

**MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 112
TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 2019
9:00 A.M.**

Advance public notice of the Board of Commissioners meeting was posted on the County-City Building bulletin board and the Lancaster County, Nebraska, web site and emailed to the media on June 7, 2019.

Commissioners present: Roma Amundson, Chair; Sean Flowerday, Vice Chair; Deb Schorr and Rick Vest

Others present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer; Ann Ames, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer; Dave Derbin, Deputy County Attorney; Dan Nolte, County Clerk; Cori Beattie, Deputy County Clerk; and Monét McCullen, County Clerk's Office

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m., the Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the location of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was announced.

1) MINUTES:

- A. Approval of the minutes of the Board of Commissioners meeting held on Tuesday, June 4, 2019.**

MOTION: Vest moved and Flowerday seconded approval of the minutes. Schorr, Flowerday, Vest and Amundson voted yes. Motion carried 4-0.

2) CLAIMS:

- A. Approval of all claims processed through June 11, 2019.**

MOTION: Schorr moved and Vest seconded approval of the claims. Vest, Schorr, Flowerday and Amundson voted yes. Motion carried 4-0.

- 3) CONSENT ITEMS: These are routine business items that are expected to be adopted without dissent. Any individual item may be removed for special discussion and consideration by a Commissioner or by any member of the public without prior notice. Unless there is an exception, these items will be approved as one with a single vote of the Board of Commissioners. These items are approval of:**

- A. Received and placed on file the following reports for May, 2019:**
- 1. County Clerk**
 - 2. Clerk of the District Court**
 - 3. Assessor/Register of Deeds**
 - 4. Records and Information Management**

- B. Received and placed on file Declaration D-19-0001 Declaring a Disaster or Emergency Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §81-829.50. (D-19-0001)
- C. Amendments to the following contracts with Correct Care Solutions, LLC for a company name change to Wellpath LLC:
 - 1. C-18-0157 for Inmate Health Care Services for the Lancaster County Department of Corrections (Bid No. 17-235). (C-19-0439)
 - 2. C-18-0252 for Juvenile Health Care Services for the Youth Services Center (Bid No. 18-026). (C-19-0440)
- D. Contract with Midwest Sound & Lighting, Inc. for District Court Courtroom Cabling & A/V Switching Equipment. (Bid No. 19-136. The work included in this contract shall begin as soon as possible from date of executed contract. The final completion shall be December 30, 2019 or sooner. The expenditures for Lancaster County shall not exceed \$73,454.) (C-19-0444)
- E. Grant contract with CASA for Lancaster County in the amount of \$12,000 for the Advocacy for High Risk and Crossover Youth program. The contract is funded by Juvenile Justice Prevention Funds for the period of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. (C-19-0447)
- F. Grant contracts funded by the Joint Budget Committee for the period of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 with the following:
 - 1. CASA for Lancaster County in the amount of \$7,763 for the CASA program. (C-19-0446)
 - 2. Voices of Hope in the amount of \$8,036 for the Crisis Intervention & Advocacy program. (C-19-0448)

MOTION: Vest moved and Flowerday seconded approval of the consent items. Vest, Schorr, Flowerday and Amundson voted yes. Motion carried 4-0.

4) SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

- A. Introduction of Tara Knuth, nominee for appointment to the Lancaster County Visitors Promotion Committee. (See correlating item 5A)

Jeff Maul, Lincoln Convention & Visitors Bureau Vice President-Executive Director, introduced Tara Knuth.

Tara Knuth, Lincoln's Children's Museum, said the museum continues to put efforts towards expanding and how they can keep families engaged. She expressed her gratitude and excitement about working on the Visitors Promotion Committee (VPC).

Schorr thanked Ms. Knuth for her willingness to serve on the VPC.

The Board voted on correlating item 5A.

B. Lancaster County Visitors Improvement Fund Grant in the amount of \$9,978 to History Nebraska, Nebraska History Museum for promotion of the Women's Suffrage Exhibit – Chris Goforth, Marketing Director for Nebraska History, Nebraska History Museum. (See correlating item 5B)

Maul introduced Amanda Pinkleman, History Nebraska, Nebraska History Museum, and said the history museum has a great rotating exhibit space.

Pinkleman said the museum is in the process of opening a new exhibit called Vote for Women to celebrate the Centennial of Nebraska's ratification of women's right to vote, which was in 1919. The exhibit is interactive and will attract all ages.

Schorr asked when the exhibit would be available and how long it will run. Pinkleman said the exhibit will open on August 15, 2019, and it will run through December, 2020.

