

**City of Lincoln
Planning**

Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission
Agenda

The Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission will hold a scheduled public meeting on Thursday, August 26, 2010. The meeting will convene at **8:00 a.m.** in **Development Services Center Room 214, 2nd Floor, County-City Building, 555 S. 10th Street**, Lincoln, Nebraska, to consider the following agenda. For more information, please contact the Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department at 441-7491.

Agenda of August 26, 2010

1. Approval of meeting notes of [May 27, 2010](#); receive meeting notes of [July 15, 2010](#)

Continued Discussion/Recommendations

2. [Goodhue Blvd street tree planting](#) (Parks & Rec); [Nebraska Capitol Environs East and South Mall Plan \(Adopted by City Council Nov. 1986\)](#)
3. [Central Lincoln Reliability Project - route recommendations](#) (Rob Schmidt, LES)

Public Hearing and Action

4. [Certificate of Appropriateness](#) for work at the Gathering Place, 1448 E Street.
 5. [Certificate of Appropriateness](#) for work at 234 N 14th Street.
 6. Staff report/misc.: Centennial Mall update, etc.
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To: **Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission**
From: Ed Zimmer
Re: Agenda of August 26, 2010
Date: 08/20/2010

Item 1:

Notes are attached from the meeting of May 27th and the discussion of July 15, 2010. Since a quorum was not present in July, this was not an official meeting of the full Commission and that meeting record does not need to be formally adopted. However, adoption of the May 27th meeting record is still needed.

Item 2:

Parks & Recreation Dept. staff will present a proposal for planting street trees on Goodhue Blvd. The 1986 South Mall Plan envisioned a block-by-block replacement/renewal of the street trees and sidewalks on a new alignment, with the sidewalks closer to the curb and the tree-line between the sidewalk and the buildings. This alignment has been implemented on the G-H block nearest the Capitol. Parks Dept. has funds available for some tree replacements in the South Capitol area and wishes to review the 1986 Plan with the Commission. The 1986 Plan is attached for reference.

The general Design Standards for trees along the Malls state for overstory (large) trees:

Design Standard 19: Overstory Trees

Overstory trees establish the visual and physical definition of space along the edges of the malls.

Guideline 19.1:

*The overstory tree line along the Malls should be on public property, near the property line.
Capitol Environs*

Guideline 19.2:

Choose overstory trees of different hardy species with similar growth habits and size to provide visual and physical continuity. Vary the species within each mall according to a specific pattern. Space the trees at regular intervals, but accommodate specific site requirements such as driveways. Overstory trees should be spaced to provide a solid canopy where possible.

Guideline 19.3:

Overstory trees used to define the edges of the Malls should be single stem, upright ovals, taller than they are wide. Narrow, columnar overstory trees are discouraged, as are trees with a very broad growth habit. Choose species with good fall color.

Guideline 19.4:

Restrict underplantings to perennials or shrubs requiring little if any division to minimize future root disturbance.

For smaller, understory (ornamental) trees, the general Design Standard states:

Design Standard 20: Understory Trees

Understory (ornamental) trees should provide seasonal interest and pedestrian scale.

Guideline 20.1:

Along the interior edges of the Malls, use understory (ornamental) trees where pedestrian scale and seasonal interest (including spring bloom, fall foliage color, and winter fruit and bark interest) is needed. Treat understory trees as a mass rather than as individual specimens, and space them accordingly.

Guideline 20.2:

On all Malls, recognize the dominance of the edge overstory trees, and choose and locate understory trees to avoid interfering with the growth requirements of the overstory trees.

The Design Standards include more specific reference to “South Mall” (Goodhue Blvd.) including mention of the 1986 Plan as “general guidance”:

Design Standard 24: South Mall Landscape

The public landscape improvements along South Mall should offer a variety of Capitol views while reinforcing a residential environment. The "South and East Mall Plan" approved by City Council in 1986 provides general guidance to the development of the public landscape of this Mall. *(emphasis added)*

Guideline 24.1:

Require placement of one overstory tree on every corner and at every alley intersection (or on both sides of the street at midblock) along South Mall for continuity.

Guideline 24.2:

Plant all four corners of street intersections with the same species, but vary the species from one end of the mall to the other. Variation can also occur at the midblock locations.

Guideline 24.3:

Begin a replacement program for overstory edge trees, eliminating pin oaks and other undesirable species. Plan replacements in accordance with spacing guidelines outlined above.

Guideline 24.4:

Eliminate trees from the center islands. Establish turf in center island and between curb and new sidewalk. When maintenance budget allows, convert turf in islands from G Street north to Capitol Square to perennials, grasses, or shrubs in large masses for higher interest.

Guideline 24.5:

New sidewalks should align with north end, and be a uniform width of six feet.

Item 3:

Rob Schmidt of LES has informed me that they hope to post two alternative route proposals on the Central Lincoln Reliability Project web site on August 20, 2010. That site is:

http://www.les.com/your_les/transmission_clrp.asp

Mr. Schmidt plans to attend the Commission meeting to answer questions and receive input on the proposed routes, which he describes as depicting a mixed above-ground and underground proposal and an all-underground alternative. LES staff intends to review and refine these proposals with various groups in August and September. Public open houses are scheduled October 4, before making a final recommendation to the LES Board this autumn.

Item 4:

Commission members encouraged Gathering Place staff in their renovation efforts at previous meetings, but without a quorum present July 15, no action could be taken on the request for approval of a wrought-iron-type fence with brick posts on the Goodhue Blvd. frontage, standing within the right-of-way between the building and the sidewalk.

Item 5:

I'm still awaiting further information on a proposed commercial building at 234 N. 14th, north of the Noodles & Co./Chez Hay building.

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