

Boards & Commissions

Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission Agenda

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission will hold a meeting on **Thursday, February 28, 2019 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

FEBRUARY 28, 2019

1. Approval of meeting record of [November 13, 2018](#).

* [Memo from Ed Zimmer](#)

DISCUSSION & ACTION

2. Certificate of Appropriateness for work at the [Farmer's Mutual Insurance Company Buildings](#), 501 South 13th Street and 1220 Lincoln Mall in the Capitol Environs District.

MISCELLANEOUS

3. Conversation with Tonya Ford regarding the concept of locating a Workers Memorial on Lincoln Mall in the Capitol Environs District.
4. [2018 Annual Report](#).
5. [Miscellaneous/staff report](#).

To: **Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission**
From: Ed Zimmer
Re: Agenda of February 28, 2019
Date: February 22, 2019

Item 2: Skywalk link between Farmers Mutual Corporate Headquarters and 1220 Lincoln Mall

Farmers Mutual Insurance Company has grown to need office space in addition to that available in their Corporate Headquarters at 501 South 13th Street. To attain that space in their adjacent former headquarters building (1220 Lincoln Mall), they have engaged Davis Design to study and to design a solution.

To create an efficient, unified work environment on their campus, they propose to occupy the third (top) floor of the 1220 Building, linked directly to the Headquarters by a skywalk. There is a floor elevation disparity between the buildings which would be accommodated by both stair and a lift in the skywalk.

Davis Design has provided plans and photo-simulation renderings to illustrate the before-and-after appearance of the proposal. The materials and appearance of the skywalk are largely drawn from features of the 1220 Building, which seem more apt for this “bridging” function than the more monumental qualities of the Headquarters.

The District Design Guidelines do not specifically address skywalks do address both new buildings and renovations:

Design Standard 9: Facades

New buildings in the District should be designed to enhance the setting of the Capitol and their immediate surroundings. When those surroundings have a high degree of cohesiveness, new designs should be compatible with their setting, strengthening the visual relationships found among existing buildings and landscape features. In areas that lack cohesion, designs should be proposed that offer themes and patterns that can be further expanded in future development.

Brick, stone, or other richly textured, highly durable masonry is desirable for building exteriors on Capitol Square, Centennial Mall, and Lincoln Mall. Permanence should be an overriding characteristic in the choice of exterior materials. Colors should be drawn from a muted palette of warm, earth tones or shades of white, with the context of surrounding buildings as a guide.

In the rehabilitation of existing buildings, retention of high quality materials and use of new, durable, and high quality materials is also desirable.

One of the specific guidelines under Standard 9 might also be regarded as relevant:

Guideline 9.10:

On Centennial and Lincoln Malls, balconies, terraces, and other indoor/outdoor elements should be set back from the main plane/built-to line of the mall facade.

The proposal is not intrusive on the Lincoln Mall facades of either the 501 or 1220 buildings. The materials

and design features are “compatible with their setting, strengthening the visual relationships found among existing buildings.”

Staff is very comfortable recommending that the Commission make a finding of conformance with the Design Standards and approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness for the proposal.

Item 3: Discussion of concept of locating a Workers Memorial on Lincoln Mall

Tonya Ford has requested an opportunity to discuss with the Commission the idea of locating a memorial for Nebraska workers who have died “on the job.” She does not have a specific design proposal at this time but wishes to explore the concept.

Design Standards that might be relevant to the discussion &/or to future specific reviews include Standards 3 (Memorials and Monuments) and 4 (Public Art).

Design Standard 3: Memorials and Monuments

Installation of monuments and memorials shall be based on the symbolic program established at the Capitol. Capitol Square is considered a complete and finished design, and therefore no memorials shall be added to the Capitol grounds. The Capitol itself is a memorial and has integral memorial spaces (the Nebraska Hall of Fame and Memorial Hall). Memorials may be considered for addition to the Malls, within their overall design guidelines, assigning memorials of statewide or national significance to Centennial Mall, and individual memorials to the other malls.

Guideline 3.1:

Addition of memorials and monuments facing Capitol Square (not on the Capitol grounds) and on the Malls 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.