The Board voted on correlating item 5B.

C. Lancaster County Visitors Improvement Fund Grant in the amount of \$3,956.15 to the Lincoln Parks Foundation for Centennial Mall Brochures – Maggie Stuckey, Lincoln Parks Foundation Executive Director; Susan Rodenburg; and Jeff Maul, Lincoln Convention & Visitors Bureau Vice President-Executive Director. (See correlating item 5C)

Maul said the Visitors Bureau has worked with the Lincoln Parks Foundation for many years to help develop the entryway corridor, bridging the gap between the University of Nebraska and the Capitol. Since the brochure was created the Visitors Bureau and Lincoln Parks Foundation have discussed other distribution methods across the region.

Susan Rodenburg and Maggie Stuckey, Lincoln Parks Foundation, said Centennial Mall was renovated in 2012 and \$10,000,000 was raised for that project. There were a lot of educational amenities added to the mall (Exhibit A). There are around 100,000 visitors to the Capitol building every year and this is a natural extension.

The Board voted on correlating item 5C.

D. Lancaster County Visitors Improvement Fund Grant in the amount of \$10,000 to the Lincoln Sports Foundation (LSF) for the LSF Motorcross Track – Dan Soltys, Lincoln Sports Foundation; and Jeff Maul, Lincoln Convention & Visitors Bureau Vice President Executive Director. (See correlating item 5D)

Maul said this facility has an amazing history and is doing good things with motorcross, volleyball, basketball and other outdoor sports opportunities. The Lincoln Sports Foundation does a great job serving the youth sports industries, which is a \$15 billion industry nationwide on an annual basis

Dan Soltys, Lincoln Sports Foundation, said this grant will resurface the motorcross track. This will also allow utility vehicles (UTV) onto the track.

Vest said the community is fortunate to have this be a part of Lincoln.

The Board voted on correlating item 5D.

5) **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. **Appointment of Tara Knuth to the Lancaster County Visitors Promotion Committee to a four-year term commencing July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2024.**

The Clerk read Item 5A with a correction to the term of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2024.

MOTION: Vest moved and Schorr seconded approval of the appointment.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT: Flowerday made a friendly amendment to formally correct the term to July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2023. The make of the motion agreed.

ROLL CALL ON THE MOTION AS AMENDED: Flowerday, Vest, Schorr and Amundson voted yes. Motion carried 4-0.

- B. **Lancaster County Visitors Improvement Fund Grant Contract in the amount of \$9,978 with Lancaster County as the Sponsor and History Nebraska, Nebraska History Museum as the Grantee for promotion of The Women's Suffrage Exhibit. The grant term is from August 15, 2019 through December 31, 2019. (C-19-0449)**

MOTION: Schorr moved and Vest seconded approval of the grant contract. Schorr, Flowerday, Vest and Amundson voted yes. Motion carried 4-0.

- C. **Lancaster County Visitors Improvement Fund Grant Contract in the amount of \$3,956.15 with Lancaster County as the Sponsor and the Lincoln Parks Foundation as the Grantee for Centennial Mall Brochures. The grant term is from May 1, 2019 through June 30, 2019. (C-19-0450)**

MOTION: Schorr moved and Vest seconded approval of the grant contract. Vest, Schorr, Flowerday and Amundson voted yes. Motion carried 4-0.

- D. **Lancaster County Visitors Improvement Fund Grant Contract in the amount of \$10,000 with Lancaster County as the Sponsor and the Lincoln Sports Foundation (LSF) as the Grantee for improvements of the LSF Motorcross Track. The grant term is from March 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019. (C-19-0451)**

MOTION: Schorr moved and Vest seconded approval of the grant contract. Vest, Schorr, Flowerday and Amundson voted yes. Motion carried 4-0.

- E. **Special Designated License application from Ken's Liquor, Inc., for an event at Roca Ridge Event Center, 5265 Prairie Sage Drive, Roca, Nebraska on August 8, 2019.**

MOTION: Schorr moved and Vest seconded approval of the special designated license application.

Schorr stated although no one was present to speak on this item, the Board has issued many licenses to Ken's Liquor and they do an excellent job.

ROLL CALL: Flowerday, Vest, Schorr and Amundson voted yes. Motion carried 4-0.

- F. Special Designated License application from Ken's Liquor, Inc., for an event at Hillside Event Center, 12400 West Denton Road, Denton, Nebraska on August 17, 2019.**

MOTION: Schorr moved and Flowerday seconded approval of the special designated license application. Schorr, Flowerday, Vest and Amundson voted yes. Motion carried 4-0.

