

Boards & Commissions

Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission Agenda

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission will hold a meeting on **Thursday, April 27, 2017 at 8:00 a.m.** in the County-City Building, 555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska, in Room 214 on the 2nd Floor. For more information, please contact the Lincoln City/Lancaster County Planning Department at 402-441-7491.

AGENDA

APRIL 27, 2017

1. Approval of meeting record of [February 23, 2017](#).

* [Memo from Ed Zimmer](#).

HEARING AND ACTION

2. A Certificate of Appropriateness for work on Centennial Mall in the P-Q block, being public right-of-way of Centennial Mall North/N. 15th Street.
3. A Certificate of Appropriateness for work at the former Trinity Methodist Church, 1345 S. 16th Street (NW corner of 16th & A), a designated Lincoln Landmark in the Capitol Environs District.

REVIEW AND ADVISE

4. Staff Report

To: **Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission**
From: Ed Zimmer
Re: Agenda of April 27, 2017
Date: April 21, 2017

Item 2: Standing Bear Sculpture and Revisions to Sculpture Niche, Centennial Mall (P-Q block)

Earlier this month, sculptor Ben Victor brought his clay model for the Chief Standing Bear sculpture to Lincoln. The final detailing of the piece is not complete, and the casting into bronze and final finishing are still ahead, but the scale and quality of the work are clear.

Design Standard 3: *Memorials and Monuments*, assigns “*memorials or statewide or national significance to Centennial Mall*” and the associated Guideline 3.1 recommends that “*Additions of memorial or monuments...on the Mall will be evaluated within the same guidelines as other improvements such as buildings and landscape features, stressing compatibility with setting, high-quality design, and appropriate materials.*”

Design Standard 4: Public Art, notes “*The Commission encourages the addition of public art to the District, while applying the same standards of fitness to place and quality of materials required of other improvements.*” The associated Guideline 4.2 notes that monumental works may be appropriate in the District if “*of national or international significance,*” while Guideline 4.3 notes: “*Mall master plans may identify specific locations for public art, and works may be commissioned or purchased to strengthen the context of these locations.*”



B. Victor & clay model for Standing Bear monument, Apr. 2017

Finally, Design Standard 22 on Centennial Mall Landscape includes Guideline 22.6: “*Art proposed for Centennial Mall should fit within the overall design concept, enhancing the pedestrian experience while respecting the dominance of views to the Capitol.*”

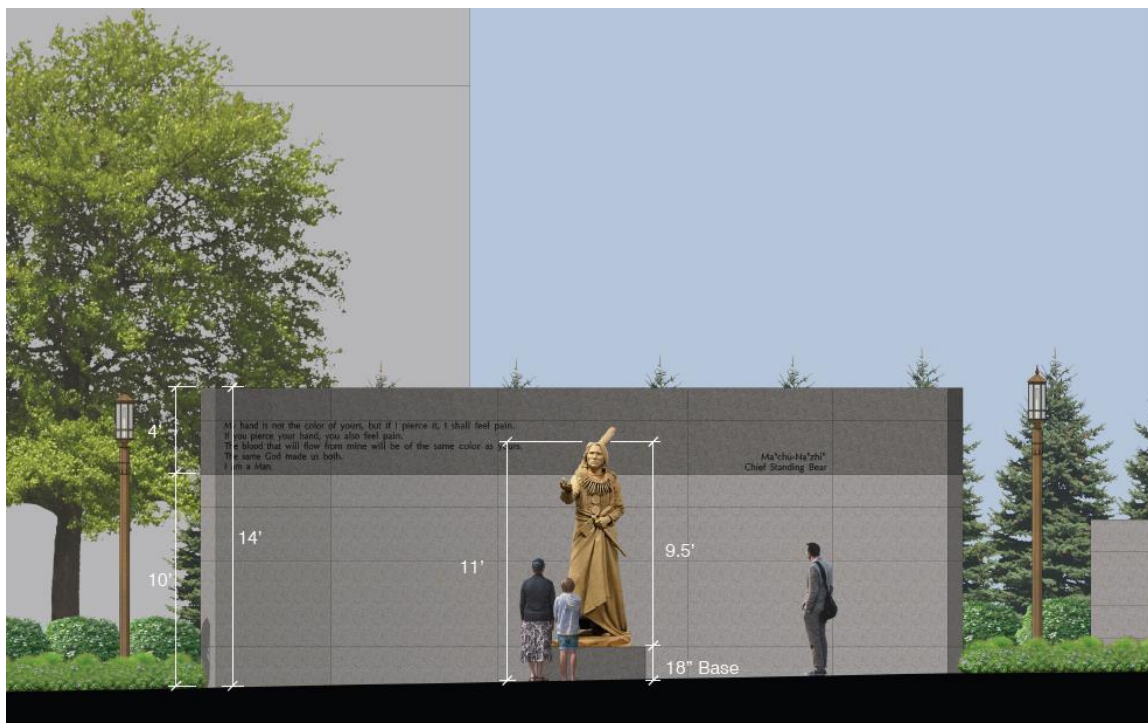
Addressing first the artist and the artwork, Ben Victor is a nationally recognized artist with two pieces on permanent display in Statuary Hall of the U. S. Capitol. He has passion for and deep appreciation of Standing Bear's significance, which his model for the Standing Bear bronze fully reflects, along with the mature talent of this American figural sculptor.

