

## MEETING RECORD

**NAME OF GROUP:** NEBRASKA CAPITOL ENVIRONS COMMISSION

**DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING:** Thursday, March 26, 2015, 8:00 a.m., Conference Room 214, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, County-City Building, 555 S. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Christie Dionisopoulos, John Kay, Karen Nalow, Jeff Searcy, Cecil Steward and Jon Weinberg; (Tom Laging absent). Ed Zimmer, Stacey Groshong-Hageman and Teresa McKinstry of the Planning Department; J.J. Yost of Parks and Recreation; Robert Ripley and Matt Hansen from the Office of the Capitol Commission; Brady McLaughlin, Michael Smith and John Heacock.

**STATED PURPOSE OF MEETING:** Regular Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission Meeting

Chair Jeff Searcy called the meeting to order and acknowledged the posting of the Open Meetings Act in the room.

Searcy then requested a motion approving the minutes for the regular meeting held February 26, 2015. Motion for approval made by Kay, seconded by Weinberg and carried 4-0: Kay, Searcy, Steward and Weinberg voting 'yes'; Dionisopoulos and Nalow abstaining; Laging absent.

**A CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS FOR GOODHUE MONUMENT AND PLAQUE ON GOODHUE BOULEVARD**  
**PUBLIC HEARING:** **March 26, 2015**

Members present: Kay, Dionisopoulos, Nalow, Searcy, Steward and Weinberg; Laging absent.

Brayden McLaughlin stated that they have cleaned up their design a bit to make it more user friendly. The text being proposed is shorter than was provided in the printed agenda. Bob Ripley and Matt Hansen reviewed the text for him and edited it.

Matt Hansen would suggest to delete a few more sentences of text. He believes it is a little confusing to have the heading in the center. He would like to see it stretched across the entire top row. McLaughlin doesn't believe any text would have to be lost if they went with that design. Hansen noted there are a few more edits on the text he just handed to McLaughlin. Ed Zimmer has the latest version. McLaughlin can make the changes.

Ed Zimmer would suggest if the overall layout looks suitable, he could incorporate the edits and send it out to the Commissioners for review. The applicant is asking today for a Certificate of Appropriateness to get the monument into production. They would like to have the monument installed for the tour of homes in May 10 of this year.

Searcy questioned if it would be possible to show the text in the format of the plaque. He would like to take a closer look at what it would look like. He likes the direction and spirit of it. He believes shorter and leaner is better for the general audience.

Dionisopoulos sees the QR code is noted on the bottom. She stated that any text that is pulled off, can be added to the website. Zimmer noted that right next to the QR code will be a line indicating where to go for more information.

Hansen inquired what material the plaque will be made out of. McLaughlin replied they are thinking probably etched stainless steel. He is working on confirming things. Depending on how they can produce it, it may have to be divided into three panels. There is a width limit on the metal etcher.

Kay wondered about the resolution of the images and text. McLaughlin stated that Government Square has a couple of panels with photo realistic images. He thinks it is around 200 DPI, but he will double check.

Steward would caution that as close as this is to the street, he questions how long this will last being susceptible to salt residue being sprayed on the stainless steel. McLaughlin stated that it will be coated.

Ripley noted it will need to be repeatedly coated. This is also susceptible to sun fade. It is worth further conversation with the engraver since this will be on a southern exposure.

McLaughlin stated they have anticipated getting another engraving. Hansen questioned if they have considered a graffiti coating. McLaughlin replied yes.

Dionisopoulos is a little confused. The image appears to be of the second Capitol building, but the title is Goodhue Boulevard. McLaughlin stated that the neighborhood wanted a before and after of what you would be looking at. He had a hard time finding a good 'before' with the medians and this is the one that the historical society had. They are trying to figure out the best images and tell the story they wanted to. We hoped it wouldn't be that confusing because

we wanted to honor the boulevard, the architect and the neighborhood. Hansen noted that the medians predate Goodhue.

Ripley commented that the word 'building' can be deleted. Capitol refers to the building, the word building is redundant.

Searcy inquired whether or not it would be appropriate to acknowledge the Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission and the cooperation of the Nebraska Capitol Commission. Zimmer replied that the 200 word version included all the acknowledgements. Ripley stated that the Capitol Commission was not involved in this. He believes Capitol Environs Commission is most appropriate. McLaughlin should have room for that.

Kay asked if any grant funds are being used or acknowledged. McLaughlin replied that they haven't requested or recommended that. He will call them and see what they think.

**ACTION:**

Dionisopoulos moved approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness for a monument and plaque on Goodhue Boulevard median, north of A Street, design as presented, with Ed Zimmer having the final review and approval of the text, seconded by Kay and carried 6-0: Dionisopoulos, Kay, Nalow, Searcy, Steward and Weinberg voting 'yes'; Laging absent.

Searcy appreciates the neighborhood and McLaughlin's efforts in appearing numerous time to present this. He looks forward to seeing this.

**A CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS FOR INSCRIBED PLAQUES IN THE SPIRIT OF NEBRASKA PATHWAY OF NEBRASKA'S CENTENNIAL MALL**

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**March 26, 2015**

Members present: Kay, Dionisopoulos, Nalow, Searcy, Steward and Weinberg; Laging absent.

Zimmer passed out the latest version. There are eight more plaques. The group meets as often as possible and brings them here for review. They are trying to keep an eye on the broad overall story.