- G. Special Events Permit application from Ben Cohoon, for the Radler bicycle race event on August 3 and 4, 2019.**

Ben Cohoon, Pink Gorilla Events, said the application has already been approved by the City of Lincoln and the Natural Resources Districts (NRD) and he gave a brief overview of the event.

Schorr said she has been involved in events that Pink Gorilla organized and they always do a great job.

Amundson stated she was amazed by the number of people they are expecting. She noted Mr. Cohoon's application was very thorough and all necessary permits were received.

MOTION: Schorr moved and Vest seconded approval of the special events permit application. Vest, Schorr, Flowerday and Amundson voted yes. Motion carried 4-0.

- H. Reappointment of Dallas Jones and Sean Brennan and appointment of Heidi Hayes to the Lancaster County Indigent Defense Advisory Committee for three-year terms commencing May 1, 2019 and ending April 30, 2022.**

MOTION: Schorr moved and Flowerday seconded approval of the reappointments and appointment. Vest, Schorr, Flowerday and Amundson voted yes. Motion carried 4-0.

- I. Interlocal agreement with the State of Nebraska Probation Administration for two probation officers to provide additional presentence investigation report services to decrease the time needed to complete presentence investigations of inmates housed by the Lancaster County Corrections Department. The County will pay up to \$63,430 for the services. The term of the agreement is July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. (C-19-0452)**

MOTION: Schorr moved and Flowerday seconded approval of the interlocal agreement. Flowerday, Vest, Schorr and Amundson voted yes. Motion carried 4-0.

- J. **Amendment to County Contract No. C-19-0243 with Great Plains Appraisal, Inc., for Referee Coordinator Services. The amendment includes the provision of referees and clerical staff within the scope of the agreement at the standard rates for referees and clerical staff as set forth in the agreement. (C-19-0453)**

MOTION: Vest moved and Schorr seconded approval of the amendment. Schorr, Flowerday, Vest and Amundson voted yes. Motion carried 4-0.

- K. **Agreements with the following individuals to provide referee services to hear valuation protests for the 2019 tax year and to transmit to the Lancaster County Board of Equalization all papers relating to such protests, together with written findings and recommendations:**

<i>Referee</i>	<i>Rate</i>		<i>Referee</i>	<i>Rate</i>	
Bill Lange	\$130	C-19-0454	Traci Kirby	\$110	C-19-0465
Mark Rosno	\$110	C-19-0455	John J. Haney	\$110	C-19-0466
Robert Anderson	\$110	C-19-0456	Marilyn Tabor	\$130	C-19-0467
Ty D. Fleck	\$130	C-19-0458	John R. Layman	\$130	C-19-0468
Donald Killeen	\$130	C-19-0459	Sally A. Webster	\$130	C-19-0469
Shana Sprackling	\$130	C-19-0460	Bret Hollingsworth	\$110	C-19-0470
Greg Heinzmann	\$130	C-19-0461	Joel Walker dba A Plus Appraisal	\$130	C-19-0471
Joel Kirby	\$110	C-19-0462	Jan Moore dba Professional Property Valuation LLC	\$130	C-19-0472
John E. McVay	\$110	C-19-0463	Tyler Hawkins dba Professional Property Valuation LLC	\$90	C-19-0473
John A. Wurdeman	\$130	C-19-0464			

MOTION: Schorr moved and Flowerday seconded approval of the referee contracts. Vest, Schorr, Flowerday and Amundson voted yes. Motion carried 4-0.

- L. **Contracts for Annual Service – Weed Abatement-Mowing for the County Weed Authority (Bid No. 19-123). The contracts are for one year with an option to renew for three additional one-year terms. The cost to the County for all contracts is \$10,000.**

1. **Beatrice Lawn Care Inc. (C-19-0441)**
2. **Lee’s Lawn Maintenance (Hauser Inc.) (C-19-0442)**
3. **Mr. Yards and More, LLC (C-19-0443)**

Brent Meyer, Lancaster County Weed Control Superintendent, said these contracts are for mowing services within the City of Lincoln related to the weed abatement program.

MOTION: Vest moved and Schorr seconded approval of the contracts. Vest, Schorr, Flowerday and Amundson voted yes. Motion carried 4-0.

