

MEETING NOTES

NAME OF GROUP: NEBRASKA CAPITOL ENVIRONS COMMISSION

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING: Thursday, August 27, 2015, 8:00 a.m., Conference Room 214, 2nd Floor, County-City Building, 555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Thomas Laging, Karen Nalow and Jeff Searcy; (Gene Crump, Christie Dionisopoulos, John Kay and Jon Weinberg absent).

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Ed Zimmer, Stacey Groshong-Hageman and Teresa McKinstry of the Planning Department; Lynn Johnson and J.J. Yost of Parks and Recreation; Matt Hansen from the Office of the Capitol Commission; Mike Smith and Lynne Ireland of the Nebraska State Historical Society; John Heacock of the Nebraska State Building Division; and Launa Bacon of the Nebraska Arts Council.

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. He noted that with four Commissioners absent, there is not a quorum present today.

Mike Smith stated that this is part of the eight million dollar renovation of the Nebraska History Museum. The building was built in 1967 and initially served as an Elks Club. The State bought the building in 1981. By the early part of the 21st century, the building systems were pretty worn out. As part of their current renovations to the building, they are also looking to make some changes to the exterior of the building. This is part of the State of Nebraska requirement for 1% for art on state capital improvements.

Lynne Ireland stated that by State Statue, one percent of capital expenditures on construction of a State building is designated for art. There is a complex process for which proposals are requested. They asked artists to enliven what is not a particularly engaging or welcoming building façade. The applicant ultimately selected came from a field of about 40 applicants. This proposal was created by Jeanine Centuori and Russell Rock. This is entitled "Inside, Outside". They found their inspiration by looking at the many collections of the State Historical Society. They also took their inspiration from the colors of the Nebraska landscape. The concept presented uses 10 foot by 5 foot, powdered coated aluminum panels that are cut by water jet or laser jet. The look of the panel changes depending on your viewing point. The panels are one quarter inch thick. There would be 12 panels in total. They are looking at local firms for the engineering and fabrication. There is a 50 percent void in the panels to alleviate wind stress. There are lighting options to be determined in the future. In consultation with the engineer,

they have specified that the panels will be attached by turn buckles on top and bottom and epoxied rods into the concrete. They expect this to be designed to a strength of 2,000 psi.

Matt Hansen questioned if the image is produced by the size of the perforations. Ireland replied yes, it is the combination of the holes and coloring.

Laging wondered what the edge condition is. Ireland doesn't know. The entire panel will be powdered coated. She is unsure if the panel will be framed. Mike Smith believes it would have to have a frame to be attached to the building. They will find out this information.

Nalow has seen applications like this. What strikes her as different is the colors, but also using the play of shadow. She inquired if that has been studied to see how successful it would be in relation to where the panels would be installed. Would there also be night lighting? Ireland believes it is not inconceivable that lighting would come into play.

Searcy believes an east facing building will allow a great deal of opportunity with the different shadows and images. In the evening with the potential lighting, it could be really stunning.

Laging wondered if the trees will block the panels. He inquired how tall they will eventually get. Lynn Johnson stated that the trees on the ends will be red oaks. The ones by the entrance are a smaller ornamental tree. The red oaks will eventually be quite large.

Ireland stated that it is possible that some panels could be installed on the north side of the building.

Nalow believes that color will help these pop.

Laging believes the visual angles will be difficult. People walking will look at these from a fairly steep angle. Ireland stated that the mall has an elevation. She believes part of what is intriguing about the artist concept is these panels will look different to people as they look through different views.

Laging would like to see these from the pedestrian viewpoint.

Searcy inquired as to the life expectancy of the panels. Ireland believes this is pretty robust material. As part of the 1% for Art process, they are requiring a plan for ongoing maintenance. Launa Bacon of Nebraska Arts Council stated that she believes these will have a really long life. They deal with conservation of these pieces. Also, for public work like this, the artist provides a warranty of two to five years. They are pretty permanent public pieces.

Searcy wondered what the timeline is for the red oaks to mature. Johnson replied about 15 to 20 years. They will grow 8 to 10 inches a year.

Searcy questioned the 1%. Bacon explained that there are a lot of deductions from the one percent. For this project, the end total was about \$46,000.00. She believes you get a lot of bang for the buck with these pieces. These artist fees are very small in this proposal.

Laging have they explored distribution of the panels. In some ways they are more visible from the north side. Ireland their other concern is the tree cover on the P Street façade is significantly denser. The other challenge is that P Street driving traffic is all one way.

Searcy questioned a proposed start date. Ireland would like to move this along so we can proceed with the fabrication. They are anticipating renovations completed and the building opening on March 1, 2016.

Laging inquired as to the material on the storefront on the first floor. Mike Smith believes it is an aluminum frame, light gray in color and glass. Laging stated that the panels could be trimmed out to match the store front. Smith believes that is a good point. The art panels will probably have to sit back at least 12 inches.

Ed Zimmer mentioned that integrating the 2nd floor P Street panel, it might take adjusting some panels. Laging stated that the Nebraska History Museum sign could be pinned to the front of the concrete band.

Searcy looks forward to a more formal review in the next month or two. This is exciting and looks like it will be a welcome addition.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- Zimmer will bring back a second draft of the guidelines proposal.
- J.J. Yost stated they are moving along on construction for Centennial Mall. The completion date was set for the end of October, 2015. He thinks that is pretty optimistic with what is left to do. The contractor is very good and he is sure they will do what they can to complete by that date.

Johnson added that they are aware of some iron spot staining coming through the pavers. The contractor is aware of the issue and will have a remedy.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 a.m.