy, Steward and Weinberg voted 'yes'; Kay and Todd absent.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 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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