- M. **Licensure renewal application with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services for operation of the Lancaster County Mental Health Crisis Center at 825 J Street. The County will pay \$250 for the renewal license.**

MOTION: Schorr moved and Flowerday seconded approval of the licensure renewal application. Flowerday, Vest, Schorr and Amundson voted yes. Motion carried 4-0.

- N. Recommendation from the Purchasing Agent and County Engineer: (i) to rescind a recommendation to award a contract to Gana Trucking for channel repair at County Bridge D-88 (Bid No. 19-146); (ii) to reject all bids received for channel repair at County Bridge D-88; and (iii) to directly negotiate a contract for channel repair at County Bridge D-88 as part of the Lancaster County Disaster Declaration dated March 9, 2019, and pursuant to the Nebraska State Statutes 23-3109 and 81-829.51 which waive bidding requirements of the County Purchasing Act to meet the needs of an emergency situation.**

MOTION: Schorr moved and Flowerday seconded approval of the recommendation. Schorr, Flowerday, Vest and Amundson voted yes. Motion carried 4-0.

- 6) PUBLIC COMMENT: Those wishing to speak on items relating to County business not on the agenda may do so at this time.**

Cameron Lancaster, High School Rodeo Association Team Roping Student Director, said the National Finals that the Lincoln Event Center (LEC) will host will attract almost 1,500 contestants and involves 43 states, making it the world's largest rodeo. He gave a brief history of the High School Rodeo and thanked the Board for its continued support.

Debbie Brehm expressed her support for the National High School Rodeo (Exhibit B).

Dr. Tiffany Heng-Moss, University of Nebraska College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Dean, said the College and University are both excited for the upcoming National High School Rodeo. She discussed recruitment opportunities and expressed her support for the rodeo.

Tom Messick, Lancaster County Agricultural Society Board Member, expressed his support for the National High School Rodeo.

Colette Wear, Hampton Inn & Suites General Manager, expressed her support for the National High School Rodeo, noting it will generate money for hotels.

Jennifer Cusick-Rawlinson, Lancaster County Agricultural Society Board Member, thanked the Board for its continued partnership. She noted the rodeo is important due to the investment carried year after year and discussed the Agricultural Society's willingness to assist with the grant request.

- 7) ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

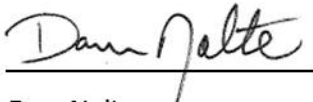
- A. The Lancaster County Board of Commissioners will hold department budget hearings on Tuesday, June 11, 2019 immediately following the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners meeting in the Bill Luxford Studio (Room 113) of the County-City Building (555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln).**

- B. The Lancaster County Board of Commissioners will hold a staff meeting along with department budget hearings on Thursday, June 13, 2019 at 8:30 a.m., in the Bill Luxford Studio (Room 113) of the County-City Building (555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln).
- C. The Lancaster County Board of Commissioners will hold its next regular meeting on Tuesday, June 18, 2019 at 9:00 a.m., in Room 112 of the County-City Building (555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln) followed by the Board of Equalization and department budget hearings.
- D. County Commissioners can be reached at 402-441-7447 or commish@lancaster.ne.gov.
- E. The Lancaster County Board of Commissioners meeting is broadcast live on LNKTV City. For the rebroadcast schedule visit lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: LNKTV). Meetings are also streamed live on LNKTV and can be viewed on YouTube (LNKTVcity).

8) ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Schorr moved and Vest seconded to adjourn the Board of Commissioners meeting at 9:45 a.m. Vest, Schorr, Flowerday and Amundson voted yes. Motion carried 4-0.

NOTE: Following the meeting, the County Clerk's Office received a copy of a letter from Governor Pete Ricketts supporting the Lancaster Event Center's request for additional grant funding to complete improvements for the 2020 and 2021 National High School Finals Rodeo (NHSFR). (Exhibit C)



Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk



EXHIBIT
A



The Legacy of Chief Standing Bear

From his birth on the banks of the Niobrara River in Nebraska until his death in 1903, Chief Standing Bear spent his life in a constant struggle to gain equality and justice for our nation's Native Americans. In 1877, the federal government forced Chief Standing Bear and the Ponca Tribe from their homeland to a reservation in Oklahoma. To honor his son's dying wish to be buried in his homeland, Chief Standing Bear attempted to return to Nebraska and was arrested. In a historic 1879 court decision, he was found to be a "person under the law" and freed.

To memorialize this civil rights story, Lincoln native Donald M. Campbell commissioned world-renowned sculptor Benjamin Victor to create a 10-foot bronze statue commemorating the historic 1879 Omaha courtroom scene where Chief Standing Bear so eloquently stated, "I Am a Man." The statue was installed on Nebraska's Centennial Mall in 2017.



