

MEETING NOTES

NAME OF GROUP: NEBRASKA CAPITOL ENVIRONS COMMISSION

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING: Thursday, April 27, 2017, 8:00 a.m., Conference Room 214, Lincoln, Nebraska.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Mary Campbell, Christie Dionisopoulos, Karen Nalow, Jeff Searcy and John Sinclair; (Gene Crump and Jon Weinberg absent).

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Ed Zimmer and Teresa McKinstry of the Planning Department; Robert Ripley and Matt Hansen from the Office of the Capitol Commission; Lynn Johnson and J.J. Yost of Parks and Recreation.

STATED PURPOSE OF MEETING: Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission Meeting

Chair Jeff Searcy called the meeting to order and acknowledged the posting of the Open Meetings Act in the room.

Searcy then called for a motion approving the minutes of the meeting held February 23, 2017. Motion for approval made by Campbell, seconded by Nalow and carried 5-0: Campbell, Dionisopoulos, Nalow, Searcy and Sinclair voting 'yes'; Crump and Weinberg absent.

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

PUBLIC HEARING: April 27, 2017

Members present: Campbell, Dionisopoulos, Nalow, Searcy and Sinclair; Crump and Weinberg absent.

Ed Zimmer stated that he looked closely at the guidelines and standards as to how this monument would fit. The guidelines do not specifically speak to artwork of national importance, but do recommend memorials of statewide or greater significance be integrated into Centennial Mall. Standing Bear as a historical figure is important not only to Nebraska, but the nation as well. Furthermore, Ben Victor as a sculptor has been recognized by placement of two of his works in the National Capitol and Zimmer suggests that his portrait of Standing Bear is in the top rank of the sculptor's work. The sculpture niche proposed as the location is part of the approved master plan of Centennial Mall. He believes the piece will be very appropriate for the space.

ACTION:

Sinclair moved approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness for the design of the setting—the modifications to the backdrop wall, niche and sculpture area, and inscription, seconded by Campbell.

Zimmer stated that the proposal today is similar to what was previously shown and given general approval to by this commission. The granite would be the same for the base and added top for the wall. The sculptor Ben Victor has produced a self-base that the statue stands on for added stability. The base height of 18 inches is 50 percent more than what was seen at the last meeting. The figure is very large, but he believes it will be appropriate for the space. The base will be notched to discourage skateboarding.

Ripley suggested the edge detail could be something similar to the door frame detail in the 14th floor Memorial Chamber at the State Capitol. Lynn Johnson will take a look at the detail mentioned.

Ripley wondered about the finish on the granite, if it will be polished or honed. Nalow replied that it will be a matte finish, she doesn't recall the exact wording of the finish.

Ripley inquired if the top will be a solid block of granite or veneer. Nalow replied they are looking at granite veneer over concrete.

Sinclair questioned if the granite will wrap the entire structure. Nalow replied yes. Sinclair wondered about the lettering. Nalow stated that the granite in the Spirit of Nebraska Pathway is an example. They are still deciding if the letters will be painted or inscribed. Zimmer added that the letters would be four inches tall. Dionisopoulos noted that Nalow sent examples of the lettering. She believes it was clearly the right size when they viewed it.

Ripley asked if there will be any night lighting. Zimmer replied the lighting will be designed in the coming months and will be presented to the commission. Nalow stated that the concept and general idea is to show light so you can read the inscription, but also dramatic lighting on the face of the sculpture. It has not been developed further than that at this point. She believes the idea would be to have the fixtures closer to the sculpture. Ripley doesn't want lighting that throws ambient lighting into the night sky. Some type of downlighting would be preferred. Nalow believes we would still have the opportunity to light from below and have focus lights that don't spill out. There is downlighting from the adjacent poles. They are working with Jennifer Klein who worked on the Centennial Mall lighting. They have discussed capitalizing a dramatic night setting. Johnson needs to work on donor recognition and the artist recognition. There is a plaque on the south end that recognizes the sponsor for the niche.

Searcy believes it makes sense to consider the artist recognition on the other side. In a previous meeting, there was concern expressed about the feel of the lighting. It doesn't have

any looming effect and seems to be perfectly proportioned. In the last meeting, there were less characters in the inscription. He questioned if Zimmer is comfortable of the look of the increased number of lines and the proposed format. Zimmer believes the inscription at the top looks better and fits the space.

