



NEBRASKA CAPITOL ENVIRONS COMMISSION

The Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission will hold a meeting on **Friday, February 26, 2021**. The meeting will convene at **8:00 a.m.** in the **City Council Chambers**, Hearing Room 112 on the 1st Floor of the County/City Building, 555 S. 10th Street (10th & "K" Streets), Lincoln, Nebraska.

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

AGENDA

February 26, 2021

1. Approval of meeting record of [November 20, 2020](#) and [January 29, 2021](#)

Public Hearing & Action

2. [Placement of an inscribed plaque](#) along the Spirit of Nebraska Pathway. (*Lincoln Parks & Recreation; UDR21001*)
3. [Placement of a pedestal and plaque](#) to be located on the south side of 1526 K Street, highlighting the history of "The Protecting Hand" sculpture. (Department of Administrative Service and State Building Division for the State of Nebraska; *UDR21013*)

Discussion

4. [2020 Annual Report](#)
5. Lincoln Mall design standards for monuments and memorials
6. [Miscellaneous](#) & staff report: copy of [Certificate of No Material Effect](#), etc.

Accommodation Notice

The City of Lincoln complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 guidelines. Ensuring the public's access to and participation in public meetings is a priority for the City of Lincoln. In the event you are in need of a reasonable accommodation in order to attend or participate in a public meeting conducted by the City of Lincoln, please contact the Director of Equity and Diversity, Lincoln Commission on Human Rights, at 402-441-7624 as soon as possible before the scheduled meeting date in order to make your request.

To: **Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission**
From: Collin Christopher
Re: Agenda for February 26, 2021
Date: February 18, 2021

Item 2: Inscribed plaque along the Spirit of Nebraska Pathway

A plaque inscription along Centennial Mall's Spirit of Nebraska Pathway is being proposed that will honor Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte. It is expected to be located toward the middle of the L to M block of Centennial Mall, along the east side. The proposed text will read as follows:

Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte

Daughter of the last formal chief of the Omaha Tribe, Susan graduated in 1889 becoming the first Native American doctor in the U.S. and raised funds to build a hospital in Walthill, NE in 1913.

In addition to the plaque inscription, there is a proposal for the addition of a portrait sculpture of Dr. La Flesche Picotte that would be located behind the walkway on the east side of the same block of Centennial Mall. Lincoln Parks and Recreation is in the process of investigating underground utilities in the area so that the proper backdrop for the sculpture can be designed. For a more complete description of Dr. La Flesche Picotte and the sculpture proposal intended to honor her, please see the attached memo provided by Lincoln Parks and Recreation Director Lynn Johnson. It is expected that this sculpture proposal will come back before the Commission in the coming months to request a Certificate of Appropriateness.

While the plaque and the sculpture are clearly related in their effort to honor Dr. La Flesche Picotte on Centennial Mall, it is staff's opinion that they can be considered for Certificates of Appropriateness independent of one another. Approval of the plaque inscription, which is what is in front of the Commission this month, is not dependent on approval of the sculpture.

Recommended Finding: Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte's place in Nebraska's history is significant, and a plaque honoring her is wholly appropriate for the Spirit of Nebraska Pathway, and specifically on the L to M Street Block, whose theme is "Our Home Nebraska."