Nebraska's Centennial Mall A Tribute to All Nebraskans

15th and K Streets | Lincoln, Nebraska | LincolnParks.org

Photo by Ryan Lindbeck, Altitude Motion Media



Photo by Mark Carney

WELCOME TO NEBRASKA'S CENTENNIAL MALL!

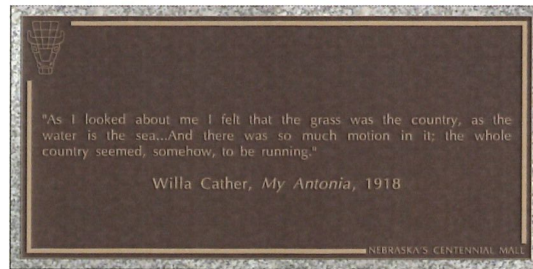
As envisioned by Capitol Architect Bertram Goodhue in 1922, Nebraska's Centennial Mall is the primary grand entrance to the Nebraska Capitol. Dedicated in 1967 during the Nebraska Centennial and renovated in 2016, the seven-block public Mall serves as a scenic connection between the Capitol and the University of Nebraska campus. The Mall provides flexible gathering spaces and opportunities for visitors who want to learn more about the history of Nebraska and a place for future stories to be told.

Nebraska's Centennial Mall is located on 15th Street between K and R Streets in Downtown Lincoln, Nebraska.

Spirit of Nebraska Pathway

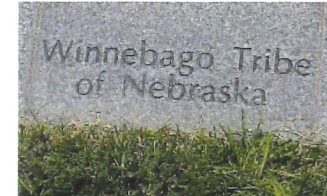
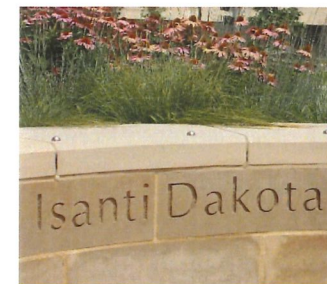
The Spirit of Nebraska Pathway is a series of granite and bronze tiles along the twin walkways of Nebraska's Centennial Mall. The pathway program recognizes people, places, organizations, businesses and events of Nebraska. All members of the Nebraska Hall of Fame are recognized along the Spirit of Nebraska Pathway. The bronze tiles have interactive QR codes which link to a website with photos and stories of those featured: SpiritofNebraskaPathway.org.

Tiles are available for sponsorship. To find out more, please visit LincolnParks.org or call the Lincoln Parks Foundation at 402-441-8258.



Native American Recognition

The significant influence of Native Americans is expressed throughout the Mall's design. A 'light circle' that recognizes 27 tribes associated with Nebraska history, is part of a native landscape garden located north of the fountain between P and Q Streets. Native American words, symbols and design patterns are incorporated into features throughout the Mall. A Pow Wow gathering circle at the north end provides a celebration and gathering space for all Mall visitors, with special appreciation for Native Americans in the Nebraska region.



Photos by Kelsey Moline



For more about Nebraska's Centennial Mall, contact the Lincoln Parks Foundation: LincolnParks.org or 402-441-8258

Nearby Places to Visit:

- Nebraska Capitol: <http://capitol.nebraska.gov>
- Nebraska State History Museum: <https://history.nebraska.gov>
- University of Nebraska State Museum at Morrill Hall: <http://museum.unl.edu>
- Dining, shopping and entertainment in Lincoln: <http://www.lincoln.org>
- Downtown Lincoln: <https://downtownlincoln.org>
- Lincoln Haymarket: <https://lincolnhaymarket.org>

Features along Nebraska's Centennial Mall

- ~ Capitol Fountain depicting the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska
- ~ Missouri River Fountain and Plaza with the State of Nebraska map depicting eco-regions, rivers, the Union Pacific transcontinental railroad route, Chief Standing Bear's Ponca Trail of Tears and county seats
- ~ Innovation to Imagination Fountain and Plaza
- ~ Chief Standing Bear statue
- ~ Native American recognition
- ~ Native American patterns stenciled along band at the crosswalks
- ~ Pathway tiles with stories of Nebraska
- ~ Plaza gathering areas
- ~ Tree-lined vistas of the State Capitol and the University of Nebraska
- ~ Large grassy lawns for events
- ~ Native landscapes
- ~ Sustainable features
- ~ Educational and interpretive features
- ~ Design motifs from the State Capitol