Campbell questioned if the bronzing of the statue will fit with the color of the lettering better. Zimmer believes so. The sculptor does not use polychrome patinas but varies the tone of the patina slightly to emphasize certain elements. Searcy believes it looks great.

Motion for approval carried 4-0: Campbell, Dionisopoulos, Searcy and Sinclair voting 'yes'; Nalow abstaining; Crump and Weinberg absent.

Nalow moved approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness for the design of the statue, seconded by Campbell.

Zimmer noted there are two medals on the sculpture. In research on Standing Bear, there are two photos where one could see some detail on the medals. They are peace medals typically given at time of treaties. On one image, he could see the reverse side of a medal of the design used by Presidents Buchanan and Lincoln. The second medal shows with a circular gleam matching the globe shown on the unique reverse design of President Grant's medal. He shared that information with the sculptor who suggested the medals be a Buchanan face and a Grant reverse, which he has executed with precision.

Searcy appreciates the lengthy research that went into this.

Sinclair thinks this sets the bar high for other sculptures and believes it is an excellent piece in an appropriate setting. Campbell echoes those thoughts. Searcy viewed the Lincoln statue with his grandchildren and thought about the long term impact of such a monument. This is a tribute to the long term foresight of everyone involved.

Motion for approval of the statue carried 4-0: Campbell, Nalow, Searcy and Sinclair voting 'yes'; Dionisopoulos abstaining; Crump and Weinberg absent.

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
PUBLIC HEARING:

April 27, 2017

Members present: Campbell, Dionisopoulos, Nalow, Searcy and Sinclair; Crump and Weinberg absent.

Zimmer stated that he has heard that there is a buyer for a church that plans to use it as their congregation's home. It is a growing church, Grace Chapel at 40th St. and Sheridan Blvd. They

have members in this neighborhood who are devoted preservation folks and they are well on their way to closing a purchase with Trinity Methodist Church. That is good news for this building. The day care would continue at this site. The present congregation renting the building doesn't have the size to handle this challenging building.

Matt Hansen stated this is a building that needs some repair work done. Zimmer agreed. He doesn't believe the antennae would be invisible to all, but will not be noticed by most. It doesn't put antennae on the skyline. Campbell believes it is very discreet.

Ripley believes the signal must have an array. Zimmer stated these would be on all four sides. Ripley suggested they could be placed on the terra cotta, on the openings between the posts instead of on the front. If they are mounted behind the grill, it might be better than on the face. Putting holes in terra cotta can be a slippery slope. Zimmer assumes they are in essence 90 degree coverage because they are putting them on all four sides. There are also three antennae being requested on each side, two of which are one model and the other is another model. They are in the openings.

Nalow believes it appears that they are flush or protruding a little. It would be nice to have a little clarification. She is concerned that they are a little more visible and she would like them to be symmetrical. Zimmer suspects that they stick out a little. The mounting appears to be fixed at the bottom and have an adjustable arm.

Dionisopoulos wanted to know the timeframe. Zimmer replied they have submitted for their building permit. Hansen believes it would be nice if T-Mobile would submit a rendering to see exactly how their installation would fit with the building. Ripley would like to know if it would be possible if these were behind the grid.

Searcy is sensing that this needs to be revisited with more detail.

Sinclair reads the guidelines and doesn't believe the guidelines give the authority for all the nitpicking. His tendency would be to approve. Campbell would agree.

Ripley would like to see real detail on how these are attached. Sinclair believes that is the church's business.

ACTION:

Sinclair moved approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness for addition of the antennae in the Trinity Church bell tower, encouraging the applicant to seek advice from Zimmer on addressing the symmetry and carefulness of the installation, seconded by Campbell.

Nalow would question whether we ask for a decoy or something to make this more symmetrical. Zimmer pointed out that the guidelines let you hand this off to the Historic

Preservation Commission. This commission is well qualified to act on this application, but it could be done.

Campbell and Searcy do not want to interfere with plans of the applicant. Zimmer believes it is welcome news that a church is trying to grow into this building.

Motion for approval carried 5-0: Campbell, Dionisopoulos, Nalow, Searcy and Sinclair voting 'yes'; Crump and Weinberg absent.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Zimmer believes they are working on a dedication date for the Chief Standing Bear statue. He believes the goal is for mid-September, with a goal of unveiling the statue before the Nebraska State sesquicentennial celebrations. He doesn't know the exact date yet. There are many parties involved.

Searcy noted that the Standing Bear reception was beautifully attended and the level of public support was outstanding

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 a.m.