**ACTION:**

Steward moved approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness for the plaques as presented, seconded by Kay and carried 6-0: Dionisopoulos, Kay, Nalow, Searcy, Steward and Weinberg voting 'yes'; Laging absent.

**NEBRASKA HISTORY MUSEUM AND CENTENNIAL MALL – MINOR ADJUSTMENTS**

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**March 26, 2015**

Members present: Kay, Dionisopoulos, Nalow, Searcy, Steward and Weinberg; Laging absent.

Kay declared a conflict of interest. He stated that Mike Smith with the Nebraska Historic Museum and John Heacock from the Nebraska State Building Division are appearing with him.

Kay stated that this involves a request from the Nebraska State Historical Society regarding the flagpoles and the entrance. The flagpoles were installed during the renovation. They are proposing a simple design in character with the building. It will be double doors flanking the centerpiece. This commission previously approved replacement of the concrete. He met on site with J.J. Yost from Parks & Recreation, Michael Smith and John Heacock. They discussed moving the flagpole and relocating the light, eight feet to the north. The historical society offered the removal of one flagpole. Both of the flags would be mounted on the remaining pole. They arrived at a compromise to relocate it four feet south, which would make the pole centered with the door.

Michael Smith believes it cleans it up and provides some symmetry with the entrance. There is a tree to the right of the flagpole.

J.J. Yost stated that this is the only block where lights are not lined up across the street. This works to our advantage that we didn't disrupt the pattern across the street.

Ripley noticed the infill. He questioned if it will be replaced with white aggregate concrete. Kay replied they are filling in with concrete matching the white concrete.

Steward stated there will be a lot of emphasis on the mall renovation and QR coding. He was wondering if the museum has considered a QR code on the center glass, on what a visitor would find inside. This is becoming a place of information. Kay agreed that is a good thought. Steward believes it would be prominent and available when the museum is closed. Kay

believes this renovation will draw a lot of interest to the museum. Smith believes that is a good point. Steward noted it is just a suggestion. Kay replied they will discuss it.

Zimmer believes what the commission has suggested are minor enough changes and consistent with the guidelines. He would consider this a no material effect.

Searcy wondered if there is room on the flagpole to house both flags. Kay replied they are 40 or 45 foot flag poles so there is ample room. Searcy is thinking ahead to the Nebraska sesquicentennial. If a flag would be available for that event, this is a place to consider that.

The commissioners agreed that the minor provisions brought forward today are of no material effect.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

- **Federal Building and child care drop-off**

Zimmer stated that he has been in communication with representatives of the Federal Building asking about changes to Centennial Mall to encourage child care drop-off on the west side of the Federal building. There have been many issues with various requests.

Steward noted that if we continue the dialogue, he would like to have a dialogue on the parking garage. Ripley believes that is a good plan. The footings and everything else is there to add floor to the garage.

Searcy questioned where the current drop-off is located. Zimmer said there is a drop off land on the east. Any drop-off on the west side occurs in a traffic lane. Searcy thinks it is important for the oversight to continue on the review of Centennial Mall.

- **UPDATE on Centennial Mall**

Yost stated that the work is progressing nicely. The contractor has paid great attention to detail. They continue to work on the south end. A lot of work is happening in front of the State Office Building. He believes they will start work on the intersection improvements in about another month. Everything is on track for this contractor. They are gearing up in house to start installing landscaping this fall as weather conditions prevail. He suspects some planting will carry over to the spring of 2016. The contractor is working up and down the mall. They do not

intend to turn on the fountains as a block is done. They will turn them all on, when the project is completed and everything is ready for use.

Searcy noted that the commission will play a significant role in events that the State has planned for the sesquicentennial.

Yost stated that two things will happen in next the month to six weeks. First, on the south half of the K Street to L Street block they will start planting trees this spring. This will be the same crew that is planting Sunken Gardens. N Street Bikeway construction is underway and it will be at the Centennial Mall intersection potentially starting in April of this year. That is also the same contractor, so that makes this seamless.

Hansen read that the general contractor is one of the companies that submitted for the fountain project. Searcy inquired how many bids were received. Hansen believes there were seven letters of interest. Ripley added they hope to have a couple of courtyards done by 2017.

- **SoDo Study**

Steward noticed with interest that a planning study of “South Downtown” (SoDo) is beginning. He does not recall all the names on the advisory list. He wondered if there shouldn’t be a representative from this commission on that advisory committee. This involves a planning review of south and east downtown.

Kay stated the boundary is from A Street to M Street. The west boundary is 9<sup>th</sup> Street, east to 17<sup>th</sup> Street. This is sponsored by the Lincoln Community Foundation, along with NIFA, Neighborhoods Inc. and the Downtown Lincoln Association. There will be lengthy discussion. The representatives understand the issues. There are also LPS representatives from each of the schools located in the area. Steward believes that in light of the fact that it includes Centennial Mall and Goodhue Blvd., he thinks it would improve coordination to have someone from this commission involved. Kay would suggest a request be made to Barb Bartle at the Community Foundation. They have assembled a steering committee. The first meeting is in April. He believes the committee is comprised of 15 people and will be held at the F Street Rec Center.

Searcy questioned the timeframe. Kay replied this is a six month study. Steward would suggest inquiry by the chair of this commission to have someone involved. The commissioners all agreed it is important to have some representation on this issue.

Dionisopoulos thinks this is an excellent suggestion. This commission is focused on the area. Searcy would be happy to reach out on behalf of the group.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 a.m.