

MEETING RECORD

NAME OF GROUP:	NEBRASKA CAPITOL ENVIRONS COMMISSION
DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING:	Thursday, April 24, 2014, 8:00 a.m., Room 214, County/City Building, 555 S. 10 th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska
MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:	John Kay, Tom Laging, Karen Nalow, Jeff Searcy, and Cecil Steward. Christie Dionisopoulos and Jon Weinberg absent.
OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:	Andy Sorensen and Matt Metcalf (Davis Design); Greg Allen (Farmers Mutual); Kevin Abourezk (Lincoln Journal Star); Randy Hoskins and Lonnie Burklund (Public Works); Lynn Johnson (Parks & Rec); 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 8:02 a.m. The Nebraska Open Meetings Act was acknowledged.

Approval of meeting record of March 27, 2014

Steward moved approval of the meeting record of March 27, 2014 seconded by Nalow. Motion failed 3-0. Nalow, Searcy and Steward voting 'yes'. Kay and Laging abstaining. Dionisopoulos and Weinberg absent.

Certificate of Appropriateness for work at 1220 Lincoln Mall in the Capitol Environs District.

Metcalf presented a site plan of the 1200 block pm the north side of Lincoln Mall. The former headquarters building of Farmers Mutual Insurance Company is at 1220 Lincoln Mall. Now that Farmers Mutual is in their new building, this building will be repurposed and redesigned for rental space. The current stairwell did not meet code, so they had to do another stairwell. If there is more than one tenant on the upper floor, they had to have both stairwells functional. On the exterior, the synthetic stucco panels between windows were added in the early 1990s, replacing panels made of 1" square tiles, and there were window upgrades at the same time. There is some exposed plywood on the window trim. They are going to remove the EFIS, clean up the limestone and replace the stucco with tile. They will remove the cooling tower on the roof.

Sorensen stated that the tile will give the appearance of stone. This will give it a nice look without creating excess weight to the building. Another significant change is the new windows on the windowless west and east sides. This will give a lot more natural light on all floors.

Metcalf stated that stair towers will be added on the northwest and northeast corners of the building. The materials will be similar to the main building.

Searcy stated that this is a fabulous upgrade to the building, and the addition to the building is a great enhancement.

Steward asked if there are any ground level improvements. Metcalf stated that the parking will remain as is. They are making a change on the Mall side. Currently the main entrance is not ADA accessible. It presents a challenge as there is a grade change, but they can pull out the landscaping and create a gentle walk to the granite platform. There is a little planting area in there so they can disguise it.

Nalow asked if they have considered what needs to be done to protect the oak trees. Allen stated that they had arborists come in and take care of that.

Steward moved approval of the Certificate of Appropriateness with commendation to the owners for saving the building and for their work on the entire block, seconded by Laging. Kay, Laging, Nalow, Searcy and Steward voting 'yes'; Dionisopoulos and Weinberg absent.

Searcy noted that he appreciates the spirit of the whole process over the last 6 or 7 years in coming to the Commission early and being up front about the process, and he feels the Commission has been well-served.

Centennial Mall traffic lights

Hoskins stated that they looked at the traffic signals on the Mall, and they are here to present their proposed idea to the Commission. Burklund stated that they had some concerns regarding the sight distance with the pole signals. They went out and walked the Mall and appreciate the concerns of the Commission regarding the mast arms. They looked at doing shorter mast arms at six locations on the Mall. He presented current photos of the mast arms directly conflicting with the view of the capitol and mocked-up photos with the shorter mast arms that do not obstruct the view of the capitol. The projected costs to do the work would be approximately \$28,000.

Steward asked if there are any impact on ADA accessibility. Burklund stated that there would not be any impact.

Searcy asked about the timing on the changes. Burklund stated that the work could be done in a matter of a few weeks. Hoskins stated that it is more a matter of budget, and this would not be a high priority project. Johnson stated that there are no available funds in the Mall budget, but he can look into a couple other options.

Searcy stated that this is a vast improvement and opens up the view to the capitol.

Steward stated that aesthetically, this is a solution the Commission would be interested in supporting.

Hansen stated that they appreciate the effort put in, and although he would rather see pole mounted lights, he believes this is a good compromise. He is pleased with the solution.

Ripley stated that he appreciates the effort, and this is a viable alternative.

Hansen added that this isn't the only Mall in Lincoln, and he hopes that Public Works keeps an open mind and looks for other solutions like this.

Searcy thanked Burklund and Hoskins for their work.

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

Zimmer stated that he received tile inscriptions from Senator Conrad. These include the Native American recognition tiles, but they will be held over until next month so the font and formatting can be standardized.

Johnson stated that these are the first tiles that we are showing words in native language. The Parks and Recreation policy on inscriptions is that words in other languages are okay, but the translation must be provided.

All of the inscriptions will be brought forward for approval next month as there are several inscriptions that will need some grammatical corrections and wordsmithing.

Miscellaneous: staff report, etc.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:59 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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