



ANNUAL JOINT MEETING
NEBRASKA CAPITOL ENVIRONS COMMISSION
AND
NEBRASKA CAPITOL COMMISSION
AGENDA

Thursday, December 10, 2020
Hearing Room 1113
10:00 a.m.

1. Call to Order.....Governor Ricketts, Chair
2. Roll Call.....Capitol Commission Clerk, Noelle Pinneo
3. *Review / Approval of Minutes— November 21, 2019.....Governor Ricketts, Chair
4. Public Comment for Items Not Listed on the Agenda
5. New Business
 - A. Capitol Environs Commission Annual Report.....Collin Christopher
 - B. Capitol Commission Annual Report.....Robert Ripley & Roxanne Smith
 - C. Other Business from the Commission
6. Adjourn

Next Meeting Date: Thursday November 18th, 2021

*Action Item

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

**Meeting Minutes
November 21, 2019**

1. Call to Order

Lt. Governor Foley 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.

2. Roll Call

Nebraska Capitol Commission Members

Present:

Lt. Governor Foley
Speaker Scheer
Katherine Ankerson
Doug Carey
Thomas Sanderson
Trent Loos
Bob Ripley, Ex-Officio

Absent:

Governor Ricketts
Chief Justice Heavican
Trevor Jones

Nebraska Capital Environs Commission Members:

Present:

Kile Johnson
Mary Campbell
Heidi Cuca
Delonte Johnson
Karen Nalow
Ann Post

Absent:

David Quade

Ex-Officio Environs Members in Attendance:

City of Lincoln Planning Department – Ed Zimmer
City of Lincoln Parks and Recreation – Lynn Johnson (not present at time of roll call)

3. Review / Approval of the November 13, 2018, Joint Meeting Minutes

Lt. Governor Foley asked if there was any discussion or corrections to the minutes. There being none, Kile Johnson MOVED to approve the minutes. Speaker Scheer SECONDED the motion.

The November 13, 2018 meeting minutes were approved by a vote of the members present (8 Ayes, 4 Absent, 4 Abstain). Ms. Ankerson, Mr. Loos, Ms. Campbell, and Delonte Johnson all chose to abstain as they weren't present at the November 13, 2018 meeting.

4. Public Comment for Items Not Listed on the Agenda

There was no public comment.

5. New Business

A. Capitol Environs Commission Annual Report – Ed Zimmer

Mr. Zimmer distributed the Capitol Environs annual report noting that the report is still a draft until it's approved at the next Capitol Environs Commission meeting. He then recognized Kile Johnson as the new commission chair and introduced Heidi Cuca, Delonte Johnson, and David Quade as new members of the commission.

Mr. Zimmer gave a brief report of the key projects from the Capitol Environs Commission annual report. Key projects include:

- The approval of a skywalk between Farmers Mutual's two buildings on their headquarters block on Lincoln Mall and South 13th street
- The Lincoln Children's Museum's plans to turn a parking lot into an outdoor play area
- The installment of a third and final casting of The Chief Standing Bear monument in the Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol. The original monument was installed on Centennial Mall in 2017 and a second casting was installed at the Ponca Headquarters in 2018.

At the request of Mr. Sanderson there was some more discussion regarding the Children's Museum parking lot. Mr. Zimmer explained that this is staff parking for the museum and the project won't result in a loss of public parking.

B. Capitol Commission Annual Report – Robert Ripley & Roxanne Smith

Roxanne Smith distributed the Capitol Commission Annual Report. Mr. Ripley acknowledged Ms. Smith as the writer, editor and publisher of the report.

Mr. Ripley gave a review of the programs and projects detailed in the annual report. The programs described are:

- Building Conservation
- Capitol Collections
- Capitol Custodial
- Maintenance and Preventative Maintenance
- Capitol Tours and Special Events
- Grounds Maintenance

Mr. Ripley described the high quality of work provided by the shop staff and gave examples of work completed this year.

At the request of Kile Johnson, there was some discussion regarding the Capitol Courtyard landscaping.

Lt. Governor Foley asked about the blue green algae visible on the North face of the building. Mr. Ripley explained that the algae is an inevitable problem and gave a brief description of how the capitol mason is able to reduce the algae using a non-abrasive technique to avoid damage to the stone.

Mr. Ripley then answered questions from the commissions regarding tour group sizes, leakage from the promenade deck, and the process used to remove graffiti from the building.

C. Other Business from Either Commission

There was no other business from either commission.

6. Adjourn

There being no further business, Lt. Governor Foley asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kile Johnson MOVED to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Campbell SECONDED the motion.

The motion PASSED with a unanimous vote of the members present (12 Ayes, 4 Absent, 0 Abstain).