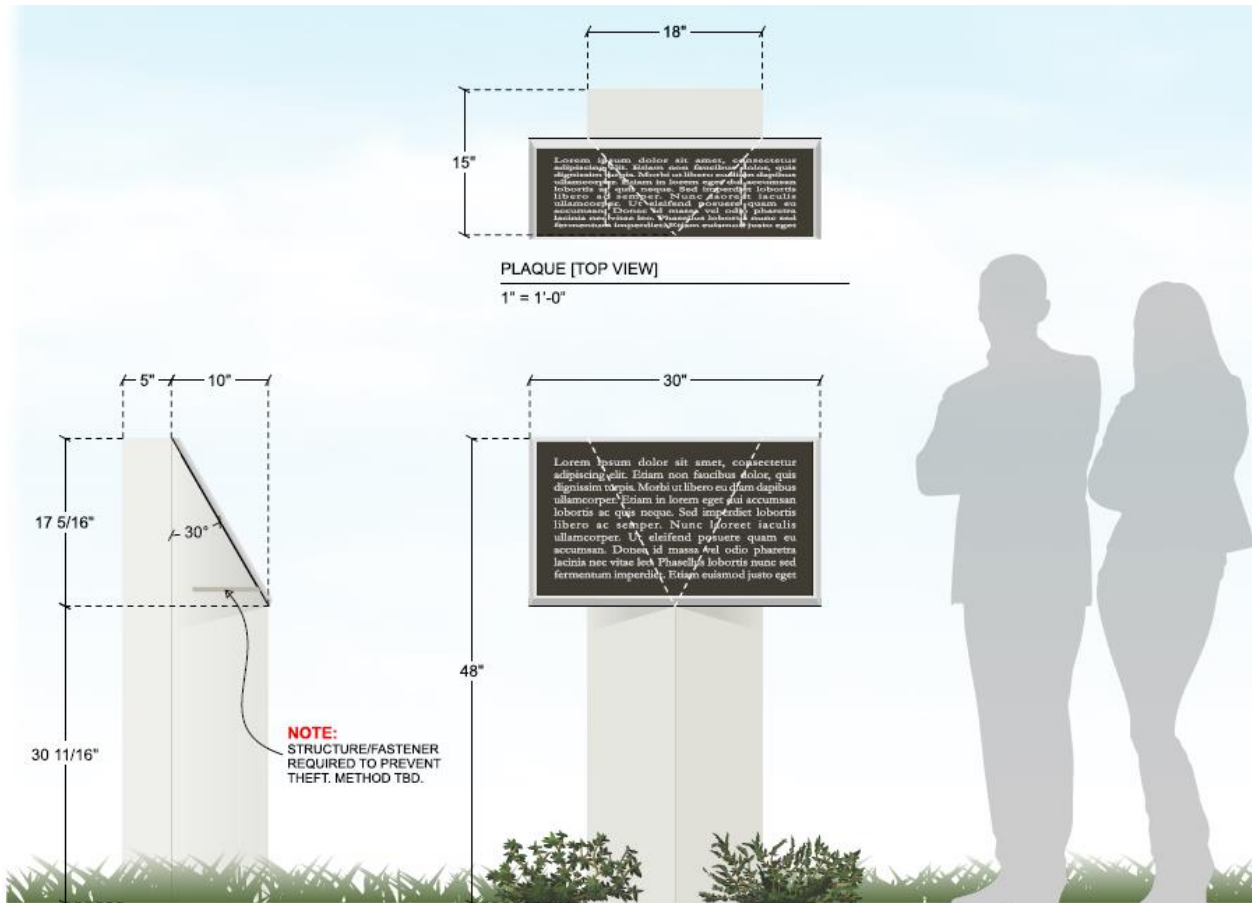
Recommended Action: Approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness for the proposed plaque inscription honoring Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte.

Item 3: Plaque along south end of 1526 K Street (Woodmen Accident and Life Company building)

The Department of Administrative Service (DAS) and State Building Division (SBD) for the State of Nebraska is proposing the addition of an informational plaque within the Capitol Environs District, to be located south of the former Woodmen Accident and Life Company building at 1526 K Street. The

building, which the State of Nebraska purchased from Assurity in 2007, is the home of “The Protecting Hand” sculpture. Located on the building’s south façade above its entrance, the sculpture by artist Lawrence Tenney Stevens is made of Indiana limestone and weighs approximately 200 tons. It was completed and dedicated in 1955.

The proposed plaque, which can be seen below, will feature information about the sculpture and its history. The plaque’s pedestal base will be made of limestone, while the plaque itself will be constructed of cast aluminum with a duranodic bronze background finish.



The image above shows plan and elevation views of the proposed plaque and its limestone pedestal base.

