

MEETING RECORD

NAME OF GROUP: NEBRASKA CAPITOL ENVIRONS COMMISSION

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING: Thursday, December 12, 2013, 8:00 a.m., Room 214, County/City Building, 555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Roger Ludemann; Lynn Johnson, Jerry Shorney and JJ Yost (Parks & Rec); Bob Ripley (Capitol Commission); 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 8:01 a.m. The Nebraska Open Meetings Act was acknowledged.

Approval of meeting record of November 14, 2013

Dionisopoulos moved approval of the meeting record of November 14, 2013, seconded by Weinberg. Motion carried 5-0. Dionisopoulos, Nalow, Searcy, Steward and Weinberg voting 'yes'. Kay abstaining; Laging absent.

Certificate of Appropriateness for Spirit of Nebraska plaques on Centennial Mall in the Capitol Environs District (Parks & Rec. Dept.)

Johnson introduced Roger Ludemann who had the idea for the QR codes for the tiles. Ludemann presented a mockup of the granite tiles for the Spirit of Nebraska plaques. He noted that the tiles will be recessed into the plaques and are made of 100% Italian porcelain which will be very durable.

Steward asked how the metal is attached to the stone. Johnson stated that it will be inset into the face of the stone, and there will be some adhesive to attach it.

Steward stated that this is a nice balance between the image in the upper left and the image in the lower right. If the QR codes are removed, he is concerned about the balance. Johnson stated that the intention is to ornament the recess, so that with the QR tile removed, the plaque still has a finished appearance.

Ludemann stated that Danielle Conrad is working with Zimmer on the language on the tiles. The QR codes will take a user to a website with information about the individual. There can be up to two pages of information about the individual along with a video when available. This is intended to be an educational piece. The first effort will be on the Notables tiles.

Johnson stated that there are two other versions of this tile. There is a bronze tile inset into granite and 18" x 18" tiles which do not have the QR codes.

Zimmer commented that at the last meeting we talked about putting the QR codes on the same level as the text "Nebraska's Centennial Mall".

Searcy asked about the status of having wifi on the Mall. Ludemann stated that a new City staff person is very up to date on wifi and has some good ideas. They need approximately \$250,000 in funding to get this done. Johnson added that from a technical standpoint, we know that it can be done. It is just a matter of funding.

Johnson stated that they anticipate construction on the two end blocks beginning in March or April of next year. Searcy asked if they need the funding in place for wifi before construction begins. Johnson stated that would be ideal; it could be done later, but it would involve trenching and other work. Ludemann stated that the critical element is that all the underground work is in place. He is optimistic about it. He added that the system works fine without wifi; it is just more inclusive if we have wifi.

Searcy asked if there were further questions about the technology piece. As there were none, he stated that we will move to the plaques.

Steward asked why there are two recognitions for Glenn Korff. Johnson stated that due to the size of the donation, there are two tiles. One is regarding his connection to Hebron, and the other is about his connection to the University. They will be in two separate areas.

Searcy asked Zimmer how the process is working. Zimmer stated that Conrad works with the family to get text approved, and the process is working well.

Nalow asked why there are a few tiles that don't have tributes. Zimmer stated his understanding is that is how the donor requested the tile.

Nalow commented about Jack and Jo Stewart and the use of "In memory of" and suggested using "In tribute to". Zimmer stated that he will get clarification from Conrad on the specifics of the tribute.

Nalow commented on the Pinnacle Bank tile and the use of "The way banking should be" and if that would be considered advertising. She noted that there are others that are similar to this. Ludemann stated that he would rather see some history on the Dinsdale family. Also, tag lines change every 48 months. Searcy stated that as long as we are cautious and careful and honor the intention of the donor, he feels these should be fine. Steward stated that the onus is on the group seeking donations to provide information to potential donors on the guidelines for the tiles. It is difficult to go back and change it after the donation has been made. He believes the donation committee should be more up front about commercial tributes. Ripley stated that it is more of a tribute and not advertising. Johnson stated that when the fundraising group was seeking donations, they conveyed that the intent of the plaque was to honor the history of Nebraska. Ludemann stated he believes that message was conveyed, but he thinks that what happened was when a corporate donation was made, the marketing department for the corporation added their tag line. Searcy commented that the place to put tag lines is in the information linked with the QR codes.

Weinberg moved to approve the Spirit of Nebraska plaques pending clarification on the Jack and Jo Stewart tile, seconded by Kay. Motion carried 6-0. Dionisopoulos, Kay, Nalow, Searcy, Steward and Weinberg voting 'yes'; Laging absent.

Miscellaneous: staff report, etc.

Zimmer stated that he will bring the final annual report of the Commission in January.

Johnson noted that they have placed the chinkapin oaks on Goodhue Boulevard.

Kay asked about the status of Steward's proposal on the subarea plan for the south capitol. Steward stated that the Commission voted to move forward with the proposal at the last meeting. In his mind, everything he attempted to accomplish with his proposal has been done. It is in the Planning Department's hands.

Searcy thanked the Commission for their continued attendance and quorums for the past few years.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:53 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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