Ponca Chief Standing Bear is a historic figure of wide, enduring and even increasing scholarly and popular interest. His Nebraska significance is reflected in his enrollment in the Nebraska Hall of Fame. His national or international significance is demonstrated by continued publication of widely distributed books and documentaries on his life and 1879 legal victory.

Recommended finding (1): Victor's sculpture portraying Ponca Chief Standing Bear, when executed at monumental scale in bronze, meets Design Standards 3 and 4 for monumental, memorial art works on Centennial Mall. Furthermore, it is proposed to be located in a sculpture niche included in the Centennial Mall master plan (and construction) for just such a work, as called for in Guidelines 4.3 and 22.6.

Recommended action (1): Approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness for the sculpture.

The Commission has already approved the general plan for modifications to the sculpture niche to accommodate the Standing Bear sculpture. Some further refinement have been developed, based on more knowledge of the actual piece. (Please note that the sculpture in bronze will not be as light-colored as the photos based on the clay model.)



CENTENNIAL MALL
Chief Standing Bear



14 Foot Tall Wall with 18 Inch Base

As previously proposed and approved, the existing ten-foot concrete wall will be topped with a 4' band of dark granite. The sculpture as developing has a bronze "self-base" which adds several inches beneath the figure's feet. The granite pedestal is wider than previously envisioned, to accommodate the actual width of the figure and self-base.

The inscriptions are planned to be inscribed into the granite. Judi gaiashkibos of the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs and her advisors have reached a strong recommendation that the inscription be the familiar and widely published statement:

*My hand is not the color of yours, but if I pierce it, I shall feel pain.
If you pierce your hand, you also feel pain.
The blood that will flow from mine will be of the same color as yours.
The same God made us both.
I am a Man.*

For legibility, the recommendation is for letter height of 4", as well as for organizing the inscription into discrete sentences. At the north (right) side of the figure, in the same spelling as reviewed by tribal authorities and cast into the bronze plaque in the Spirit of Nebraska Pathway, would be inscribed:

Ma'chú-Na'zhí'
Chief Standing Bear

Lighting for the installation will be designed and proposed to the Commission in the coming months. Completing and dedication is scheduled for mid-September.

Recommended finding (2): The proposed modifications meet the Design Standards for high quality design and materials, and implement a key feature of the approved Centennial Mall master plan.

Recommended action (2) Approval of a certificate of appropriateness.

Item 3: “Stealth” antennae installation, bell tower of former Trinity United Methodist Church

Representatives of T-Mobile have approached the owners of the former Trinity Church at 16th & A Streets about installing wireless communication antennae in the bell tower of the church. All of the associated cabling and equipment would be located installed with the building, while the antennae would be painted black and installed in the voids of the “mullion-screens” on all four sides of the tower’s openings (three per side).

Below are photo-simulations of the proposal.

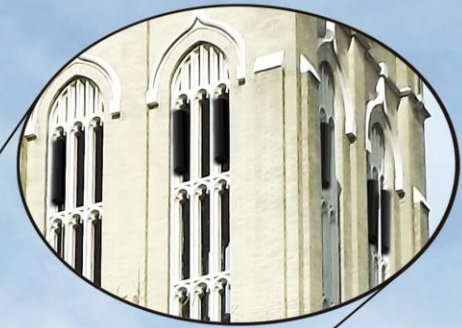




T-Mobile

Site No: ON03032
Iglesia De Dios
Lincoln, NE

8900 West 109th St., Suite 300
Overland Park, Kansas 66210
913 438 7700



The general Design Standard applicable to this location is Design Standard 2: Proximity, which notes that improvements in areas *“not facing the {Capitol} Square or the Malls shall not intrude upon the Capitol’s setting and shall contribute to the overall quality of the District.”* In addition, Guideline 16.1 on Goodhue Blvd. notes *“Although not directly facing the Mall, there are two historic structures listed on the National Register (NR) of Historic Places or designated as Lincoln Landmarks (LL), including Trinity United Methodist Church (LL, 1600 A St.)....which impact the District and should be preserved and maintained.”*

In terms of the Proximity standard, the proposed addition of antennae will not intrude on the Capitol’s setting. The question becomes how much of a visual impact does the proposal have on the designate landmark and hence upon *“the overall quality of the District.”* The specific preservation standards for the landmark advise: *“Exterior electrical, television and telephone cables should be installed in places where they will be visually unobtrusive. Television antennae and mechanical equipment such as air conditioners and solar panels should be placed in as inconspicuous a location as possible. The installation of such equipment shall not adversely affect the principal elevations.”*

To the observant viewer, the antennae will be somewhat visible as an interruption to the regularity of the openings in the bell tower. However, that interruption is also subtle enough that an observant viewer could conclude that the antennae have been added in a careful and thoughtful manner. The church will benefit by the monthly rent, assisting in the up-keep of the landmark, and the overall quality of the district will not be harmed by addition of more conspicuous antennae on a freestanding tower or other tall addition in the vicinity.

With designated landmarks within the Environs District, the Commission has the option of delegating review to the Historic Preservation Commission, or acting upon a proposal yourselves. Staff recommends that the Environ Commission consider the following actions:

Proposed finding: **Addition of the proposed antennae in the Trinity Church bell tower, in the manner illustrated and with careful attention to not harming the historic fabric of the bell tower, meets the District and Landmark Standards.**

Proposed action: **Approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness.**

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