

**Annual Joint Meeting of  
The Nebraska Capitol Commission  
And  
The Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission**

**Meeting Minutes  
November 8, 2016**

**1. Call to Order**

Lt. Governor Foley, in the absence of Governor Ricketts, called to order the annual joint meeting of the Nebraska Capitol Commission and the Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission at 10:00 a.m. in Legislative Hearing Room 1507, Nebraska State Capitol, Lincoln, Nebraska. Lt. Governor Foley acknowledged the posting of the Open Meetings Act in the room.

**2. Roll Call**

Nebraska Capitol Commission Members

Present:

Lt. Governor Foley  
Patrick O'Donnell  
Chief Justice Heavican  
Trevor Jones  
Thomas Sanderson  
Jim Cudaback

Absent:

Katherine Ankerson  
Bryce Neidig

Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission Members

Present:

Jeff Searcy  
Gene Crump  
Christie Dionisopoulos  
Mary Campbell  
John Sinclair  
Karen Nalow

Absent:

Jon Weinberg

Ex-Officio Members in Attendance:

Office of the Capitol Commission Administrator - Bob Ripley  
City of Lincoln Planning Department - Ed Zimmer  
City of Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department - Lynn Johnson

### **3. Review/Approval November 17, 2015, Joint Meeting Minutes**

Lt. Governor Foley asked if there was any discussion or corrections to the minutes. There being none Lt. Governor asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Sanderson MOVED to approve the November 17, 2015, Annual Joint Meeting Minutes. Mr. Crump SECONDED the motion.

The November 17, 2015, meeting minutes were approved (10 Aye, 3 Absent, 2 Abstain - Campbell and Sinclair).

### **4. New Business**

#### **A. Capitol Environs Commission Annual Report - Ed Zimmer**

Mr. Zimmer handed out to the commission members the Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission Draft 2016 Annual Report. Mr. Zimmer advised that the report was a draft at this time in case there are any additions or changes that would be needed before the end of the year.

Mr. Zimmer also noted that there are two new members to the commission, Mary Campbell and John Sinclair.

Mr. Zimmer gave a brief summary of the commission's accomplishments in 2016 with one of the commissions star projects being completed, the Centennial Mall project. Mr. Zimmer also reported that the Commission received good news from Lincoln Electric System (LES) on their plans to remove overhead utility lines along Goodhue Boulevard, which will greatly enhance the site lines on the south axis of the environs district.

Mr. Zimmer introduced Lynn Johnson, Director of the City of Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Johnson provided a report to the commissioners on the Centennial Mall project. Mr. Johnson emphasized the mall was designed to be informational, functional and sustainable.

Mr. Johnson said the mall is essentially complete at this time and will be fully completed for a Sesquicentennial celebration in 2017.

Mr. Crump said he felt the mall was beautiful in 1967 but the new mall is more inclusive, user friendly and a great addition to the city. Mr. Crump also stated the endowment will significantly help in sustaining the new mall.

Mr. Johnson agreed and noted the endowment for the new mall was 1.5 million.

Mr. Searcy added on behalf of the Environs Commission they would like to thank Mr. Johnson and the Parks and Recreation Department's efforts in getting the Centennial Mall project to this substantially completed state. Mr. Searcy asked how the commission could assist in completing the Spirit of the Nebraska pathway.

Mr. Johnson said there are still many panels that need sponsors and continued work in recognizing honorees on plaques and on the website. Mr. Johnson said the best way to accomplish this was to continue to promote plaque installation through sponsorships.

Lt. Governor Foley asked if the recent vandalism to one section of Centennial Mall was due to a missing barricade. Mr. Johnson replied that ballards were put in place on each street side of each mall so that cars couldn't drive onto the mall, however, one did get damaged. Before the ballard could get replaced a car drove onto the mall and fortunately the only damage was to the turf.

The commission thanked Mr. Johnson for his report. Mr. Zimmer also noted that Mr. Johnson and Bob Ripley are ex-officio members on the Capitol Environ's Commission.

Mr. Searcy thanked Mr. Ripley and all OCC staff for their assistance in the Centennial Mall dedication event that was held in the Capitol on October 9<sup>th</sup>.

(A copy of the report can be obtained from the County-City Planning Office and, at the time of the writing of these minutes, the draft copy is on file at the Office of the Capitol Commission.)

### **B. Capitol Commission Annual Report - Robert Ripley**

Mr. Ripley stated the annual report is a summary of the work the Office has achieved in the past year. Mr. Ripley said he wanted to acknowledge Roxanne Smith (who was not present at the meeting) as the editor, publisher, reporter, writer and photographer of the report.

Mr. Ripley gave a brief overview of the programs and work outlined in the annual report.

Mr. Ripley asked if the commission had any questions. Mr. Crump lightheartedly commented that at last year's meeting there was a show and tell on hearing room chairs and it was too bad that the Governor's desk featured in the restoration section of the report couldn't have been a show and tell for this meeting.

Lt. Governor Foley asked if the heating that is being replaced in the HVAC project is energy efficient. Mr. Ripley responded yes it will be and gave a brief overview of the VRF (Variable Refrigerant Flow) system, as well as answered other questions from commission members on the HVAC system.

The commission thanked Mr. Ripley for his report. There were no further questions.

### **C. Next Joint Commission Meeting**

Mr. Ripley announced that for the purpose of commissioner's 2017 calendars that next year's annual joint meeting has been scheduled for November 7, 2017.

### **D. Other Business from Either Commission**

There was no other business from either commission.

### **5. Adjourn**

There being no further business, Lt. Governor Foley asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. O'Donnell MOVED to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Crump SECONDED the motion.

Lt. Governor Foley called for a voice vote to adjourn the meeting. The motion PASSED with a unanimous vote of the members present (12 Ayes, 3 Absent).

Lt. Governor Foley adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

Minutes prepared 11/14/2016 by:

Tammy Honnor, Facilities Construction Coordinator  
Office of the Capitol Commission

Minutes approved \_\_\_\_\_