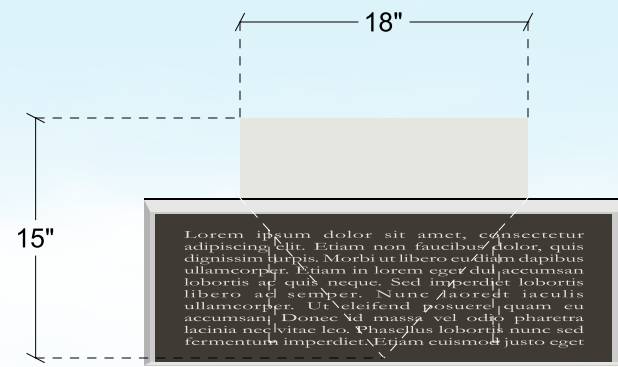
Recommended Finding: *The plaque, the materials being used to construct it, and the intent behind its addition to the site all align with the Capitol Environs Design Standards.*

Recommended Action: *Approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness for the proposed plaque related to “The Protecting Hand” sculpture.*

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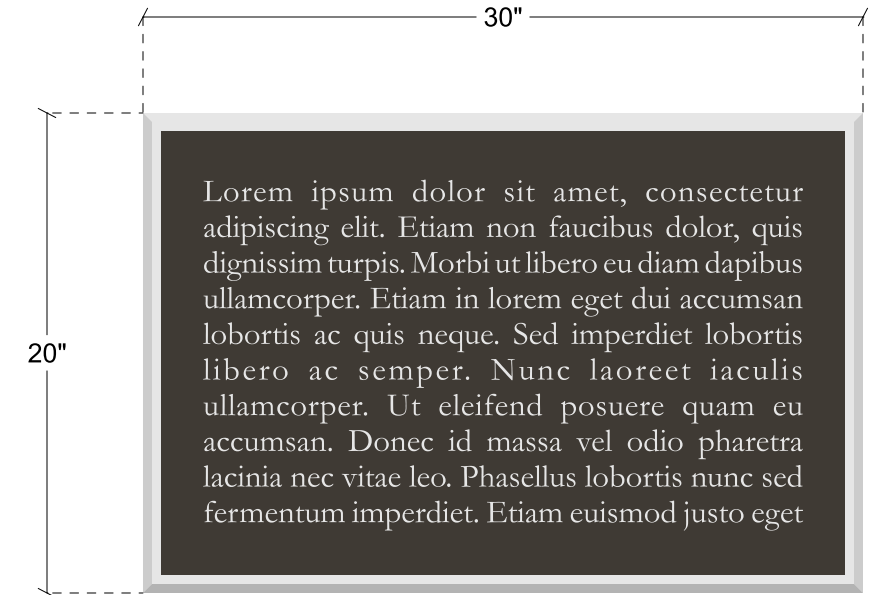
Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte

Daughter of the last formal chief of the Omaha Tribe, Susan graduated in 1889 becoming the first Native American doctor in the U.S. and raised funds to build a hospital in Walthill, NE in 1913.



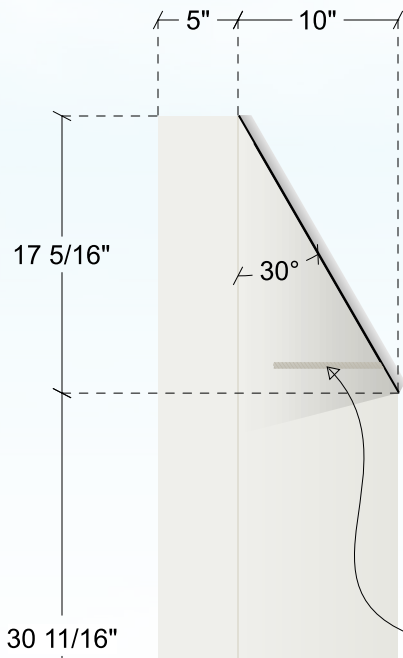
PLAQUE [TOP VIEW]

1" = 1'-0"



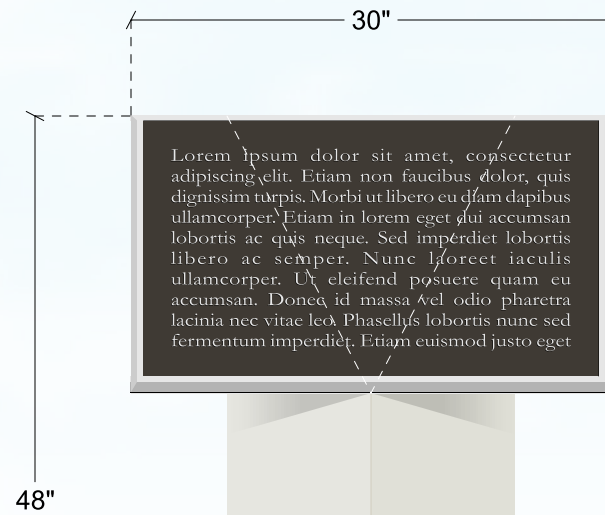
PLAQUE [TRUE FRONT]

1-1/2" = 1'-0"



PLAQUE [SIDE VIEW]

1" = 1'-0"



PLAQUE [FRONT VIEW]

1" = 1'-0"

NOTE:
STRUCTURE/FASTENER
REQUIRED TO PREVENT
THEFT. METHOD TBD.

