

**Annual Joint Meeting of
The Nebraska Capitol Commission
And
The Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission**

**Meeting Minutes
November 7, 2017**

1. Call to Order

Chief Justice Heavican, in the absence of Governor Ricketts, called to order the annual joint meeting of the Nebraska Capitol Commission and the Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission at 10:00 a.m. in Legislative Hearing Room 1507, Nebraska State Capitol, Lincoln, Nebraska. Chief Justice Heavican announced that this public meeting was operating under the Open Meetings Act and a copy of the Act is posted at each entrance to the hearing room.

2. Roll Call

Nebraska Capitol Commission Members

Present:

Speaker Scheer
Chief Justice Heavican
Katherine Ankerson
Trevor Jones
Doug Carey
John Hanson

Absent:

Governor Ricketts
Thomas Sanderson

Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission Members

Present:

Jeff Searcy
Gene Crump
Mary Campbell
John Sinclair
Karen Nalow
Ann Post

Absent:

Christie Dionisopoulos

Ex-Officio Members in Attendance:

Office of the Capitol Commission Administrator - Bob Ripley
City of Lincoln Planning Department - Ed Zimmer

3. Review/Approval of the November 8, 2016, Joint Meeting Minutes

Chief Justice Heavican asked if there was any discussion or corrections to the minutes. There being none Chief Justice asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Crump MOVED to approve the November 8, 2016, Annual Joint Meeting Minutes. Ms. Ankerson SECONDED the motion.

Chief Justice Heavican called for a voice vote on the motion. The motion PASSED with a unanimous vote of the members present (12 Aye, 3 Absent).

4. Public Comment for Items Not Listed on the Agenda

There was no public comment.

5. New Business

A. Introduction of New Capitol Commission Members - Chief Justice Heavican

Chief Justice Heavican introduced and welcomed the new Capitol Commission members Doug Carey, 1st congressional district appointee, and John Hanson, 3rd congressional district appointee.

B. Capitol Environs Commission Annual Report - Ed Zimmer

Mr. Zimmer advised that the copy of the 2017 annual report that was being handed out by his colleague Stacey Hageman is considered a draft and won't be finalized until it is approved by the Capitol Environs Commission in January 2018.

Mr. Zimmer provided an overview of the commission's membership and statutory requirements. Mr. Zimmer gave a summary of the projects outlined in the draft annual report.

Mr. Zimmer answered questions from the commissioners about the environs' boundaries and on the different height restrictions.

Mr. Searcy thanked Mr. Zimmer and the City Planning Department staff for all their work. Mr. Searcy also thanked the Parks Department and the Office of the Capitol Commission.

Mr. Searcy complimented the Environ's commissioners for their commitment to the commission and thanked them for their service.

(A copy of the report can be obtained from the City Planning Department. The draft copy provided at this meeting is also on file at the Office of the Capitol Commission.)

C. Capitol Commission Annual Report – Robert Ripley & Roxanne Smith

Mr. Ripley introduced Roxanne Smith as she has handed out the 2017 annual report as the editor, reporter and publisher of the annual report. Mr. Ripley thanked Ms. Smith for her dedicated work again this year.

Mr. Ripley said he also wanted to thank the work of the Capitol Environs Commission, of which he has had the pleasure to serve on since it was founded in 1988.

Mr. Ripley reviewed the programs and work outlined in the annual report.

At the request of Mr. Crump, Mr. Ripley remembered his former colleague and OCC preservation architect Tom Kaspar who passed away in March of this year. Tom served 40 years with the State of Nebraska and is a cornerstone of the entire program at the Capitol. Tom established and managed two primary programs, the Archive and Original Capitol Furniture. Mr. Ripley emphasized that Tom is a great asset to the Capitol and all OCC programs and he will be greatly missed.

Mr. Searcy inquired if there were still elements to the Courtyard Fountains project that needed to be completed. Mr. Ripley replied the Courtyard Fountains project is substantially complete with the exception of resetting the flagstones in walks. Mr. Ripley said the remaining project budget balance will be used to complete as many of the courtyard walkways as possible.

Mr. Ripley said the second remaining element is the glass tile lining in the bowls. Mr. Ripley said he received a call from an anonymous donor willing to fund the glass tile lining in all four fountain bowls. This work is anticipated to take place in the Spring of 2018.

Mr. Ripley added the third and final element is the private fundraising efforts by the Former Members of the Legislature to restore the landscaping in the courtyards. The outer area between the walk and the building will remain un-landscaped for the time being because of restoration on the steel windows to be done during the HVAC project.

Mr. Ripley said he anticipates that the landscaping that would be done are hedges and flower beds within the four triangular panels inside the perimeter walk up to the fountain in each of the four courtyards. Mr. Ripley added he did not have a timeline as to when the landscaping would begin.

Chief Justice Heavican inquired about the monetary goal for the fundraising. Mr. Ripley replied he didn't have that information. Mr. Ripley added that to completely re-landscape all four courtyards has been estimated at \$850,000.00, however, all areas of the courtyards won't be landscaped and that the Formers will not just be collecting money but will be accepting other kinds of donations such as plants and labor from the nursery industry. Mr. Ripley said he remained optimistic that there will be progress sometime in 2018.

Chief Justice Heavican said on behalf of both commissions, he wanted to thank Bob and staff for doing a fabulous job in taking care of the building.

D. Other Business from Either Commission

There was no other business.

E. Next Joint Commission Meeting - Robert Ripley

Mr. Ripley informed the commissioners that the 2018 joint meeting has been scheduled for November 15, 2018, at 10:00 a.m.

6. Adjourn

There being no further business, Chief Justice Heavican asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Speaker Scheer MOVED to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Searcy SECONDED the motion.

Chief Justice Heavican called for a voice vote to adjourn the meeting. The motion PASSED with a unanimous vote of the members present (12 Ayes, 3 Absent).

The meeting was adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

Minutes prepared 11/14/2017 by:

Tammy Honnor, Facilities Construction Coordinator
Office of the Capitol Commission

Minutes approved _____

Agenda Item 5 B. - additional information-----

Chief Justice Heavican inquired about the commission's jurisdiction that extends to the east past Woods Park. Mr. Zimmer replied the jurisdiction originally ended at Capitol Parkway and was extended east to approximately 37th street to protect one of the most spectacular internal views of the Capitol within the city. Mr. Zimmer added this narrow strip reflects this only the public right-of-way that is subject to the jurisdiction.

Speaker Scheer asked about the different height restrictions. Mr. Zimmer explained that the corridors to the north and west are considered public, civic, commercial areas and the height restriction is 57 feet and corridors to the east and south are residential areas and the height restriction is 45 feet, which is in line with the city zoning requirements.

Mr. Zimmer added that the height limits were imposed before the Commission was established and the Legislature created the District to control the heights of buildings surrounding the Capitol to respect and protect the views of the Capitol. The Environs Commission protects the view corridors within their statutory authority.

Ms. Campbell commented that she appreciated the height restrictions after visiting other State's Capitols, as well as appreciated the State and the City for taking this initiative.

Mr. Zimmer added that the Lincoln comprehensive plan identified a pattern of view corridors. Lincoln's height restrictions are mandatory for main public views corridors. The Environs Commission protects where they have been given the authority and doesn't have the authority to change the underlying zoning of those districts that are oversight by the surrounding city and county entities.