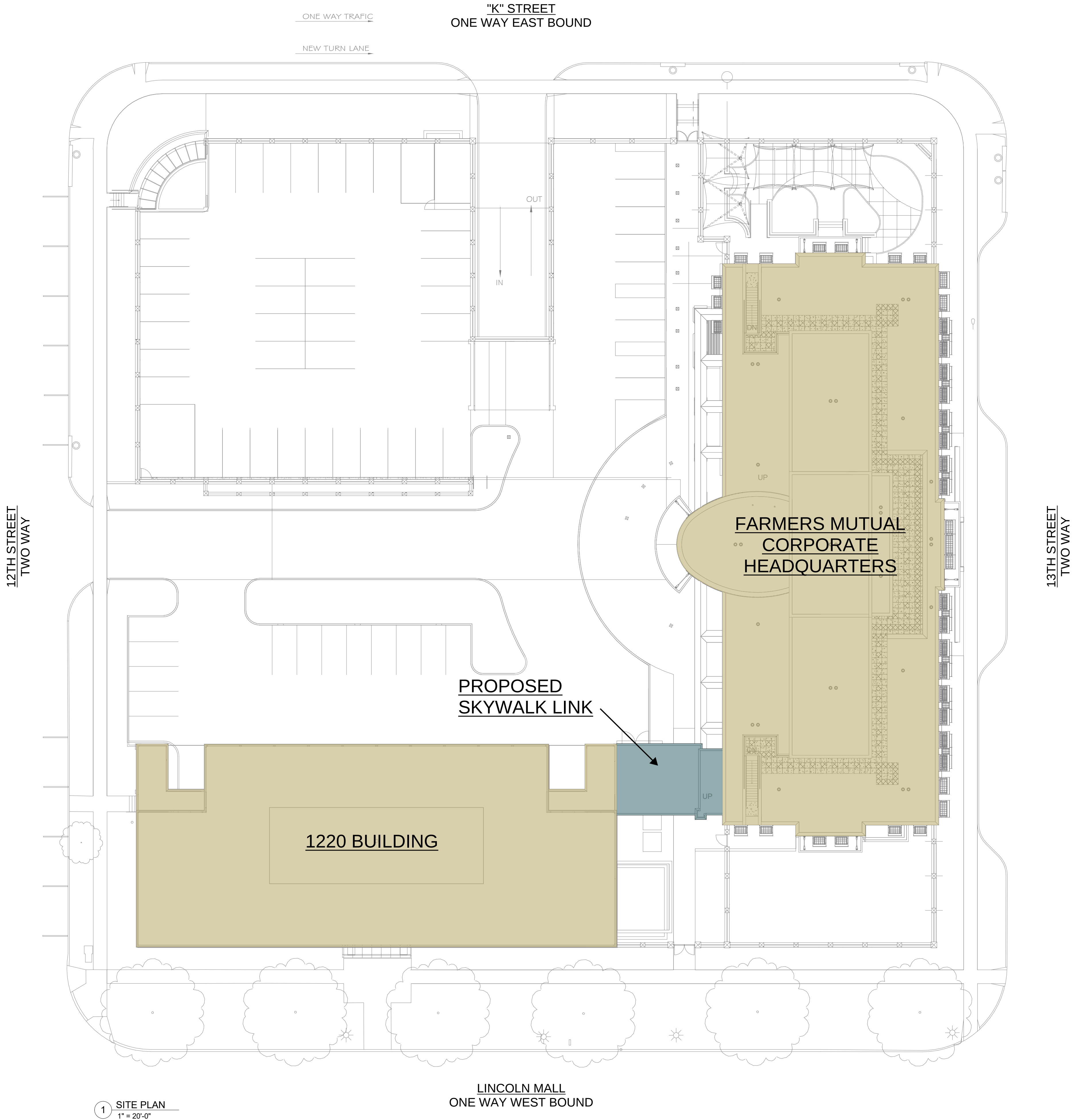
Design Standard 4: Public Art

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.