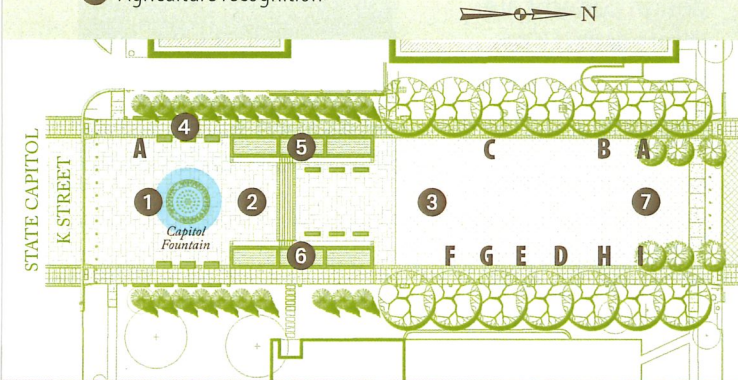
Photo courtesy of Dreamscapes, Inc.

Capitol Fountain and Plaza

K to L Streets: *We the People*

FEATURES

- 1 Capitol Fountain and the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska
- 2 Plaza gathering area
- 3 Flexible greenspace for events
- 4 Spirit of Nebraska Pathway
- 5 Limestone planters reflect the north entrance of the Capitol
- 6 Native grasses in the planters
- 7 Agriculture recognition



Spirit of Nebraska Pathway Notable Tiles:

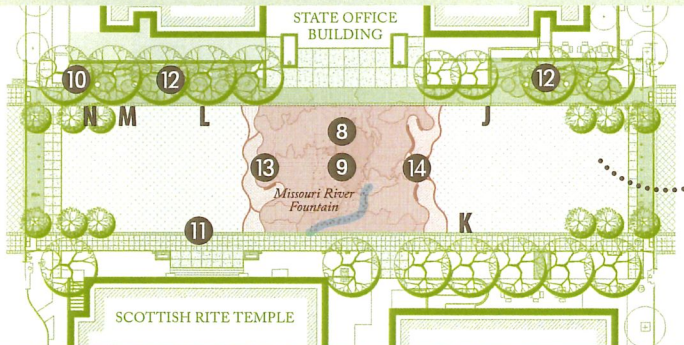
- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| A President Abraham Lincoln | F George Norris |
| B William Jennings Bryan | G Gilbert Hitchcock |
| C Red Cloud | H J. Sterling Morton |
| D Grace Abbott | I John J. Pershing |
| E Glenn Korff | |

Missouri River Fountain and Nebraska Heritage Plaza

L to M Streets: *Our Home Nebraska*

FEATURES

- 8 Colored pavers represent ecological regions with tallgrass prairie in the east, short grass prairie in the west
- 9 State of Nebraska map shows rivers, county seats, Union Pacific transcontinental railroad route, and Chief Standing Bear's Ponca Tribe Trail
- 10 Sculpture "Wind Spirit" by Sculptor Paul Lindard
- 11 Granite tiles depicting Nebraska's 93 counties border the plaza
- 12 Seating areas on the west side of the block are tributes to the Platte River and Ogallala Aquifer, Nebraska's primary water resources
- 13 Native grasses and wildflowers bordering the plaza
- 14 Native American Recognition:
 - Limestone walls near the State of Nebraska map feature the names of the four current Nebraska tribes (Ponca, Santee Sioux, Winnebago, Omaha).
 - Planter border patterns representative of tribal beadwork patterns.
 - Chief Standing Bear's Ponca Tribe Trail from their home in Nebraska to Oklahoma is symbolically shown on the map with medallions that mark camp locations.
 - Missouri River Fountain: Located on the east side of the plaza, this recognizes Nebraska's eastern border.
 - Spirit of Nebraska Pathway tiles: Pawnee Tribe, Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska, Otoe Missouri, Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, Omaha Tribe of Nebraska, Standing Bear Trail and Osni Ponca.



