

## MEETING RECORD

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

**DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING:** Thursday, June 25, 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:** Gene Crump, Christie Dionisopoulos, Tom Laging, and Jon Weinberg; (John Kay, Karen Nalow and Jeff Searcy absent). Ed Zimmer, Stacey Groshong-Hageman and Teresa McKinstry of the Planning Department; Lynn Johnson and J.J. Yost of Parks and Recreation; Robert Ripley and Matt Hansen from the Office of the Capitol Commission.

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

Acting Chair Tom Laging called the meeting to order and acknowledged the posting of the Open Meetings Act in the room.

Laging then requested a motion approving the minutes for the regular meeting held April 23, 2015. Motion for approval made by Weinberg, seconded by Dionisopoulos and carried 4-0: Crump, Dionisopoulos, Laging and Weinberg voting 'yes'; Kay, Nalow and Searcy absent.

Laging welcomed the new Commissioner, Gene Crump. Ed Zimmer briefly explained the Commission rules and appointment process. Crump stated that he looks forward to serving. Laging noted that Capitol Environs is an overlay district.

Zimmer stated that next month, he will be bringing forward some revisions to the design standards. The Capitol Environs area has been expanded from its original boundaries. These revisions will go on to Planning Commission and City Council for their review. He believes this commission has the most powerful design review authority in the State.

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

#### **PUBLIC HEARING:**

**June 25, 2015**

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

Zimmer stated that the mall design was created and approved by this commission. There will be an 18 inch band of tiles along the walkway. These tiles will be a hall of fame of honorees and

inscriptions. They can be purchased. All tiles are to be reviewed by this body. There is a subcommittee that reviews them first consisting of Dionisopoulos, Julie Manes, Lynn Johnson and himself. The Commission wisely allowed a decorative rosette in the corner. He has been bringing these forward for approval, as they have been prepared.

**ACTION:**

Dionisopoulos moved approval of the tiles submitted, seconded by Weinberg and carried 4-0: Crump, Dionisopoulos, Laging and Weinberg voting 'yes'; Kay, Nalow and Searcy absent.

Zimmer reviewed the general assignment of themes in the location of tiles. The mall south will be mostly State and governmental. The second block in front of the State Office Building will be AG and environment. The next blocks are everyone in Nebraska. The block from P St. to Q St. is innovation and entrepreneurship. The block nearest the UNL campus is education. All through the blocks there is overlap. When completed, there will be plaque on all blocks.

Crump inquired as to the process for citing a location for the tiles. Zimmer replied the location is assigned by content. A lot of the purchases will be in the center three blocks. They haven't faced any issues where someone wants to be on a particular block.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

- Laging proposed a Resolution to thank Cecil Steward for his long and distinguished service on the Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission. Zimmer noted that Steward served from the inception of the Commission. He left briefly to serve on Planning Commission and then came back to this commission. All members expressed their greatest appreciation for everything Steward has done.
- Centennial Mall

Weinberg inquired if construction on Centennial Mall is on schedule. Lynn Johnson replied it is a little behind schedule. It has taken a while to format the plaques. JJ Yost stated that precision is key. They have gone back and forth with several castings. They have finally gotten it precise. They are about 30 days behind schedule. 30 days were granted for weather, rain, etc. What was going to be end of July completion date will probably be the end of August, 2015.

Laging wondered about the status of the block in front of the state office building. Yost replied that K St. to L St. will receive sod tomorrow. The State Office Building block is all pavers. It is supposed to be done in another couple of weeks, but the installation of the pavers hasn't been started yet. Completion should be closer to the end of July.

Ripley expressed his appreciation for the contractor. They have been very diligent with their work, every minute there has been an opportunity. Unless it has been pouring heavy rain, they have been out there working. He has been very impressed. They have done a good job.

Laging asked about the fountains. Yost stated that the intent is to not start operating the fountains until next year. They plan to test them this fall.

Yost noted that we have had to modify the pattern of the rosettes slightly. They have created a place-holder for the rosette pattern. There was not enough depth in the casting.

Ripley stated that several people have asked when the sidewalks might be open on K St. to L St. Yost would hope as soon as the sod is down, the walks would be open. Perhaps this will happen in the next week.

Ripley complimented Parks and Recreation. He attended a mall progress meeting, specifically to thank Parks for their leadership and design, and stretching the dollars they have had available. Parks has largely paid for repaving the apron between the two driveways on K Street. It is now poured and in place. He has wanted to do this for 30 years. He believes this will deter bus drivers from pulling up too close and backing up. He thanked the contractors, consultants, the person from Olsson's and everyone involved. Cooperation couldn't have been better. It is great. He offered thanks to all.

Johnson added his appreciation for Ripley's vision.

Crump inquired about the cost and layout of the plaques on the mall. Yost explained the orientation. Dionisopoulos stated that about 130 have been purchased. There will be space in the future if someone wants to purchase one. There will be a total of about 1,200 when finished. This will happen over many years. The cost of the plaque goes into caring for it and the endowment. Zimmer noted that not all plaques were purchased.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 a.m.