1220 Building, 1221 N Street, Suite 600
Lincoln, NE 68508
Phone: 402-476-9700
Fax: 402-476-9722



1 SITE PLAN
1" = 20'-0"

davis design

Lincoln
1221 N Street, Suite 600
Lincoln NE 68508
Phone 402-476-9700
Fax 402-476-9722

Vermillion
15 East Main, Suite 201
Vermillion SD 57069
Phone 605-624-1081



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making ideal happen



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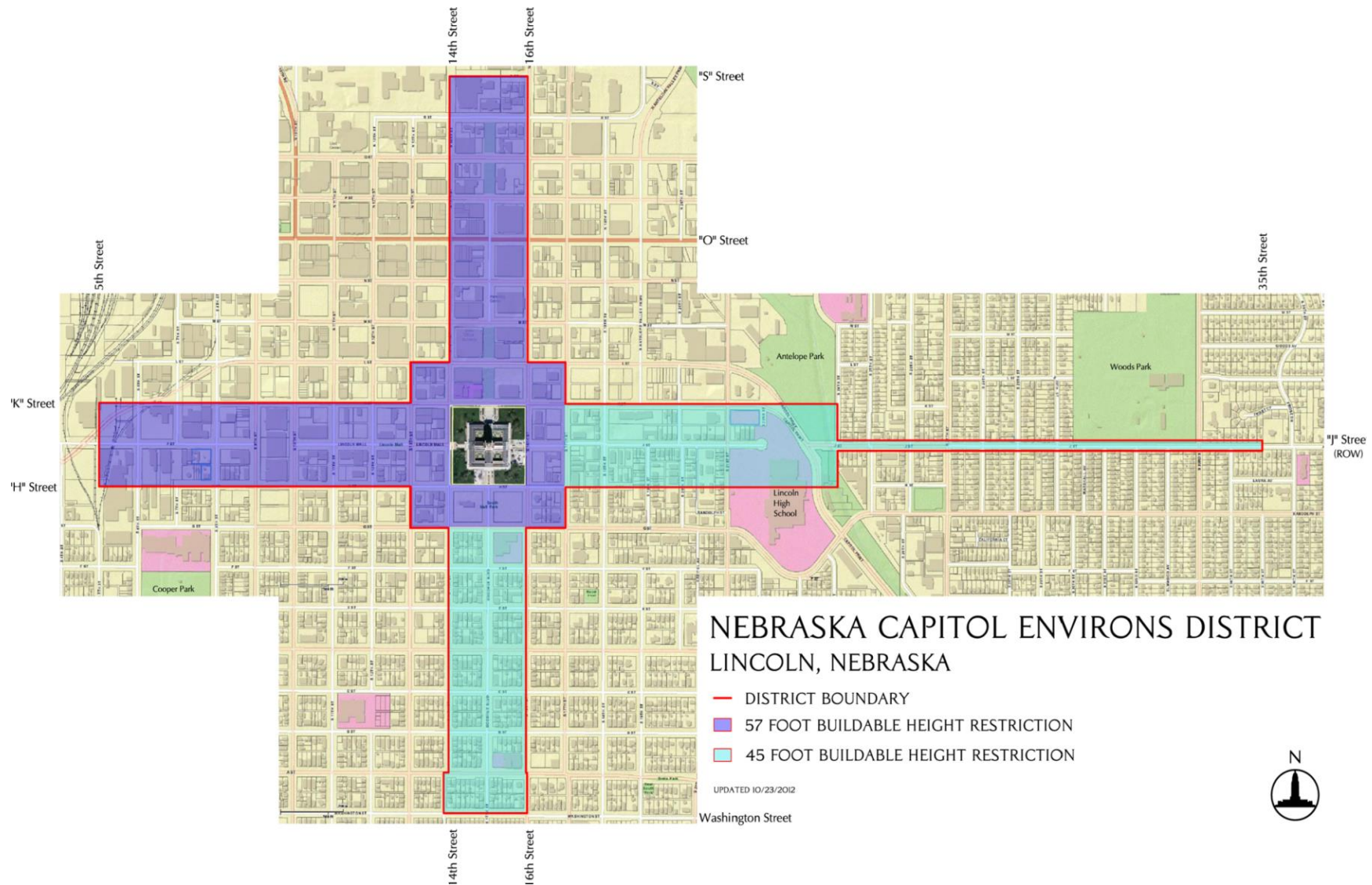


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farmers mutual
of nebraska

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.

