

## MEETING RECORD

<b>NAME OF GROUP:</b>	URBAN DESIGN COMMITTEE
<b>DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING:</b>	Wednesday, September 5, 2007, 3:00 p.m., Room 206, County-City Building, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, 555 South 10 <sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, Nebraska
<b>MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	Mike Eckert, Gordon Scholz, Scott Sullivan and Mary Anne Wells. JoAnne Kissel, Thomas Saddler and Kim Todd absent.
<b>OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	Kim Sturzenegger, Richard Quinn, Michael Cartwright (University Towers); Rick Noyes (Downtown Neighborhood Association); Matt Metcalf and Ron Larson (Davis Design); Monte Froehlich (Lincoln Synergy Group); Deena Winter (Lincoln Journal Star); Dallas McGee (Urban Development); JJ Yost (Parks & Recreation) Ed Zimmer and Michele Abendroth (Planning Department.)
<b>STATED PURPOSE OF MEETING:</b>	Regular Meeting of the Urban Design Committee

The meeting began at 3:04 p.m.

### **Approval of meeting notes of April 4, May 2, May 10 and August 1, 2007**

Sullivan moved approval of the April 4, May 2, May 10 and August 1, 2007 minutes; it was seconded by Eckert. Eckert, Scholz, Sullivan and Wells voting 'yes'; Kissel, Saddler and Todd absent.

### **Parking lot redesign for Lewis Ballfields in Antelope Park (J St. at Capitol Parkway) -- an Antelope Valley improvement (JJ Yost, Parks & Rec Dept)**

Yost stated that in the construction of the new Antelope Valley channel, the Corps of Engineers will build a diversion structure that will displace the parking lot on the N Street side of Lewis Ballfields, at the location of the old "Muny Pool." They are proposing to eliminate one of the ballfields and build a 163 stall parking lot, expanding the south lot. The south lot is currently accessed off J Street but the driveway is hazardously close to the intersection. They are proposing the expanded lot will be accessed from Capital Parkway. They will bid the project this September and construction will take place this year. Thirty trees will be removed to build the lot; however, they are proposing to replant all 30 trees. Landscaping will be done next spring.

The Committee questioned the screening requirements along Capitol Parkway. Yost stated that the screening does not meet the City's screening requirements but was done for safety concerns to keep visibility lines open.

Eckert moved approval to proceed with construction but the screening requirements for the projects must be reviewed at a future meeting in order to be in compliance with current City screening standards and to enhance the corridor; it was seconded by Sullivan. Motion carried 3-0. Eckert, Scholz and Sullivan voting 'yes'; Wells abstaining; Kissel, Saddler and Todd absent.

### **Preliminary discussion of urban design goals for the Catalyst Redevelopment Project in the vicinity of P & Q Streets, 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> Street (Dallas McGee, Urban Development Dept)**

McGee stated that nine years ago, a list of design goals was put together for the Embassy Suites. They felt that was a good process for the Synergy project as well. He then presented a draft list of design goals for the Catalyst Redevelopment Project at P and Q Streets from 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> Streets. Crandall Arambula will assist with review of the development proposals. The guidelines identify the role of the Urban Design Committee, address land use issues, strive to strengthen the linkages among the sub-districts of

downtown by providing ample sidewalks, state that the context of the setting should be addressed in the design and choice of materials, and address the scale of the building in that it must enhance the skyline and downtown. This project has rich potential for a major addition to Lincoln's center and bears great responsibility to the community's urban design on many scales.

The Committee felt it was important to recognize the impact on the Capitol Environs district. The Committee was also concerned with the height and massing of the building. Froehlich stated that most of the discussion has been on functionality and how to fit the pieces together. He added that there have been a mixture of opinions on the height issue. The Committee felt that selection of materials is very important as variety at the street level is a concern as well.

Concerns from Kim Sturzenegger and Richard Quinn were voiced about the view from their homes in University Towers as well as the sheer mass of the building. Noyes thanked the parties involved for the public process. Cartright expressed his concerns in the design goals being very broad, no other modes of transportation being mentioned, energy conservation, and the availability of green space. He also would like to keep the view from his home but he feels that is less of a concern than the architectural integrity of the building. He also questioned the canyon effect in downtown. Sturzenegger added that the relationship between the Capitol and the University is very important.

The Committee was asked to submit any comments to Zimmer within the next two weeks. Zimmer stated that he will incorporate the comments from today's discussion into the guidelines and provide a revised draft prior to the next meeting.

**Misc.**

Scholz brought up the issue of the election of a new chair and the rotation of that responsibility.

Scholz moved to elect Scott Sullivan as Chair and Joann Kissel as Vice-Chair; it was seconded by Eckert. Motion carried 4-0. Eckert, Scholz, Sullivan and Wells voting 'yes'; Kissel, Saddler and Todd absent.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:09 p.m.

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