

MEETING RECORD

NAME OF GROUP: NEBRASKA CAPITOL ENVIRONS COMMISSION

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING: Thursday, January 23, 2014, 8:00 a.m., Room 214, County/City Building, 555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Kevin Abourezk (Lincoln Journal Star); Jerry Shorney and JJ Yost (Parks & Rec); Bob Ripley and Matt Hansen (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 8:00 a.m. The Nebraska Open Meetings Act was acknowledged.

Approval of meeting record of December 12, 2013

Kay moved approval of the meeting record of December 12, 2013, seconded by Weinberg. Motion carried 4-0. Kay, Nalow, Searcy and Weinberg voting 'yes'. Dionisopoulos, Laging and Steward absent.

Certificate of Appropriateness for work on the N Street Bikeway at Centennial Mall and N Street, in the Capitol Environs District.

Urban Development Department was not at the meeting to present this agenda item; therefore, it was carried over to the next meeting.

Certificate of Appropriateness for inscribed plaques in the Spirit of Nebraska Pathway of Nebraska's Centennial Mall, in the Capitol Environs District.

Zimmer noted that the list of plaques in the agenda packet was missing one of the entries; the updated list was distributed. There are three types of tiles including the 18 x 18 granite tiles, 18 x 18 bronze tiles and the 18 x 36 bronze tiles. He explained that due to the limited number of characters allowed on the tiles, there was a great deal of word-smithing to make the text fit.

Searcy commented on the Ameritas plaque and asked if there is not room to spell out 'Established'. Zimmer stated that is correct as it is due to the character limitations.

Steward moved approval of the Certificate of Appropriateness for the Spirit of Nebraska Pathway plaques, seconded by Kay. Motion carried 5-0. Kay, Nalow, Searcy, Steward and Weinberg voting 'yes'. Dionisopoulos and Laging absent.

Nalow noted that at the last meeting, they discussed the QR codes, and she has an update on that to share with the Commission.

Ripley asked if the tree grates are steel or cast iron. Nalow stated that they are cast iron. Ripley stated that it is very nice work.

Nalow explained the main concept of the tiles which is a band that wraps around the edge and the motif is always in the upper left hand corner. They discussed where to place the QR code. They felt the best placement is the lower right hand corner. The exact size of the QR code has not been determined. They feel it blends in nicely where it is. The QR code can be removed when the technology changes and the recess provided for the QR tile has a decorative motif cast into it, so it will still have a finished appearance without the tile.

Zimmer commented that this is a nice solution and will allow for an easy transition when the QR codes are no longer needed.

Weinberg moved approval of the placement of the QR codes on the tiles, seconded by Kay. Motion carried 4-0. Kay, Searcy, Steward and Weinberg voting 'yes'; Nalow abstaining. Dionisopoulos and Laging absent.

Searcy commented that he is impressed with the Commission's work on the motifs in establishing the wide array of possibilities and deciding upon five motifs.

2013 Annual Report.

Zimmer reviewed the content of the 2013 Annual Report including the members of the Commission, and the projects reviewed by the Commission during 2013 which included Centennial Mall, Farmers Mutual, III Landmark Centre, 14th and M Street State of Nebraska, and sidewalk improvements on Goodhue Boulevard.

Zimmer stated that this report will be submitted to the City Council and State of Nebraska.

Searcy asked if the south and east capitol work proposed by Steward is in the report. Zimmer stated that item was mistakenly omitted and will be added to the report. He will then bring it back to the Commission for approval at the next meeting.

Steward informed the Commission that Laging's class is working on a subarea district of the capitol, generally located in the northeast area between the east axis and north to R or S Street. The exact boundaries have not yet been determined.

Miscellaneous: staff report, etc.

Nalow stated that they have been looking at the stencil patterns at the intersections on Centennial Mall. They are looking at bringing forward some of the beadwork patterns that would be simple and clean. This pattern also represents some of the patterns in the capitol. This would be at all the intersections except K Street which would have its own stencil pattern. She presented an example at P Street which has the bump out, and the pattern can make that curve and still be simple and clean.

Searcy commented that this is a very creative pattern.

Hansen asked if there is any concern with snow plows chipping the edges. Nalow stated that stencils have been done other places and Public Works is aware of the design.

Zimmer stated that he thinks it is going to be apparent to pedestrians but not apparent to drivers.

Kay complimented the design team on the design.

Kay stated that the Museum of History is undergoing some renovations. The changes will be mostly interior. The exterior will not be changing much, except for the penthouse. This project will be brought to the Commission for review.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:47 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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