Spirit of Nebraska Pathway Notable Tiles:

- J Ogallala Aquifer
- K Platte River
- L Union Pacific
- M Chimney Rock
- N Loren Eiseley

M to P Streets: Community Mosaic of Nebraskans

Celebration of social and commerce activities

FEATURES

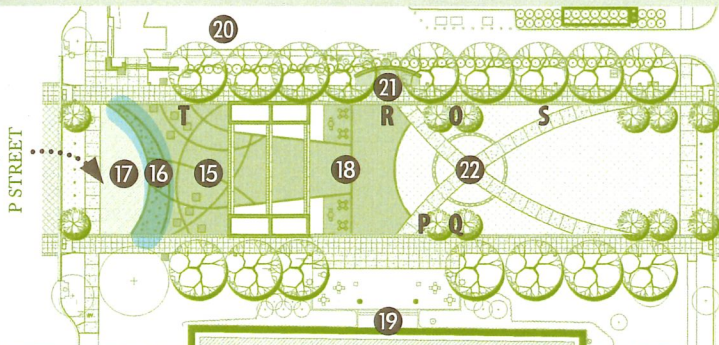
- Vibrant urban environment
- Festival space
- Tree-lined vista to the Capitol
- Rain gardens at intersections
- Nebraska History Museum

Imagination to Innovation Fountain and Plaza

P to Q Streets: *Sparking the Good Life*

FEATURES

- 15 Imagination to Innovation Fountain and plaza
- 16 Fountain with "jumping jets" of water represent playfulness and creativity
- 17 Prairie landscape at the south end of the block
- 18 Seating areas
- 19 University of Nebraska's Anderson Hall
- 20 Lincoln Children's Museum
- 21 "Standing Bear, Chief of the Ponca" portrait sculpture by Benjamin Victor
- 22 Native American Recognition:
 - Spirit of Nebraska Pathway tiles: Chief Standing Bear and Susette La Flesche Tibbles.
 - Limestone seating blocks north of fountain represent children's building blocks and are engraved with letters from the alphabet and symbols from Native American tribes (deer, spirit, wind, sky, star, and buffalo, rain cloud and sky).
 - Limestone-tiered walls north of the fountain are engraved with words formed from the letters and symbols seen on the seating blocks.
 - Light Circle: A 'light circle' recognizes the 27 Native American tribes with Nebraska ties. This area includes plants used in traditional native life for paints, medicines, healing and everyday use.



Spirit of Nebraska Pathway Notable Tiles:

Feature individuals, businesses and organizations who have contributed to the success of the State in everyday life.

Spirit of Nebraska Pathway Notable Tiles:

- O Bess Streeter Aldrich
- P Willa Cather
- Q John G. Neihardt
- R Chief Standing Bear
- S Susette La Flesche Tibbles
- T Glenn Korff



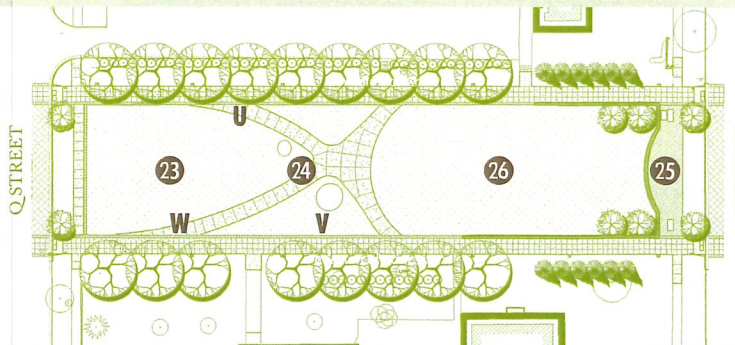
Photo by Mark Canney

Imagination to Innovation Fountain and Plaza

Q to R Streets: *Sparking the Good Life*

FEATURES

- 23 Flexible greenspace
- 24 Tem and Ptah sculptures by Jene Highstein
- 25 Reflection Plaza featuring the evolution of the Mall
 - Interpretive panels tell the story of the Capitol City, the State Capitol and Nebraska's Centennial Mall.
- 26 Native American recognition:
 - Grandfather Rocks: Tem and Ptah art sculptures by Jane Highstein are symbolic of Lincoln's "Grandfather Rocks" which hold/represent the history of Lincoln.
 - Gathering Circle: A 70' diameter circular gathering area is available for pow wows, performance arts, bands and events. North of the circle, a grassy natural amphitheater provides seating.



Spirit of Nebraska Pathway Notable Tiles:

- U Charles Bessey
- V Nathan Roscoe Pound
- W Hartley Burr Alexander

Hello. My name is Debby Brehm and I am a huge proponent of the Lancaster Event Center. My daughter and I have shown horses on a National Level for several years and have seen facilities all over the country. We should all be so proud of our Event Center as it ranks as one of the finest in the country. However, as with any venue if you don't keep up with the trends and continue to improve on what you have the venue will deteriorate and become less attractive to the horsemen in the country. Tomorrow is the start of the Cornhusker Classic, a large Quarter Horse Show. In fact last year this show circuit was the number 7 show in the country! This year we are growing by an additional 100 stalls and therefore the show will probably be in the top 5 shows for 2019.

