

Boards & Commissions

Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission Agenda

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission will hold a meeting on **Tuesday, November 13, 2018**. The meeting will convene at 10:30 a.m. in Hearing Room 1524 at the Nebraska State Capitol, 15th & "K" Streets, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Note: The Commission will meet with the Nebraska Capitol Commission for the two groups' [annual joint meeting](#) at 10:00 a.m. in Hearing Room 1507 of the Nebraska State Capitol.

For more information, please contact the Lincoln City/Lancaster County Planning Department at 402-441-7491.

AGENDA

NOVEMBER 13, 2018

1. Approval of meeting record of [October 25, 2018](#).

* [Memo from Ed Zimmer](#)

DISCUSSION & ACTION

2. Certificate of Appropriateness for work at the Lincoln Children's Museum, 1420 O Street.

MISCELLANEOUS

3. First draft of [2018 annual report](#), etc.

To: **Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission**

From: Ed Zimmer

Re: Agenda of November 13, 2018

Date: November 7, 2018

Item 2: Improvements to Lincoln Children's Museum (outdoor area adjacent Centennial Mall)

As the Commission members are aware, the Lincoln Children's Museum (LCM) on P Street has been studying needed improvements to the area immediately adjacent Centennial Mall, which is currently a surface parking lot. That lot is actually the (leaky) roof above a basement storage area. Plans will include

- removing most of the parking in order to permanently repair the roof/deck, thereby creating useable program and storage space on the lower level;
- installing a permanent, attractive perimeter to the outdoor area of screening, fencing, and a small structure at the corner enclosing an exit stair from the basement program space;
- designing and installing a play area/outdoor program space within that perimeter.

LCM representatives will present for Commission approval the designs for the repairs and permanent fencing/screening. While most of the surface parking will be eliminated, the Design Standard for screening of parking lots is relevant for this open space adjacent Centennial Mall.

Design Standard 5: Parking Lots

Surface parking facing the Capitol Square or one of the Malls is inconsistent with the long-term goals of the Commission. Where such use currently exists, it is desirable to improve these properties by installing permanent, high-quality decorative fences, walls, or hedges at the defined "built-to" line, with due consideration for security and screening.

LCM will also present a proposal and preferred designer for the play structure they wish to have designed and installed, seeking conceptual approval and general parameters as they commence the fundraising and design process. While the proposal will be for a playground, a relevant perspective within the Commission's design standards might be to view it similarly to the standard for public art.

Design Standard 4: Public Art

Public art can enliven an urban environment, enrich pedestrian experience, and stimulate interaction between artist and viewer. In the District, public art, like all other improvements, is subordinate to the overall purpose of enhancing the Capitol. 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.

Guideline 4.1:

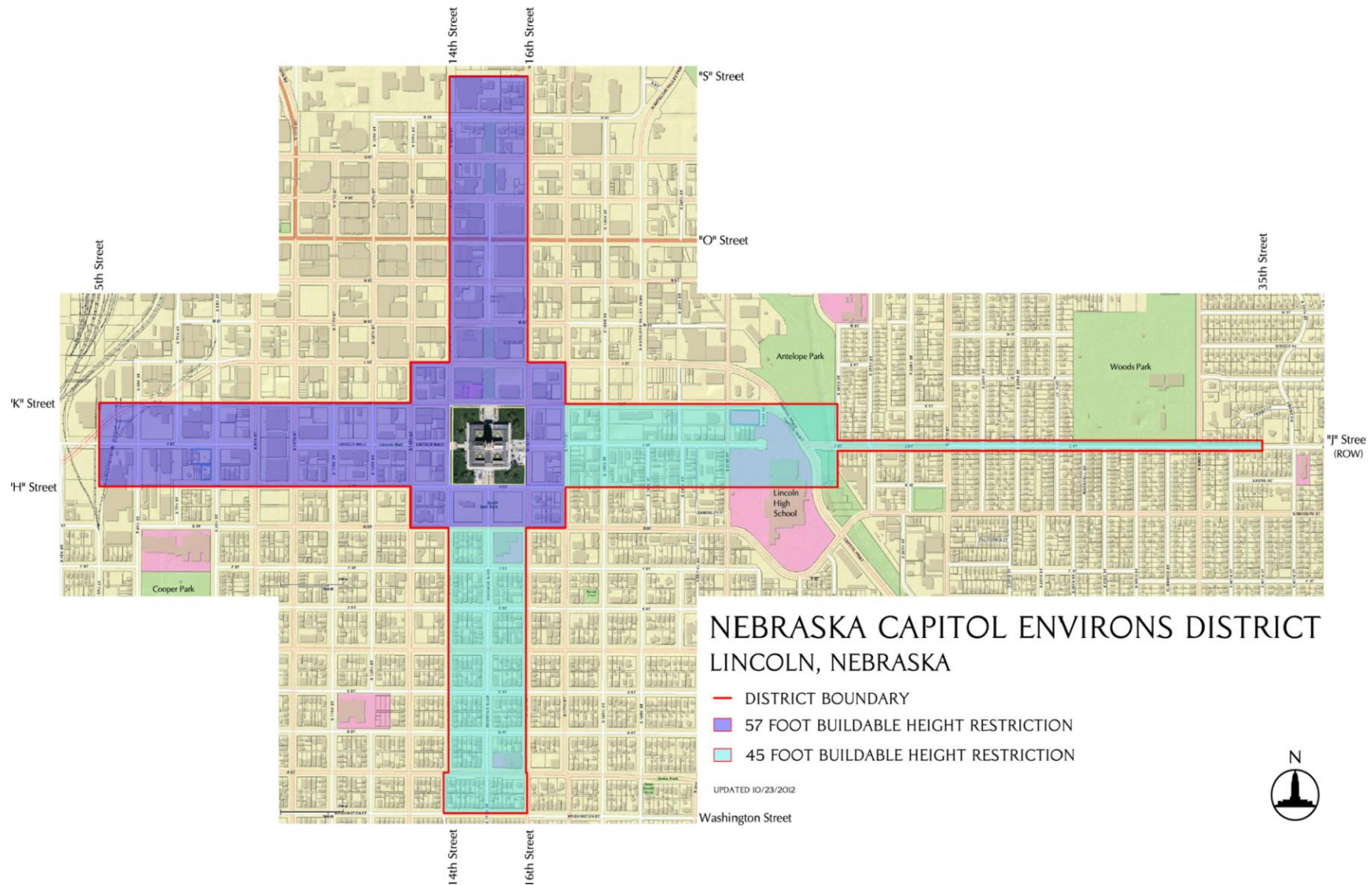
Proposals for placement of public art in the District should consider and describe the relationship of proposed works to their immediate surroundings and to the Capitol.

Item 3: Draft for 2018 Annual Report

As usual, I will present a draft annual report at the Joint meeting with the Capitol Commission. We complete the report early in the new year to include November and December activities. I would appreciate any feedback from the Commission prior to that final draft.

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Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission - *Annual Report 2018*



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

In 2018 Commissioner Christine Dionisopoulos and her family moved from Lincoln and Kile Johnson, JD, was appointed by the Mayor in her place. Otherwise membership remained unchanged with Jeff Searcy continuing as chair, and Commissioners Mary Campbell, Gene Crump, Karen Nalow, Ann Post and John Sinclair. The seven appointed citizen members are assisted by three *ex officio* members—Bob Ripley

of the Office of the Capitol Commission (for the State of Nebraska), the director of Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department (David Cary), and Lynn Johnson (director of Lincoln Parks & Recreation Department). Staffing is provided by the Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department, including planners Stacey Groshong Hageman and Ed Zimmer and administrative assistant Teresa McKinstry.

