

## MEETING NOTES

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

**DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING:** Friday, August 28, 2020, 8:00 a.m., City Council Chambers, County-City Building, 555 S. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, Nebraska.

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Mary Campbell, Delonte Johnson, Kile Johnson, Karen Nalow and Ann Post; (Heidi Cuca and David Quade absent).

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Collin Christopher and Teresa McKinstry of the Planning Department; Lynn Johnson of Parks & Recreation; Bob Ripley with the Nebraska Capitol Commission; Kerin Peterson with the Public Building Commission; Chief Deputy Sheriff Todd Duncan with Lancaster County Sheriff Agency; Captain Mike Woolman with the Lincoln Police Department (LPD).; and other interested parties.

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

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

K. Johnson then called for a motion approving the minutes of the regular meeting held July 24, 2020. Motion for approval made by Nalow, seconded by Campbell and carried 5-0: Campbell, D. Johnson, K. Johnson, Nalow and Post voting 'yes'; Cuca and Quade absent.

### **PLACEMENT OF A MEMORIAL EAST OF THE HALL OF JUSTICE BUILDING AT 575 SOUTH 10<sup>TH</sup> STREET IN THE CAPITOL ENVIRONS DISTRICT**

#### **PUBLIC HEARING:**

**August 28, 2020**

Members present: Campbell, D. Johnson, K. Johnson, Nalow and Post voting 'yes'; Cuca and Quade absent.

Kerin Peterson stated that this application is for a memorial to be placed on the east side of the Hall of Justice.

Sheriff Duncan is grateful to be here and present this. It is a very important project. The reason they are proposing this project is that they do not have an outdoor memorial to honor those who have lost their lives in duty, which includes six LPD Officers and three Sherrif's Deputies. A small

group of Police, Sheriffs and family members of fallen officers got together to discuss and organize this effort. The proposed memorial has gained the support of citizens. Firespring has created a website, and there have been many great sponsorships. The memorial is funded and sponsored by the Police Memorial Foundation and the Sheriff's Foundation. The Sheriff presented a picture of the proposed memorial. There would be two life-sized bronze sculptures. There would be granite slabs in front, with names of fallen officers and one in the middle with the agency logos. They are looking at the east side of the Hall of Justice as the preferred location for the memorial. He showed an image of the proposed location, and said that they partnered with Clark Enersen to create some artist renderings. They looked at five locations and took various factors into account at each location. The location they are ultimately proposing is setback a little from the sidewalk. They believe this is the most appropriate location for a memorial of this type.

Peterson noted that the materials are a concrete pad and sidewalk. They are proposing concrete planters and would match the sidewalk or match the granite slabs. Clark Enersen is helping with the design. They are mindful of the size of the planters and giving the plants room to thrive. They will certainly add irrigation. This is about 95 feet from the Abe statue in front of the Hall of Justice.

Delonte Johnson likes this location. It seems the most appropriate.

Post thinks this looks like a great choice and gives people the ability to spend time at the memorial.

Nalow is on the design team and she wanted to point out that the location makes this a very private and intimate setting. It also does set it back from Lincoln Mall.

Kile Johnson also likes the location off Lincoln Mall. He thinks the design and location is very appropriate.

Post saw a rendering with planters and seating. She questioned the seating. Sheriff Duncan responded that they like the plants. They feel it gives it a more visually appealing look. They want this to be a place to reflect, but not a place that you would stay all day. A bench wouldn't create the atmosphere they want. They don't want a long term place to sit all day.

Campbell concurred with all comments. She likes the location and materials. Option five is her preference.

