

MEETING RECORD

NAME OF GROUP:	NEBRASKA CAPITOL ENVIRONS COMMISSION
DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING:	Thursday, March 28, 2013, 8:00 a.m., Room 214, County/City Building, 555 S. 10 th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska
MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:	Christie Dionisopoulos, Tom Laging, Karen Nalow, Jeff Searcy, Cecil Steward and Jon Weinberg. John Kay absent.
OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:	Susan Larson Rodenburg (Lincoln Parks Foundation); Roger Ludemann (The LA Group); 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 January 24, 2013

Weinberg moved approval of the January 24, 2013 meeting record, seconded by Steward. Motion carried 5-0; Dionisopoulos, Nalow, Searcy, Steward and Weinberg voting 'yes'; Laging abstaining; Kay absent.

Centennial Mall

Phasing Plan

Johnson began by stating that there are now three phases to the Centennial Mall reconstruction. It made sense to initiate construction last year on the middle blocks to coordinate with the street construction. They will now begin the second phase this summer. The final phase will be the two blocks on each end.

Nalow stated that the second phase will include the blocks from P to Q Street and from L to M Street.

Steward asked about K Street, specifically if a pedestrian will need to go up and over to get to a crosswalk. Nalow stated that is how it is currently and that Public Works wanted it to remain that way. Steward noted that is not very pedestrian friendly. It also suggests to the uninformed pedestrian that it is a crosswalk when it is not. Johnson stated that because the pattern continues, people will want to cross there. Steward asked if the Commission could express their disapproval of this to Public Works. Yost stated that final construction documents are not complete, but they have received official word from Public Works on this, and that is how they are proceeding. Nalow stated that there have been many discussions with Public Works on this design. Yost added that he believes this design is a compromise from the original design.

Nalow stated that in order to have a crossing on the east side, they would have to have a push button on the east side. Johnson stated that if there are ADA ramps, they are signaling to someone that they can cross safely. Steward expressed his concern that this is a safety issue for pedestrians. Weinberg suggested that a meeting with Public Works would be helpful. Nalow stated that we are on a fast track with this design, so we would need to have this meeting as soon as possible. Zimmer noted that if the Commission wants to vote on this with a Certificate of Appropriateness, we need 8 days for a public notice. We can have an emergency meeting for advisory comments with a 24 hour notice. Searcy recommended that we have a follow-up meeting with Public Works in early April with a 24 hour notice.

Fundraising Update

Larson Rodenberg stated that they are making excellent progress on fundraising for Centennial Mall. The March 1 celebration went very well. The momentum is very strong, and they hope to complete the fundraising by the end of the year so they can stay on schedule with construction. They feel it is very important to put in fiber optic cable on the Mall so that there can be news coverage along the Mall. This is very important to donors as they reach out across the state. She added that this has been a team effort with many partnerships established. Ludemann stated that it has been a challenge to raise this large amount of money, and he attributed the success to the fundraising team. He agrees with the importance of the media coverage, and he would like to give credit to Channels 10/11 for taking the lead in this effort.

Ludemann explained the interactive information system on the donor tiles. He showed several examples of the granite tiles with a small square in the corner for QR codes, from which users can obtain information about the donor. The square is set in the granite and could be replaced with something else in the future.

Nalow expressed a concern with having the QR codes on every tile and repeating that pattern throughout the Mall since the tiles are such an important feature of the Mall. She also added that technology changes so quickly, and she wondered what happens to the square in a few years when technology changes. The Mall is meant to be in place for many years. Ludemann commented that when the technology changes, the tiles can be taken out and replaced with some other motif.

Zimmer questioned if there would be enough additional information on each donor to support the need for the QR code on each tile.

Searcy expressed appreciation to the fundraising team from the Commission for all their work on the Mall.

Weinberg asked where they are with donations. Larson Rodenberg stated that they have raised \$7.7 million of the \$9.6 needed.

Miscellaneous: Capitol Restoration (BVH), etc.

Zimmer stated that there is no update at this time.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:07 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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