.75" CAST ALUM PLAQUE
SINGLE LINE BEVEL
DURANODIC BRONZE 3130 BACKGROUND
STIPPLE TEXTURE
SATIN BRUSHED FINISH
BLIND STUD MOUNT TO LIMESTONE BASE
VERBIAGE TBD

[back to top](#)



1140 North 21st Street PH. (402) 476-6563
Lincoln, Nebraska 68503 FAX (402) 476-3461

CLIENT Assurity
PROJECT History Plaque
ADDRESS 2000 Q St, Lincoln, NE 68503

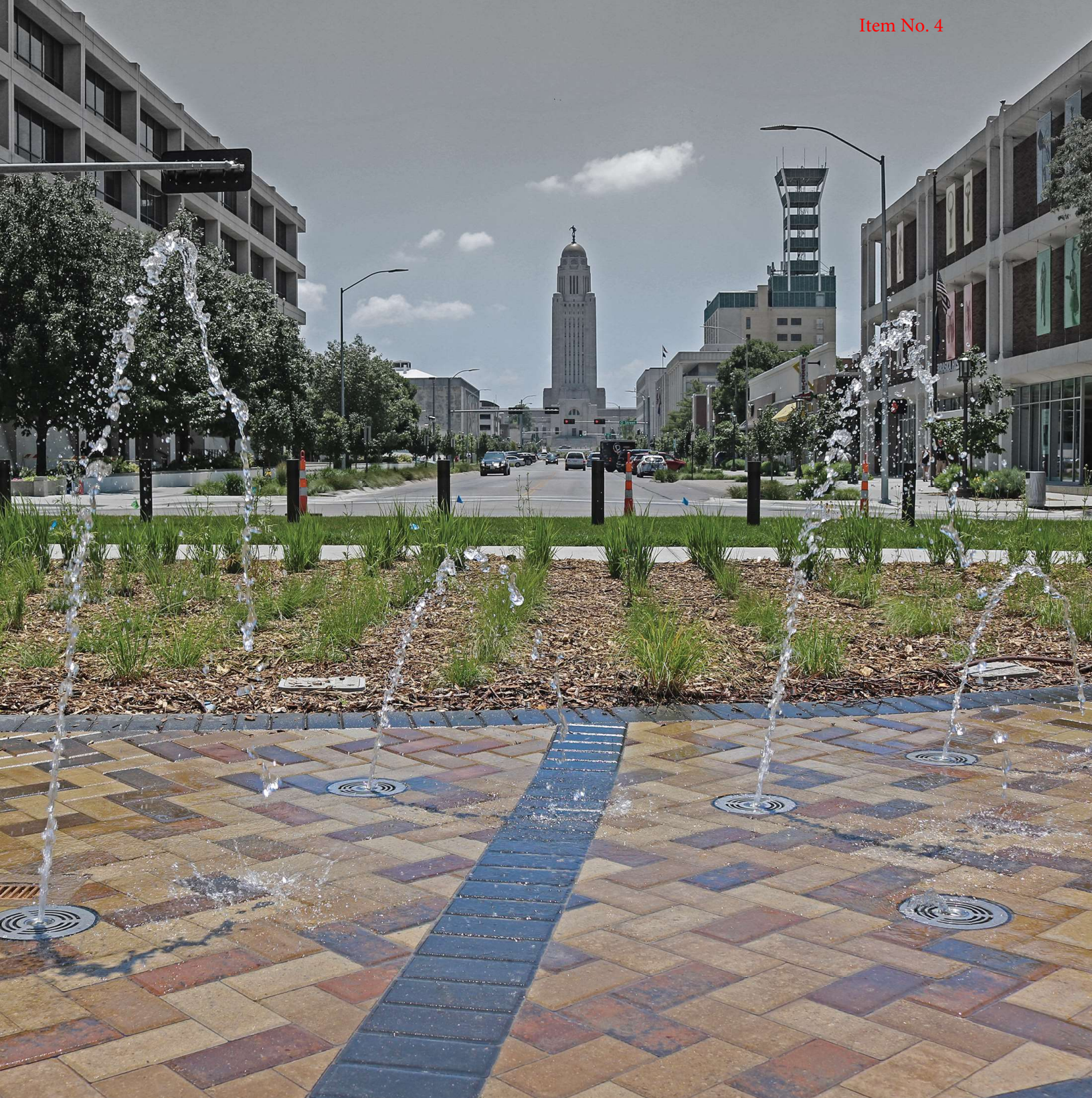
DWG # DC7375_v02
SCALE Noted
SALES Ryan Haffey
DESIGN Deanna Cheney ¹⁷