The meeting was adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes prepared 11/25/2019

Noelle Pinneo, Clerk of the Capitol Commission

Office of the Capitol Commission

Minutes approved _____

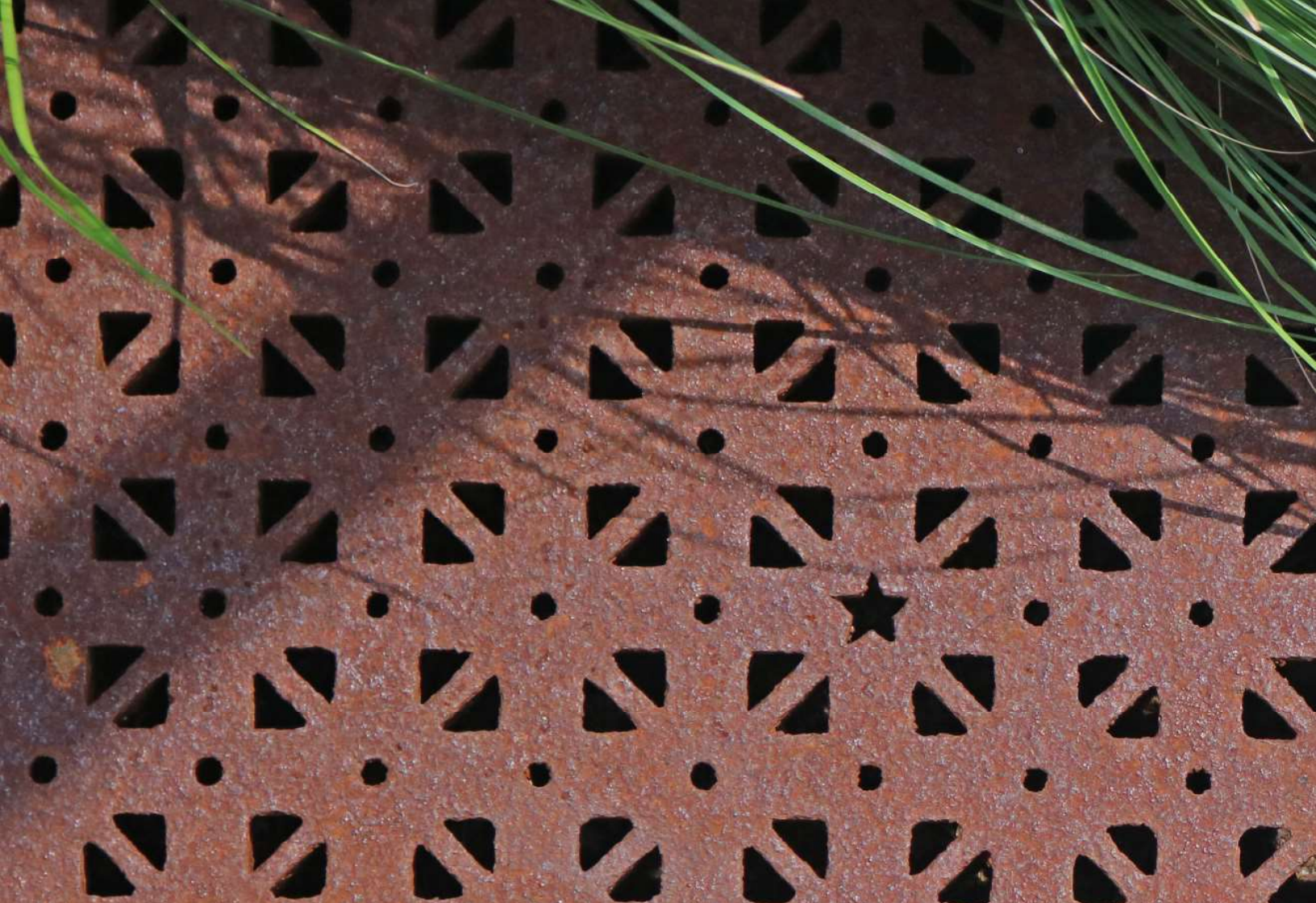
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Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission

2020 Annual Report



NEBRASKA'S CENTEN



COMMISSION MEMBERS

Kile Johnson, Chair

Karen Nalow

Mary Campbell

Heidi Cuca

Delonte Johnson

Ann Post

David Quade

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

Director of the Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department

Director of Lincoln Parks and Recreation

Director of Nebraska Department of Administrative Services

Office of the Nebraska Capitol Commission's Capitol Administrator

PLANNING DEPARTMENT STAFF

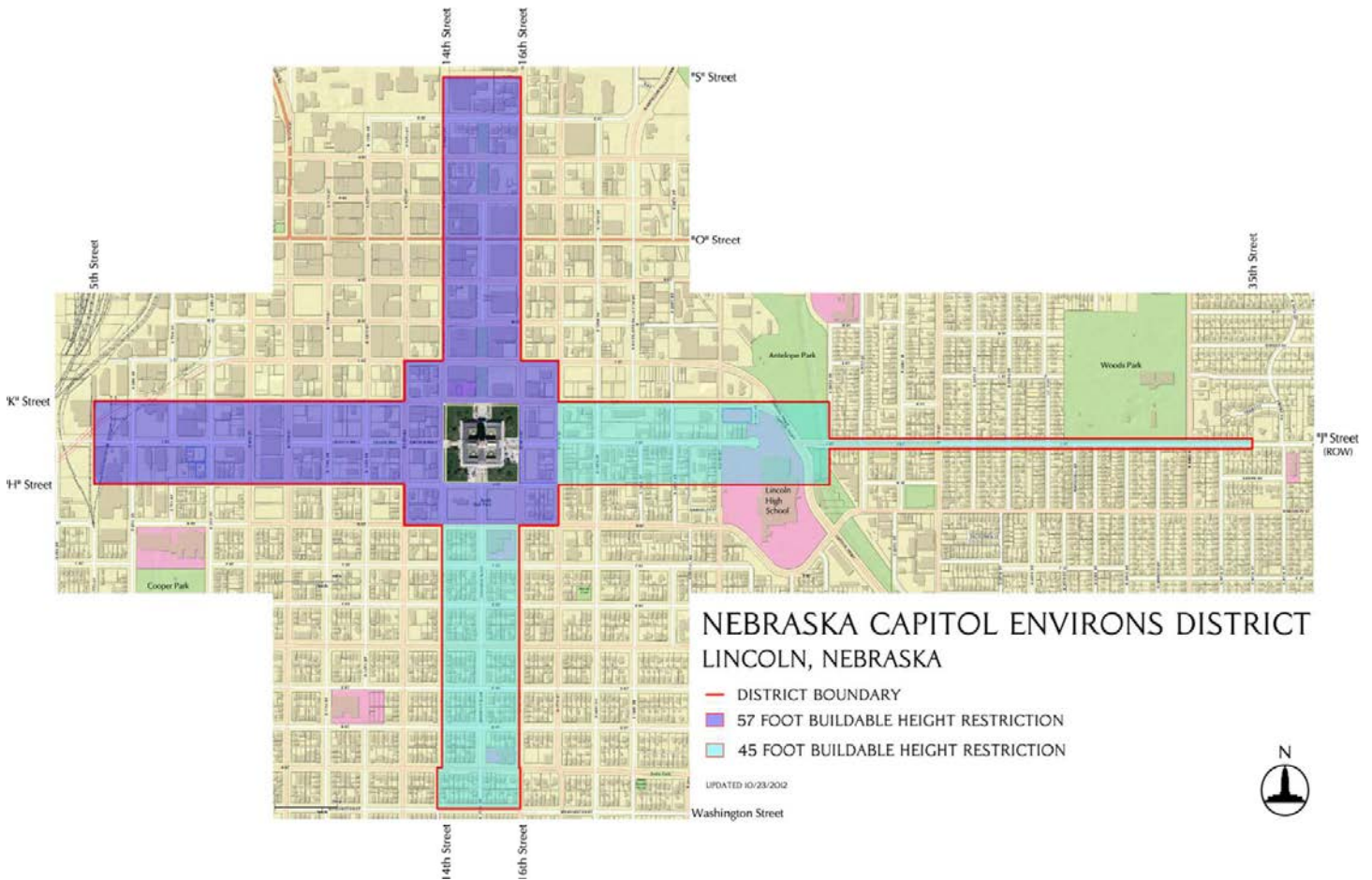
Collin Christopher

Stacey Groshong Hageman

Teresa McKinstry

APPROVED

The Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission approved this Annual Report on TBD.



The Nebraska State Capitol, designed by architect Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue in 1920 and built for the people of Nebraska between 1922 and 1932, is a National Historic Landmark and an aesthetic and historic treasure of our state. The purposes of the Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission ("the Commission") are to maintain and enhance a dignified setting for the State Capitol, to encourage appropriate public and private improvements within the Capitol Environs District ("the District"), and to protect vistas to the Capitol which extend the impact and inspiration of the building throughout the city and the surrounding countryside.

Background

The Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission was established in 1988 to strengthen existing protections for the setting of Nebraska's landmark State Capitol. The Commission's voting membership of seven citizen volunteers includes five members appointed by the City of Lincoln and two appointed by the State of Nebraska.