The Cornhusker Classic will bring in over \$6 million to the city of Lincoln. This is a great economic generator. The improvements to the RV park are definitively needed as many people will park their living quarter horse trailers and/or RVs there and have their trainer stay in them. However, just as many (if not more) people will stay in area hotels and of course eat at restaurants and shop at our stores. Many horsemen come to Lincoln to compete because this show will be awarding over \$200,000 in prize money. We have horses coming from as far away as California and South Carolina as well as every other Midwestern state. We are rapidly outgrowing the Event Center and that is of huge concern as we do not want to lose that horse show.

As you can tell I am a proponent of the Quarter Horse Shows held at the Event Center but with the new High School Rodeo coming I am anxious to promote that as well. Nebraska is an Agriculture state and even though Lincoln is urban many people have horses for recreation and show. Studies have shown that horseback riding is on the increase among the younger Millennial adults (ages 18-21) as well as older Millennials, plus members of Generation X (ages 22-39). These young people will probably start to show their horses competitively as well and the Event Center is in a perfect position to capitalize on this.

Did you know that the horse industry is a dominant force in the U.S.? According to a study conducted by the National Snaffle Bit Association there are 9.2 million horses in the United States which generates \$122 billion in economic impact on an annual basis. Compare that to the NFL which brings in \$14 billion in economic impact per season. Horses are HUGE business. The National Finals High School Rodeo will generate \$16 million each year to Lincoln. We are talking real money here.

Another area that is on the rise is Equestrians With Disabilities and equine-assisted therapy. According to a study by the U.S. Equine Market the use of horses has been "helpful in the treatment of patients suffering from substance abuse, mood disorders, autism spectrum disorders, grief/loss and trauma." More and more of these equine programs will be able to use the Lancaster Event Center if we keep making necessary improvements to the facility.

As I mentioned at the start, I show Quarter Horses at the shows but I'm very aware that our Lancaster Event Center has so much more potential if we continue to make improvements to the facility. The economic impact on Lincoln is tremendous already; just think of how much more money can be generated if we continue to improve our facility? In closing I do hope that I have helped you to realize that the Event Center is a huge contributor to the Quality of Life Lincoln loves to promote.



Pete Ricketts
Governor

RECEIVED

JUN 11 2019

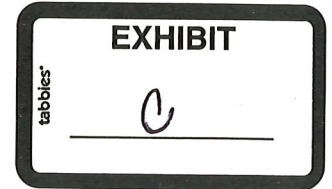
LANCASTER COUNTY
BOARD

RECEIVED

JUN 11 2019

LANCASTER COUNTY
CLERK
STATE OF NEBRASKA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
P.O. Box 94848 • Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4848
Phone: (402) 471-2244 • pete.ricketts@nebraska.gov



April 26, 2019

Lancaster County Board of Commissioners
555 S 10th St #110
Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear Lancaster County Board of Commissioners,

Thank you for taking the time to have this special meeting to review the grant request of the Lancaster Event Center. I ask you to strongly consider Lancaster Event Center's request for more capital dollars to finish the improvements for the 2020 and 2021 National High School Finals Rodeo (NHSFR).

The NHSFR is an excellent fit for Nebraska, from the statewide economic impact to the association's dedication to youth and their agricultural roots. I am also very pleased to hear about the second bid win for the 2026 & 2027 NHSFR.

The NHSFR's economic impact for Nebraska will be significant, 1,700 High School Contestants and their families traveling from 43 States, 5 Canadian Provinces, Australia, and Mexico, and staying in Nebraska for nearly 10 days. The estimated \$16 million per year financial impact to City of Lincoln and Lancaster County alone is just the beginning, the impact state-wide will be significant. Nebraska has a great rodeo tradition, from the University of Nebraska Rodeo Association, to the numerous rodeos held at county fairs throughout our state, including my favorite, Nebraska's Big Rodeo in Burwell.

Thank you for your consideration of the Lancaster Event Center's request. I understand the Lancaster Event Center improvements will help Nebraska stay competitive to attract many national events to come to Lincoln and our great state.

Thank you also for the time you have dedicated, as a Visitors Promotion Committee and for continuing to take such a leadership role in growing tourism in our state.

Best Wishes,

Pete Ricketts
Governor