DATE 01/20/21
REV v02 -01/21/21

This design and other design produced for this project are considered intent drawings. Some interpretation may be necessary. Colors are shown for reference only, and are subject to the limitations of the production process.
This design is provided to your company for the sole purpose of considering the purchase of a sign manufactured by Nebraska Sign Company. Unauthorized use, reproduction and/or display without written permission is expressly forbidden.

APPROVAL SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CLIENT

DATE OF APPROVAL



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

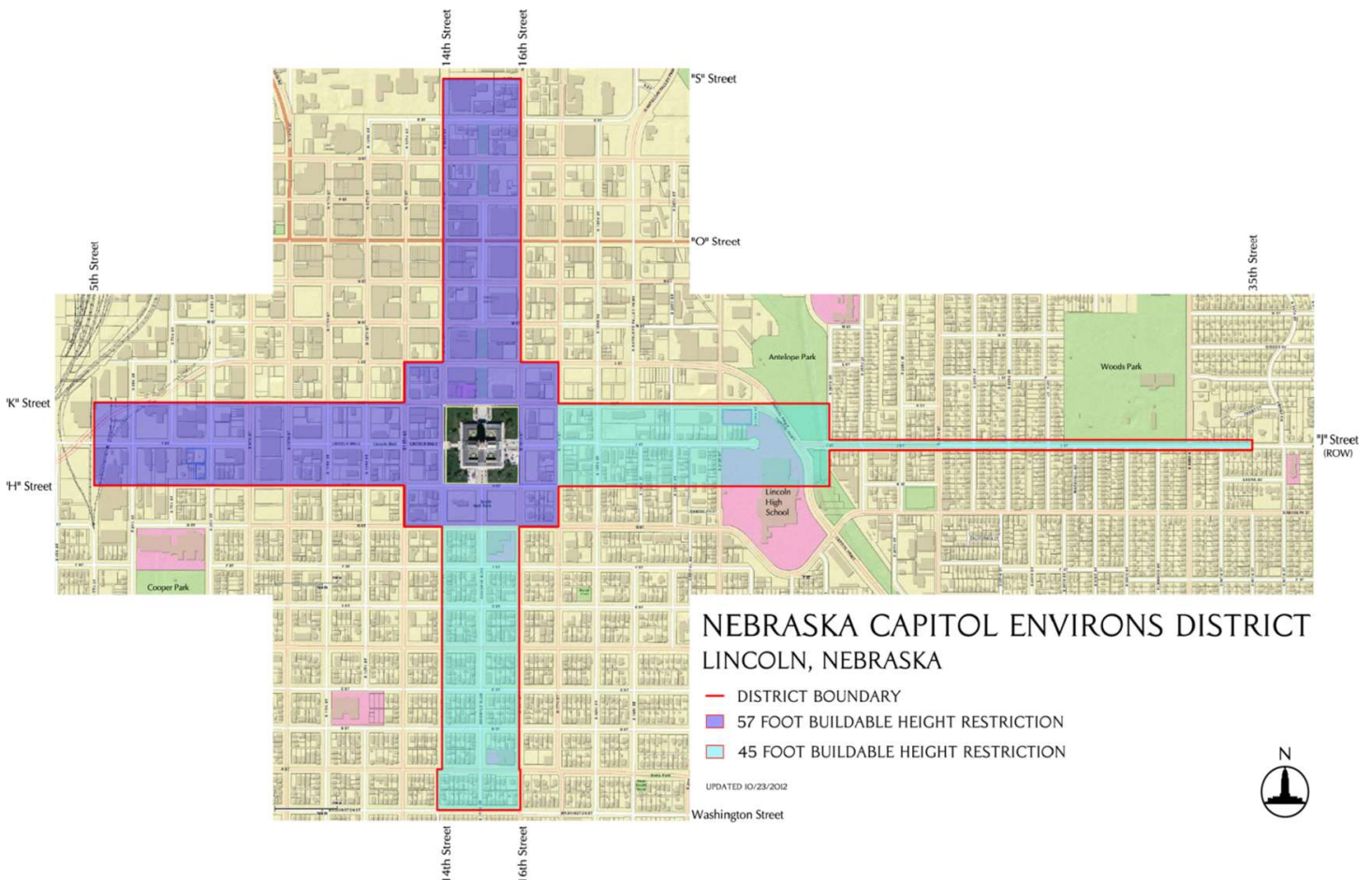
Director of the Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department or their designee
Director of Lincoln Parks and Recreation or their designee
Director of Nebraska Department of Administrative Services or their designee
Office of the Nebraska Capitol Commission's Capitol Administrator or their designee

