

MEETING RECORD

NAME OF GROUP: URBAN DESIGN COMMITTEE

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING: Wednesday, July 7, 2010 3:00 p.m., Room 214, County/City Building, 555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: JoAnne Kissel, Michelle Penn, Gordon Scholz, Scott Sullivan and Mary Anne Wells. Mike Eckert absent.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Rob Schmidt (LES); Becky Martin & Judy Johnson (citizens); Todd Pierce (Pictofarm); Ken Smith (Urban Development); Marvin Krout, Ed Zimmer & Michele Abendroth (Planning Department)

STATED PURPOSE OF MEETING: Regular Meeting of the Urban Design Committee

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m. The Nebraska Open Meetings Act was acknowledged.

Adoption of meeting record from the regular meeting of June 2, 2010

Scholz moved approval of the meeting record of June 2, 2010, seconded by Sullivan. Motion carried 5-0. Kissel, Penn, Scholz, Sullivan and Wells voting 'yes'; Eckert absent.

Central Lincoln Reliability Project (Rob Schmidt, LES)

Schmidt stated that this project is a transmission project across central Lincoln. This project began because of the need to replace aging cables, to meet growing demand for electricity and to improve system reliability. A new 115 kV transmission line is needed and will connect four substations at 56th & Everett, 30th & A, a new substation at 21st & N and 17th & Holdrege. LES can design a good system with either overhead or underground lines and stressed that LES is not promoting one over the other. He noted that overhead lasts twice as long, and underground is significantly more expensive. There would likely be a rate increase with underground lines.

Committee members suggested looking at using the alleys for the transmission lines.

Committee members felt that the proposed underground lines identified by LES are on target in terms of keeping specific views sacred.

Krout questioned how the Committee could provide input as a visual impact analysis has not been conducted.

Becky Martin stated that she is concerned about the visual impact of overhead lines on their street. Currently there are no overhead lines on the street she lives. Using the alleys does not concern her because that is the service area. She would like to see underground lines in historic neighborhoods.

Judy Johnson stated that she would like to see underground lines throughout the City to keep the City aesthetically pleasing.

The Committee recommended that the route go through the green beltway and cut across on Sumner or A Street, that all transmission lines be underground, that damage to established vegetation be minimized and that the line go under the bike trail.

Penn moved that all transmission lines be underground, seconded by Kissel. Motion carried 5-0. Kissel, Penn, Scholz, Sullivan and Wells voting 'yes'; Eckert absent.

Vendor cart for D'Leons

Zimmer stated that the sidewalk vending ordinance states that when someone applies for a permit, it must be reviewed by the Urban Design Committee. This application is for a vendor cart for D'Leons.

Kissel moved approval of the proposed vendor cart, seconded by Scholz. Motion carried 5-0. Kissel, Penn, Scholz, Sullivan and Wells voting 'yes'; Eckert absent.

Misc.

Parking Garage Signing Package

Ken Smith stated that they are looking at an external and internal signing package for all downtown garages. Todd Pierce stated that the approach is to design a signing and marketing package that will easily identify safe, affordable, friendly, and convenient parking. It is important to be consistent and simple. He presented some temporary design images that can be used in different settings. The main colors will be orange and blue. They would also like to use LED lighting. He also feels it is important to coordinate and integrate the design concepts with the Corbin wayfinding study.

Committee members generally liked the color scheme and design concepts.

Penn moved to recommend that the coordinators for the Corbin wayfinding study and the downtown parking project meet to discuss integrating the two studies, seconded by Scholz. Motion carried 5-0. Kissel, Penn, Scholz, Sullivan and Wells voting 'yes'; Eckert absent.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

Please note that these minutes will not be formally approved until the next meeting of the Urban Design Committee..

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