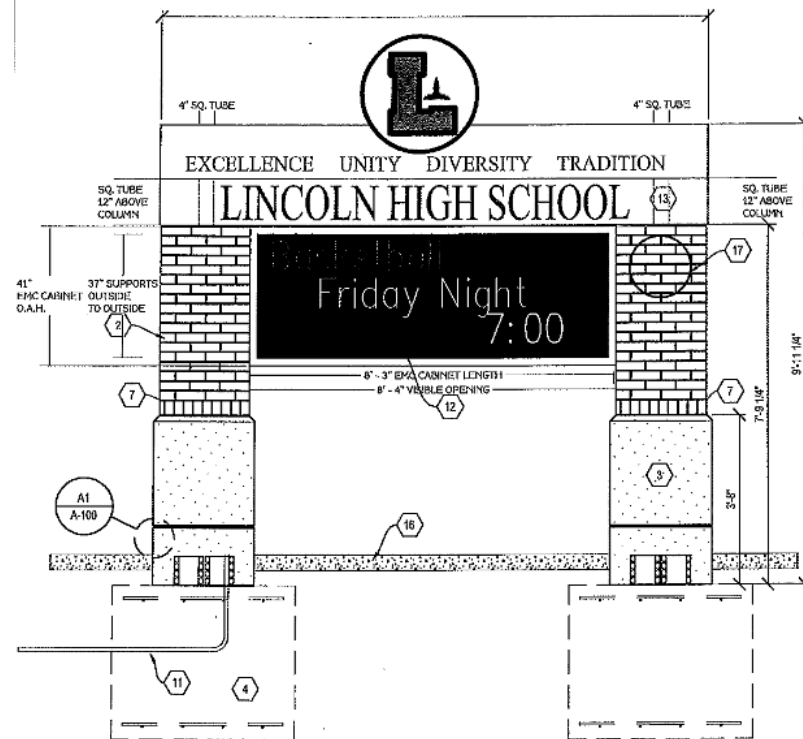
The Commission is required to meet at least quarterly by Section 27.56.060 of the Lincoln Municipal Code. The Commission will met seven times in 2018.

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.

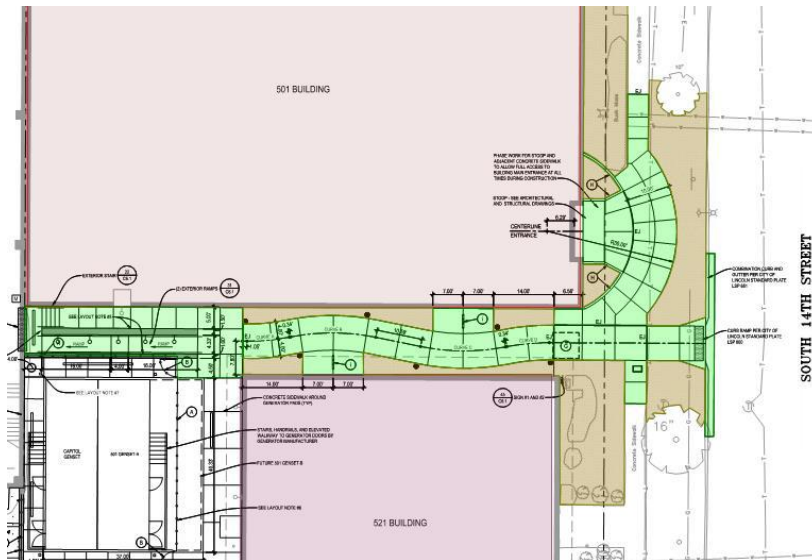


Photo-simulation of view across Centennial Mall to new west entrance to University Lutheran Chapel

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 has been 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.

A. Eugene Crump
Attorney at Law, Ret
Sarasota , FL

February 14, 2019

The Honorable Mayor Chris Beutler,

I regret to inform you that I must resign from the Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission effective when you can find a replacement for my position.

My life has taken me to Florida to start my retirement activities and will not allow me to serve on the Commission as an active Commissioner.

I have had a remarkable time on the Commission and will miss the Commissioners, the staff, and our extraordinary Chairman, Commissioner Searcy.

The work of the Commission protecting and preserving the area surrounding the Nebraska Sate Capitol has been a singular bright spot in my involvement with Nebraska State government and for a time, my home in Lincoln Nebraska.

I treasured the opportunity you presented to me when I started to work with my fellow Commissioners.

Thank you for your faith in me to serve you, the City of Lincoln, and the Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission.

Gene Crump

xc: Jeff Searcy
 Teresa McKinstry
 Ed Zimmer
 Bob Ripley