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 or their designee (David Cary), the Director of Lincoln

Parks and Recreation or their designee (Lynn Johnson), the Director of Nebraska Department of Administrative Services or their designee (Doug Hanson - State Building Division Administrator), and the Office of the Nebraska Capitol Commission’s Capitol Administrator or their designee (Bob Ripley). 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 five 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.



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 approved 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 project directly aligns with Guideline 14.1 of the Design Standards, which states the Sky Park Manor "should be preserved and maintained."



AERIAL VIEW OF SKY PARK MANOR AT 1301 LINCOLN MALL

The Commission also got their first look at the Pershing block redevelopment project in November. As far back as 2014 when Pershing Center hosted its last concert, the block has been targeted as a key redevelopment opportunity for downtown. In 2018, it was identified as a catalyst project in the Downtown Master Plan. After receiving five redevelopment proposals in the spring of 2020, city officials awarded the project to White Lotus Group out of Omaha. The White Lotus team's vision for the block includes 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 key part in its implementation.



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

Memorandum

January 6, 2021

TO: Collin Christopher, Planning

FR: Lynn Johnson, Parks and Recreation

RE: Proposed portrait sculpture of Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte

The purpose of this memo is to request initial review by the Capitol Environs Commission of a proposed portrait sculpture of Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte for placement on Centennial Mall. Dr. La Flesche Picotte was member of the Omaha Tribe, and the first Native American woman in America to become a doctor. Dr. La Flesche Picotte raise funds to build a hospital in Walt Hill, NE to provide medical services to Native American and other Nebraskans.

Creation of the portrait sculpture will be funded through a generous private donation. Benjamin Victor, sculptor of "Standing Bear, Chief of the Ponca" that is placed on Centennial Mall, on Ponca Tribal Lands and in the National Sculpture Gallery has agreed to create the portrait sculpture of Dr. La Flesche Picotte.

The proposed placement of the sculpture is behind the walkway on the east side of Centennial Mall between L and M Streets. The location is across from the State Office Building and between the Scottish Rite building and a State parking garden. A backdrop for the sculpture is proposed, either an architectural wall similar the backdrop wall behind the Chief Standing Bear portrait sculpture or formal planting of columnar evergreen trees. Determination of the type of backdrop is dependent on the outcome of investigation of underground utilities in the area.



Artist's rendering of portrait sculpture of Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte.



Location proposed for placement of new portrait sculpture.

The proposal is to have the sculpture in place and ready for dedication on October 11, 2021, the first Indigenous People's Day in Nebraska.

I believe that placement of the proposed portrait sculpture of Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte is consistent with the guidelines for placement of public art on Centennial Mall:

- The proposed portrait sculpture recognizes Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte as a person of State and National significance as the first Native American doctor in America.
- Sculptor Benjamin Victor is recognized as a preeminent artist being the only person with three sculptures on display in the National Sculpture Gallery.
- The design theme of the L to M Street Block is "Our Home Nebraska" with the four Native American Tribes presently located in Nebraska being recognized there, including the Omaha Tribe. The work and accomplishments of Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte are part of the heritage of Nebraska.

