

MEETING RECORD

NAME OF GROUP: NEBRASKA CAPITOL ENVIRONS COMMISSION

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING: Thursday, May 24, 2012, 8:00 a.m., Room 210, County/City Building, 555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Christie Dionisopoulos, Tom Laging, Karen Nalow, Jeff Searcy and Cecil Steward. John Kay and Jon Weinberg absent.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Dennis Scheer and Elizabeth Thomas (Clark Enersen Partners); Lynn Johnson and Jerry Shorney (Parks & Rec); Ed Zimmer, Stacey Hageman and Michele Abendroth (Planning Department)

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

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. The Nebraska Open Meetings Act was acknowledged.

Approval of meeting record of February 23, 2012

Laging moved approval of the meeting record of February 23, 2012, seconded by Nalow. The motion carried 4-0. Laging, Nalow, Searcy, and Steward voted 'yes'; Christie Dionisopoulos abstaining; Kay and Weinberg absent.

Searcy introduced the newest member of the Commission, Christie Dionisopoulos.

Certificate of Appropriateness for work at TSB Building, NE corner 14th & M Streets

Zimmer presented photos of the exterior renovation at the TSB Building at the northeast corner of 14th and M Streets. This is not a historic renovation, but it has elements of historic reference. The question is if it enhances the character of the capitol environs. It will always be a background building, but with the renovation, it will be a much more graceful one. He is recommending that this renovation is appropriate.

Steward stated that the aluminum on the canopy seems out of character with the other materials. He does not believe that is a sound solution architecturally or structurally.

Laging suggested that they match the brick color to the tile, as that would pull the building together more.

Steward moved approval for a Certificate of Appropriateness for work at the TSB Building, seconded by Laging. The motion carried 5-0. Dionisopoulos, Laging, Nalow, Searcy, and Steward voted 'yes'; Kay and Weinberg absent.

Certificate of Appropriateness for demolition of 1236 H Street

Zimmer stated that this item will be deferred to a future meeting. The standards require submission of plans for the site before demolition. We do not have the plans at this time, so when the plans are received, he will bring this item to the Commission.

Update on Centennial Mall (plant materials, street furniture)

Johnson stated that the design team will give an update on the plant materials and street furniture. The contract has been awarded, and Sampson Construction is on site. They are beginning on the south block, which will be completed by August. The remainder of the blocks will be completed by mid-November.

Nalow began with the M to N Street block. There will be new parking. There are areas where they have bumped the curbs and these areas will be bioretention cells. The soil from the bioretention cells is connected to the soil underneath the pavement that is supported by silva cells for the trees. The soil in the bioretention cells is connected to the planting beds, so it is all one system. The parking areas are colored concrete, and the walkways are gray concrete. The space between the curb and the 18" tile band is permeable pavers. Concrete unipavers act as plaza space. Granite tiles will be the 18" band on either side on the walkways. She presented photos of the street furniture including benches and trash and recycling receptacles. There will be planters in front of Pershing and the State Office Building. The patterns pull from features in the capitol. Photos of the light poles were also presented. The lighting complements what is currently on Capitol Square. The pedestrian lighting will be a bronze aluminum. The pedestrian and street lighting will be LED.

Nalow explained that there will be two species of overstory trees on the outside, two species of understory trees along the curb, and two different types of plantings, which are typical planting beds along the outside and the bioretention cells.

The bioretention cells will have low maintenance plant materials. They wanted to keep the color variation down with a green color palette and nice fall color. They want to keep the focus on the Capitol. The planting beds will be natural species with some white flowers and will also have nice fall color. Tree species will include the ivory silk Japanese lilac tree, the Cleveland flowering pear and red oaks.

Scheer noted that all of the bids in the first phase came in under budget. This is good for the next phases. Johnson stated that they were able to get grant funding for the silva cells. Scheer stated that this project is very innovative in terms of the sustainability. Searcy noted that he met with former Congressman Bereuter, and he was interested in sustainability and how this project is a showpiece.

Laging stated that LES put a large transformer with no screening in front of Arby's. He questioned why this was not brought to the Commission. Zimmer stated that the project should have been brought to the Commission.

Miscellaneous

Searcy thanked Johnson and Parks & Recreation for the celebration yesterday on Centennial Mall. He also thanked the Commission for their work over the past years. There has been great progress made on the Mall.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 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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