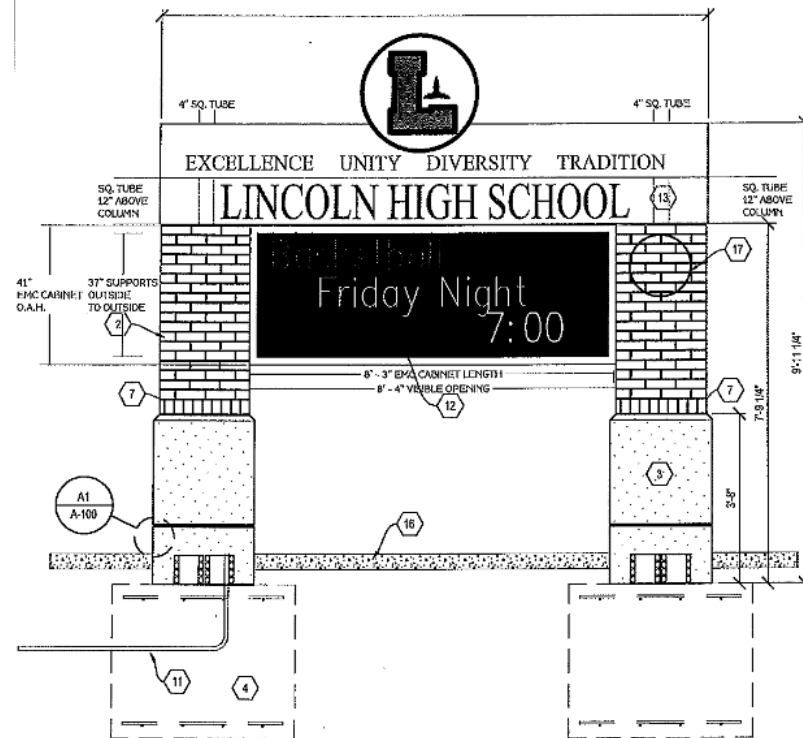
The Commission is required to meet at least quarterly by Section 27.56.060 of the Lincoln Municipal Code. The Commission will meet for the 7th time in 2018 on November 13th.

Project Reviews

The Commission reviewed several projects in the Environs District's in 2018.

In April, the Commission approved a monument sign with an electronic message board for the Capitol Parkway frontage of Lincoln High School. The sign has since been installed.

*Design for Lincoln High School
sign on Capitol Parkway at J St.*



Work has begun on a major renovation of the University Lutheran Chapel, which the Commission reviewed and endorsed in April. Especially significant is the project's strengthening of the connection between the Chapel and Centennial Mall, along with creating more accessible and visually welcoming street facades on both Q and North 16th Streets.

Over the summer, the Commission reviewed plans for improvements to the Capitol Square entrance and the setting of the 501 Data Center at the southwest corner of 14th & K. The project received careful scrutiny due to its especially sensitive location on Capitol Square, and received the full endorsement of the Commission in August.

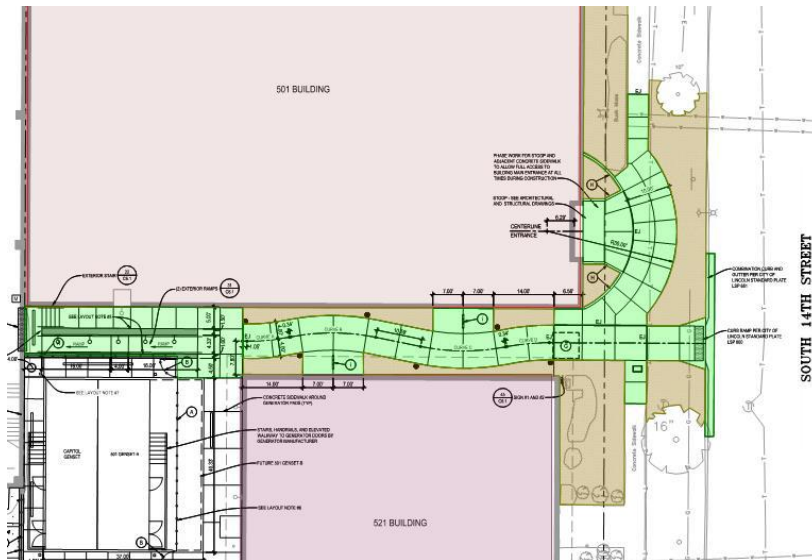


Photo-simulation of view across Centennial Mall to new west entrance to University Lutheran Chapel

Site plan for improvements at 501 Data Center, 14th & K Streets

Chief Standing Bear monument on Nebraska's Centennial Mall (and Beyond)

The Chief Standing Bear monument, installed on Centennial Mall in 2017, has received increased acclaim in 2018. A second casting of the sculpture by Ben Victor was installed at the Ponca Headquarters in 2018. After the passage of LB807 in the 2018 session, a third and final casting is being created and will be placed in Statuary Hall in the U. S. Capitol to replace the William Jennings Bryan statue displayed since 1939.



Location offered by City of Lincoln for Bryan statue.



The

Commission reviewed and endorsed a conceptual proposal from the City of Lincoln to provide a location on Centennial Mall for the permanent display of the Bryan statue after its return to Nebraska. The suggested site is on the L-M block opposite the Nebraska State Office Building, overlooking the map of Nebraska created in the pavement of the central plaza of that block.

----- November 2018
Ed Zimmer, Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department

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