

MEETING RECORD

NAME OF GROUP: NEBRASKA CAPITOL ENVIRONS COMMISSION

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING: Thursday, September 26, 2013, 8:00 a.m., Room 214, County/City Building, 555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Kandra Hahn and Jack Saltzman, (Goodhue Blvd. Residents); Jordan Pascale (Journal Star); Wynn Hjermstad (Urban Development); Harry Kroos (Public Works); Lynn Johnson, Jerry Shorney and JJ Yost (Parks & Rec); Bob Ripley (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.

Approval of meeting record of August 22, 2013

Searcy moved approval of the meeting record of August 22, 2013, seconded by Dionisopoulos. Motion carried 4-0. Dionisopoulos, Nalow, Searcy, Steward and voting 'yes'. Kay, Laging, and Weinberg absent.

Update and review of design details for sidewalk in the Goodhue Boulevard right-of-way, west side, between F and G Streets, in the Capitol Environs District.(Parks & Rec. Dept.)

Yost distributed a diagram of Alternative D for the Goodhue Boulevard streetscape improvements. He explained that the recommendation is to leave the existing sidewalk on the west side of the block in its current location. There are some ADA issues to bring it in compliance. Three things need to happen to bring it in compliance. The ends need to be adjusted to be in alignment so there is a perpendicular path across the street. There is a little bit of work on the east and west sidewalks to make the grade. The alley has brick apron portion, and it needs to be concrete pavement to meet ADA compliance.

Johnson stated that they have been working on selection of the species of the street trees. The neighbors prefer oak trees. The species they are recommending is chinkapin oak. It is native to the Midwest and is smaller than pin oak trees. It has a height of 40-50 feet. It is more round-headed than some of the oaks. It will have an orange to brown fall color and is drought resistant. They have had good luck establishing them on dry or non-irrigated sites. There will be a total of 13 trees planted in that block. There are a total of 4 greenspire lindens that were planted four seasons ago. The suggestion is that they be relocated to the north side of the McPhee elementary school building. They hope to get the trees planted this fall.

Steward stated that he likes reusing the plant stock in the neighborhood. He appreciates that staff has made a huge effort to minimize the sidewalk construction.

Hahn thanked staff for their efforts on behalf of their group. This has reinvigorated their relationship with the Near South Neighborhood Association through this process. They want to endorse a continued planning process.

Searcy reinforced Steward's comments. He likes the selection of tree species and the orientation on the curb side on the north and south.

Steward asked about repeating the jogging configuration on the east corner. Yost stated that there is a steeper grade and a light pole that may make it difficult to do that. Yost and Kroos stated that they can look at it again. Kroos stated that they have identified other sidewalk repair work in the neighborhood.

Saltzman thanked staff for the plan. The building that he lives in is a beautiful building, and it deserves to be respected.

Dionisopoulos moved approval of the proposed Alternative D for the Goodhue Boulevard streetscape improvements, seconded by Nalow. Dionisopoulos, Nalow, Searcy, and Steward voting 'yes'; Kay, Laging and Weinberg absent.

Miscellaneous, staff report

Zimmer informed the Commission of Steward's proposal for a planning effort including parts of downtown, Near South, and Antelope Valley. He noted that Marvin Krout would like to visit with Steward to better understand the proposal prior to consideration by the Commission.

Yost stated that they are intending to go out to bid with the second phase of construction on Centennial Mall next month. As they look at the phasing, they need to give the contractor enough time to work around other downtown conflicts. They will let the construction season spread out until the spring of 2015 to get all those intersections done. It will be advantageous in terms of construction bidding. It does not affect the final completion date of summer 2015.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 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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