In 2020, the Commission remained unchanged from the previous year, with Kile Johnson serving as chair, and Karen Nalow, Mary Campbell, Heidi Cuca, Delonte Johnson, Ann Post and David Quade continuing as members. The seven appointed citizen members are joined by four ex officio members – the Director of the Lincoln/Lancaster

County Planning Department, the Director of Lincoln Parks and Recreation, the Director of Nebraska Department of Administrative Services, and the Office of the Nebraska Capitol Commission's Capitol Administrator. Staffing is provided by the Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department, including planners Collin Christopher and Stacey Groshong Hageman and administrative assistant Teresa McKinstry.

The Commission is required to meet at least quarterly by Section 27.56.060 of the Lincoln Municipal Code. The Commission met six times in 2020.

Project Reviews

The Commission reviewed a number of interesting projects in Environs District in 2020.

In February, the Commission approved a plan to demolish the existing house at 1515 F Street and build a new four-story structure with one dwelling unit per floor. Each unit will have a recessed balcony/porch that faces the Capitol. Demolition has already occurred, with construction anticipated to get underway in 2021.

In June, the Commission reviewed a residential street rehab project being proposed by the City's LTU Department for Lincoln Mall, 14th Street and Goodhue Boulevard. Though the Commission was supportive of many of the elements of the project, they raised concerns about the City's plans for replacing decorative paving with standard grey concrete at several intersections along Lincoln Mall and asked the City to explore alternative solutions that would preserve the existing rhythm and organization of the Mall.



The rendering above illustrates the north elevation of the proposed four-plex at 1515 F Street.



LINCOLN MALL, LOOKING TOWARD THE CAPITOL

In July, the Commission recommended the rezoning of a number of city-owned J Street properties, as proposed in the South Haymarket Neighborhood Plan and the South Haymarket Design Standards. Combined with the planned streetscape improvements for J Street, the

rezoning lays the groundwork for future redevelopment in the area, which is likely to include additional residential and office uses. The Design Standards specifically mention rowhouses as a possible redevelopment solution.



In December of 2019, the Commission reviewed a draft of the Haymarket South Streetscapes and Parking Improvements Plan. To coordinate with the vision for J Street that the Haymarket South Plan imagines in the renderings above, the Planning Department initiated a rezoning of city-owned properties along J Street to better accommodate future redevelopment of residential and office uses. This zoning change was previously highlighted in the South Haymarket Neighborhood Plan. In July of 2020, the Environs Commission made a recommendation to the Planning Commission to approve the zoning proposal. The Planning Commission acted on that recommendation and approved the rezoning of J Street.

In August, the Commission approved a law enforcement memorial in front of the Hall of Justice at 575 S 10th Street. The memorial will honor officers from the Lincoln Police Department and Lancaster County Sheriff's Office who have

died in the line of duty. While multiple locations and design alternatives were considered on the site, the one presented to the Environs Commission is positioned far enough north to not impact views along Lincoln Mall.

Hall of Justice | Lincoln, Nebraska

- planters as force protection
- "private" location pulled back from sidewalk



Above is the approved concept for the Law Enforcement Memorial in front of the Hall of Justice at 575 S 10th Street.

In November, the Commission is expected to review the Sky Park Manor remodel project. Designed by prominent local architect Selmer A. Solheim, this mid-century high-rise apartment buildings was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2016. Exterior work to

the building is expected to include, among other things, restoration of the railing system, renovation of the Sun and Fun deck, and repainting of the building to match its historic colors - neutral white body, blue-grey soffit trim and a multi-colored penthouse.



The Commission is also scheduled to get their first look at the Pershing block redevelopment project in November. It is anticipated that the redeveloped block will include a library, a wellness center, affordable housing, and a community greenspace. While there is still much work and coordination to be done to make this project a reality, it has the potential to dramatically impact Centennial Mall, the Environs District, and the larger downtown area for the better. The Commission looks forward to playing a part in such a transformative project.



The concept for the redevelopment of the Pershing block includes a library, a wellness center, affordable housing units, and an active greenspace that should combine to bring added energy to Centennial Mall.

Text Amendments

In February, the Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department received a request from the Governor on behalf of the Capitol Commission to add the Capitol Commission's Capitol Administrator as the fourth ex officio member of the Capitol Environs Commission. In July, the Environs Commission discussed the topic and unanimously recommended that Planning staff move forward with a text amendment to the Municipal Code to add a fourth ex officio. In September, the

Lincoln City Council approved the amendment. In approving this addition, both the Environs Commission and the City Council acknowledged the expertise and historical knowledge that Mr. Ripley brings to the Commission.

As the year wraps up, Planning Department staff is also exploring a text amendment to the Capitol Environs Design Standards to include more specific standards and guidelines for memorials and monuments. The Commission will have a chance to weigh in on this topic in early 2021.



Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission

2020 Annual Report