Bob Ripley stated he is seeing this memorial for the first time. He can think of no group more worthy of memorialization than those who serve. He supports the idea and believes it is appropriate. He doesn't mean to be obstructionist, but he also serves the Capitol building, which is very visible in this state. He is concerned that this could lead to additional memorial proposals, and that the Commission should consider the development of a master plan to ensure that future proposals along Lincoln Mall are appropriate. He thinks based on his experience, that what you do for one, you do for all. He believes some standards need to be developed for locations,

appearance, etc. He doesn't believe any such guidelines exist today. He believes this proposal fits, but he would encourage the commission to think about the mall and placement of memorials. There need to be standards. He thinks continuity should be considered. The memorial committee has an excellent design firm involved. He thinks this Commission needs to be mindful and take into account the whole picture of Lincoln Mall. He encouraged the Commission to address this issue. He thinks a master plan for conceptual locations and sizes need to be developed to help applicants like this.

Campbell asked if Ripley has any suggested language. Ripley stated this is new to him. He has no suggestions at this point. He would think a subcommittee of commissioners to develop some guidelines would be appropriate, with a more holistic view of the entire thing. Nalow agreed. She thinks it would be appropriate to look at this holistically, along with some parameters. She inquired about this location and this proposal, with the location along 10<sup>th</sup> Street and not Lincoln Mall. Ripley knows that these things can continue to grow. What if someone wants to do something that is twice the size? There need to be guideposts. The front of the County-City building will now be targeted as the location for future memorials.

Lynn Johnson speaks to the proposal from a management and maintenance perspective. He thinks this is beautiful. He would echo Ripley's comments on having some guidelines. There were some guidelines that were developed for the Veteran's Memorial, so that there is some consistency. He would note that bronze sculptures need to be waxed every few years. There is always the possibility of names needing to be added, so how that would happen should be considered. There needs to be a consistent look.

Sheriff Duncan understands the value of a more holistic approach. Regarding the maintenance, it has been taken into consideration. They continue to do fundraising and want to create an endowment for maintenance. They have been told that they can either allow the bronze to patina naturally or wax and seal. They are taking both of those options into consideration. They have also considered how to have the ability to expand or add to the memorial. They have looked at affixing panels instead of engraving. He doesn't believe they have settled on the approach yet.

Kile Johnson inquired about the fundraising level. Sheriff Duncan believes they hit \$125,000.00 this week. There are ongoing costs they want to plan for. Captain Woolman added that both unions have talked about this. They have said they would be more than happy to help with maintenance. Kile Johnson would encourage an endowment for maintenance.

Kile Johnson supports this concept. He believes the location off Lincoln Mall is appropriate. He thinks this is an important location. The fact that it is on Hall of Justice grounds is important. He thinks Ripley's comments about developing guidelines are important as well.

**ACTION:**

Post moved approval, seconded by Delonte Johnson and carried 5-0: Campbell, D. Johnson, K. Johnson, Nalow and Post voting 'yes'; Cuca and Quade absent.

**STAFF REPORT:**

- Collin Christopher stated that the text amendment for adding a fourth ex-officio fourth will go to Planning Commission on September 2<sup>nd</sup> with public hearing at City Council scheduled for September 21, 2020. He would anticipate approval of this item by the end of September.
- The J Street zoning proposal was approved by Planning Commission. It will appear in front of City Council on September 14, 2020.
- Next month on September 25<sup>th</sup>, it is anticipated that the Commission will be given their first look at the Pershing block proposal, and possibly asked for specific feedback on interpretation of the design standards.
- Christopher believes that developing standards for memorials along Lincoln Mall is appropriate, and that forming a subcommittee would be a logical first step. Kile Johnson agreed, along with the other commissioners. In preparing the staff report, Christopher had trouble trying to determine if monuments on Lincoln Mall were appropriate. He stated that the Commission is fortunate that the Law Enforcement Memorial proposed today is off the direct line of sight of the Lincoln Mall, making the decision much easier. He will send out an email and ask for volunteers. Kile Johnson noted that everyone on this Commission had indicated they are willing to help. Christopher will work on this over the next three or four months to bring back to Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission for review. Kile Johnson thinks any more memorials should wait until memorial standards are in place. Christopher cautioned against that approach and instead recommended that the Commission act quickly in developing standards so that applicants are not asked to delay their projects.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned 8:35 a.m.