

MEETING RECORD

NAME OF GROUP: Urban Design Committee

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING: Wednesday, March 7, 2007, 3:00 p.m., Room 206, County-City Building, 2nd Floor, 555 South 10th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

MEMBERS AND OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Members: JoAnne Kissel, Thomas Saddler, Gordon Scholz, and Mary Anne Wells. Mike Eckert, Scott Sullivan and Kim Todd absent

Others: Lynn Johnson, J.J. Yost, and Mark Canney (Parks & Recreation); Ernie Castillo (Urban Development Department); Ed Zimmer and Michele Abendroth (Planning Department.)

STATED PURPOSE: Regular Urban Design Committee Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 3:06 p.m.

Approval of meeting notes of November 1, 2006 and February 7, 2007

Wells moved approval of the November 1, 2006 and February 7, 2007 meeting notes, seconded by Saddler. Motion carried 4-0. Kissel, Saddler, Scholz and Wells voting 'yes'; Eckert, Sullivan and Todd absent.

Enersen Urban Design

Zimmer presented images of Government Square Park, which is the proposed candidate for the Enersen Urban Design award.

Kissel moved that Government Square Park be awarded the Enersen Urban Design award, seconded by Saddler. Motion carried 4-0. Kissel, Saddler, Scholz and Wells voting 'yes'; Eckert, Sullivan and Todd absent.

Trago Park Master Plan (Parks & Rec. Dept.)

Yost stated that they have been working with the community to develop a Master Plan for renovation work in Trago Park. Timing is being dictated by the Antelope Valley project. The Antelope Valley channel has an impact on Trago Park. There were pledges made for improvements to the park when the channel construction comes through. The project is still a work in progress. They plan to begin construction this summer. The Malone Center has looked at their future in terms of their current building or a new building. It would appear that they are looking at relocating. Part of the Master Plan is built around that. The new location would be on axis with T Street. He noted that Trago Park is not actually a park. The area was designated as an open space to serve as a buffer between the University and the Malone Neighborhood. As part of the Master Plan, they want to formally designate the space as a park. There was a lot of discussion about having a community center with a very large footprint. Because of the loss of green space, the committee recommended that they not go forward with that project. They

have talked about the replacement of Kuklin Pool, as it will close in one or two years. They looked at relocating, but the committee recommended that a pool facility not be located in Trago Park. They are looking at a water facility, such as a "sprayground." There will also be a playground wrapped around the edges of the sprayground. The basketball courts will be moved, and they will convert the remaining portion of the basketball courts into half-court facilities. There will be additional parking along 22nd Street. There is a commitment to add some interpretive or historical elements to the Park. They have identified three locations for these art elements. There is also an art wall on the western edge near the channel. It will be on a large retaining wall. Johnson stated that they are working with an advisory group on the art wall.

Kissel stated that she likes how the project relates to the wall and the Antelope Valley project and that they are subtly discouraging the spillover from the use of University students.

Saddler stated that he likes the changes in that area. He feels it has the ability to bring together people from many cultures. He asked if there are any educational opportunities. Yost stated that the historical art elements will have an educational component. Saddler noted that he feels it is important to have as much public input as possible so the community takes ownership of the project. He would also like to see the youth represented in the planning process.

Scholz asked if the Corps of Engineers is responsible for constructing the wall. Yost stated they are building it as part of their channel construction. They have been receptive to input so far, and they believe they will continue to be.

Kissel moved to endorse the general direction of the conceptual plan and with the suggestion to encourage multi-generational involvement in the refinement of the plan; Saddler seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Kissel, Saddler, Scholz and Wells voting 'yes'; Eckert, Sullivan and Todd absent.

Rose Garden (at Antelope Park) Master Plan (Parks & Rec. Dept.)

Johnson stated that Lincoln has had a municipal rose garden for more than 70 years. There have been roses at 27th & B for 60 years. A rose garden was established at Woods Park in the mid-50's. In 2001, a Master Plan for the Antelope Park Triangle was developed. In that plan, the renovation of Lincoln's municipal rose gardens was identified. There are two plans identified. The area to the east of the rotary pavilion is intended to be a Nebraska prairie style rose garden and will have a more contemporary feel. The other plan will be a more formal rose garden with an art deco theme. The centerpiece is a fountain with a more formal planting of roses along the outside. There will be a serpentine walkway with benches which will connect the north pavillion with the south pavillion. There will also be a gateway connecting 27th Street to the Sunken Gardens. He noted that fundraising is complete, and the old rose garden was demolished last fall. The walkways and plantings will be installed in the strolling garden this spring. Construction of the formal rose garden will be finalized this year and roses will be planted in the spring of 2008.

Kissel stated that this is a beautiful project.

Scholz asked if the project is entirely privately funded. Johnson noted that the City put in \$25,000 with the majority from private funds. The total cost of the project is \$350,000. Scholz congratulated staff for their work on this project.

Kissel moved approval of the project, seconded by Wells. Motion carried 4-0. Kissel, Saddler, Scholz and Wells voting 'yes'; Eckert, Sullivan and Todd absent.

South Street Redevelopment Plan Design Principles (Urban Development Dept.)

Castillo stated that this project began two years ago. Construction and streetscape will begin next week. Two years ago, Urban Development began a streetscape project on South Street from 8th to 17th Street. They coordinated work with Public Works and released a Request for Proposal. Clark Enersen was selected as the consultant for the streetscape. They decided they needed design guidelines when the houses on the northwest corner of 15 & South Streets were demolished. He distributed a copy of the draft design principles for the Committee's review.

Kissel believes that the area needs to be as vehicular friendly as possible, as it has historically been used in that way. She believes that it will not be a premiere walkable area, but we can make it attractive to pedestrians as well. Zimmer believes there needs to be a balance with the vehicular traffic and the pedestrian traffic.

Misc.: Information of J St. Bridge, etc.

Zimmer informed the Committee that the J Street bridge project is moving forward. This project is in the jurisdiction of the Capitol Environs Commission. The design has cast-in-place concrete with decorative railings. There is also a light reference to the capitol. He feels the design is very pleasing.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

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

Q:\UDC\MINUTES\2007\070307.wpd