

MEETING RECORD

NAME OF GROUP:	NEBRASKA CAPITOL ENVIRONS COMMISSION
DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING:	Thursday, August 23, 2012, 8:00 a.m., Room 210, County/City Building, 555 S. 10 th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska
MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:	Christie Dionisopoulos, John Kay, Karen Nalow, Jeff Searcy and Cecil Steward. Tom Laging and Jon Weinberg absent.
OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:	Doug Whitehead (NEBCO Inc.); Dennis Scheer, Jeffre Chadwick and Elizabeth Thomas (Clark Enersen Partners); Lynn Johnson, JJ Yost and Jerry Shorney (Parks & Rec); Bob Ripley and Matt Hansen (Capitol Commission); Marvin Krout, 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.

Adoption of meeting record of July 26, 2012

Kay moved approval of the July 26, 2012 meeting record, seconded by Dionisopoulos. Motion carried 4-0; Dionisopoulos, Kay, Nalow and Searcy voting 'yes'; Steward abstaining; Laging and Weinberg absent.

Certificate of Appropriateness for Fuzzy's Tacos for a sidewalk café on Centennial Mall North (adjacent 1442 O Street) in the Capitol Environs District.

Zimmer explained that when we receive an application for a sidewalk café, a number of departments review the application. When the application is in the Capitol Environs District, Capitol Environs Commission also reviews the proposal. We previously reviewed a sidewalk railing just south of this location. When it was installed, a raised sidewalk was created with a simple railing. We now have an application for Fuzzy's Taco Shop next to the Museum of Nebraska History. The application requests to extend the slightly raised platform into the sidewalk area eastward and change the railing to a more substantial railing. Because this is along Centennial Mall, and we are rebuilding that area, the design team looked at it, and their recommendation was to not expand the raised portion. In locations of high pedestrian traffic, we try to be careful not to take too much sidewalk out. Staff recommendation is aligned with the design team recommendation. The recommendation is for a Certificate of Appropriateness on the condition that the sidewalk café be no wider than the raised portion of the sidewalk.

Johnson commented that possibly there is an opportunity for benches along the two planting areas.

Nalow commented that there are several north-south lines and the railing becomes part of that line, and to have one area where that bumps out may not be appropriate.

Ripley stated that this maintains the current pedestrian pathway which is important.

Steward moved to accept the Certificate of Appropriateness for the sidewalk cafe with the existing railing dimension, with denial of the additional 18" width of the raised deck, based on the consistency of the Mall design; it was seconded by Dionisopoulos. Motion carried 5-0; Dionisopoulos, Kay, Nalow, Searcy, and Steward voting 'yes'; Laging and Weinberg absent.

Certificate of Appropriateness for McMaster Enterprise Inc. for demolition at 1236 H Street in the Capitol Environs District

Zimmer reported that there is no additional information to report at this time.

Update on Centennial Mall

Nalow presented a PowerPoint presentation showing the construction on Centennial Mall. They are done with curbing on the east side of M Street. She presented a photo of the sidewalk detail. On the east side of N Street they have left the walkway so traffic can flow. They are currently working on the alley north. You can really start to see the lines as you look toward the capitol. Phase I includes M Street (alley north of N street), with east side completion at the end of August and west side completion at the end of September. Phase 2 is the alley to O Street with completion in mid-October. Phase 3 is O Street to P Street and will begin in early October with completion in mid-December.

Yost commented that we are approximately a week behind schedule due to a combination of factors, including rain, the discovery of underground storage tanks, and putting in temporary measures to accommodate Ribfest.

Johnson stated that fundraising is still underway, and they are continuing to reach out across the state.

Ripley asked about traffic arms and if there would be a way for them to be more ornamental or to pull them back from the road a little more. Nalow stated that there are requirements for where a traffic signal can be located. There have been many conversations with Public Works on this subject. Yost stated that there are standards they have to work with. Ripley stated that he sees other cities doing different things, so he knows there is more flexibility on this. Steward asked if there are examples of other cities to present to Public Works. Hansen stated that Sioux Falls on Phillips Avenue is a good example. Steward recommended that the Commission present examples of two or three other cities to Public Works.

Searcy noted that a couple significant donations have been made this summer. They have received \$7.1 million of the \$9.6 in commitments to date.

Kay asked about donations received east of Lincoln. Johnson stated that there is one sizeable donation from Omaha.

Miscellaneous

Three Landmark Centre

Scheer stated that at last month's meeting, the Commission requested that they look at the site in terms of context. They will present the context today and then present the building design at the next meeting. At Landmark Centre 3, the south half of the block would be devoted to a three-story office building. The north side of the building would be a parking structure. They have asked for a vacation of the alley. In the alley, they are creating a space about 60 feet wide between the south wall of the garage and the north side of the building. This space will have some pedestrian amenities. The Mall itself will remain as it is. They will add some parking on the west side of 12th Street. On K Street, they will add some parking as well.

Steward asked if there have been discussions about LEED certification. Whitehead stated that they are not going to pursue LEED certification, but they will do many sustainable things. Steward stated his view that projects like this have an obligation to pursue LEED certification as it is not fair to the community.

Chadwick presented some photos of the site. They will carry out some of the same materials and forms as Landmark 1. They will have the large planting bed in front of the building, similar to Landmark 1. They are looking at ways to incorporate features from the building across the street as well.

Zimmer stated that the Environs Commission's annual joint meeting with the Capitol Commission (at the State Capitol) is scheduled for November 8. A separate Environs Commission meeting will be scheduled at 9 a.m. that day (if needed), ahead of the joint meeting at 10 a.m. He noted that the October meeting will be cancelled and a December meeting will be held on an as-needed basis.

Ripley stated that the Capitol Commission will be holding a celebration on the 100-year Anniversary of the Lincoln statue on the west side of the capitol on September 2.

Ripley encouraged the Commissioners to drive by McPhee School to look at the changes made there. He commended the remarkable contribution by Lincoln Public Schools, the Parks and Recreation Department, Public Works, and Lincoln Electric System. He would like to send a thank you letter to these departments if the Commission supports that idea. The Commission was supportive of this idea.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:22 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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