

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

**Meeting Minutes
November 28, 2023**

1. Call to Order

Lieutenant Governor Joe Kelly, in the absence of Governor Jim Pillen, 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. Lt. Governor Kelly acknowledged the Open Meetings Act was posted at the northwest entrance to the hearing room.

2. Roll Call

Nebraska Capitol Commission Members

Present:

Lt. Governor Kelly

Speaker Arch

Chief Justice Heavican

Kevin Van Den Wymelenberg

Jill Dolberg

Doug Carey

Thomas Sanderson

Trent Loos

Brett Daugherty, Interim Capitol Administrator – Non-voting

Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission Members

Present:

Kile Johnson

Heidi Cuca

Andrea Gebhart

Ann Post

David Quade

Collin Christopher – Non-voting

Absent:

Delonte Johnson

3. Review/Approval of the November 15, 2022, Annual Joint Meeting Minutes

Lt. Governor Kelly asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes. There being none Lt. Governor Kelly asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Johnson MOVED to approve the minutes. Ms. Cuca SECONDED the motion.

The motion PASSED (13 Aye, 1 Absent).

4. Public Comment for Items Not Listed on the Agenda

There was no public comment.

5. New Business

A. Capitol Environs Commission Annual Report

Collin Christopher, Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Department, handed out copies of the 2023 Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission draft annual report to commission members.

Mr. Christopher gave a brief overview of the Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission. The Commission was originally established in 1988 with a goal and the purview to provide design oversight over the blocks directly surrounding the Capitol and the four (4) malls that run to the north, east, south, and west of the Capitol.

Mr. Christopher added that the commission consists of seven (7) voting members and two (2) non-voting ex-officio members. Mr. Christopher noted there were two (2) resignations this year. In March Bob Ripley who was the Capitol Administrator and ex-officio member retired from the Office of the Capitol Commission. Mr. Christopher added Mr. Ripley was part of the original creation of the Capitol Environs Commission and for 35 years his advocacy for preservation and enhancement of the district is unmatched. In October vice-chair Karen Nalow stepped down after 12 years with the Commission to take a role with the City of Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department.

Mr. Christopher said he wanted to go on record to thank on behalf of the Commission Mr. Ripley and Ms. Nalow for their years of service and contribution to the Capitol Environs Commission.

Mr. Christopher provided an overview of the projects the Commission reviewed in 2023, and which are highlighted in the annual report. (A copy of the report is available on the Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Department's website)

Mr. Christopher asked if there were any questions. There were no questions for Mr. Christopher.

B. Capitol Commission Annual Report – Brett Daugherty and Roxanne Smith

Roxanne Smith handed out the 2023 Capitol Commission annual report to the commissioners.

Mr. Daugherty introduced himself as the interim Administrator for the Office of the Capitol Commission. Mr. Daugherty said he would like to second Mr. Christopher's comments about Bob Ripley's performance and work over the years for the Environs Commission and the Capitol. Mr. Daugherty added it will be difficult for anyone to live up to Mr. Ripley's reputation for the work he has done and he will be sorely missed.

Mr. Daugherty said Roxanne Smith prepares the annual report and she will give an overview of the 2023 annual report.

Ms. Smith briefly highlighted some of the work of Capitol Commission shops and programs. Ms. Smith added that the work performed by staff to preserve and conserve the Capitol will impact people far into the future. (A copy of the annual report is available on the Office of the Capitol Commission website.)

Mr. Johnson inquired about the status of the HVAC project.

Mr. Daugherty said this summer the project transitioned from Phase 3 to Phase 4. Mr. Daugherty added there was not only contactor work happening but work by Capitol Commission staff to conserve and document fixtures and furnishings. Mr. Daugherty gave a brief overview of the Phase 4 work in progress and noted that Phase 4 is projected to be done about this time next year.

Mr. Johnson asked how the Courtyard renovation was progressing and how it is coordinated with the HVAC project.

Mr. Daugherty said the two (2) south courtyards have been completed and the northwest is 80% complete. Phase 4 HVAC work is currently impacting the northeast courtyard. The perimeter plantings can't be done until all the windows have been repaired and put back in place. Depending on when the windows get done planting may not happen until fall 2024 or spring 2025.

Speaker Arch asked if completion of the Governor's space is scheduled to follow the Phase 4 timeline. Mr. Daugherty replied before the start of Phase 4 areas were identified to the contractor to complete sooner. The Governor's suite is one of those areas and the Governor could be moved back in late August or early September 2024 for budget conversations.

Chief Justice Heavican asked where the Governor offices are now. Mr. Daugherty replied that the Governor and most of the staff are at the First Nebraska Administrative Building 1526 K street.

Mr. Johnson commented that Mr. Ripley has been very helpful to the Environs Commission, and that he appreciated Mr. Ripley's attendance at meetings and input on issues. Mr. Daugherty agreed and added he has worked 25 years at the Capitol of which were with Mr. Ripley and has learned a lot from Mr. Ripley.

Mr. Loos asked if the phase 4 of the HVAC project has affected or discouraged school tours. Ms. Smith said it has not but in fact there was an increase in school tours this year and in tours being scheduled for the Spring of 2024.

Mr. Loos asked if there was a count of how many students visit annually. Ms. Smith replied approximately 33,000.

There were no further questions.

C. Other Business from Either Commission

There was no other business.

6. Adjourn

There being no further business, Lt. Governor Kelly asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Carey MOVED to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Post SECONDED the motion.

Lt. Governor Kelly called for a voice vote to adjourn the meeting. The motion PASSED with a unanimous vote of the members present (13 Ayes, 1 Absent).

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Minutes prepared 12/11/2023 by:

Tammy Honnor, Interim Clerk for the Capitol Commission
Office of the Capitol Commission

Minutes APPROVED _____