

MEETING NOTES

NAME OF GROUP:	URBAN DESIGN COMMITTEE
DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING:	Wednesday, September 3, 2008 3:00 p.m., Room 206, County-City Building, 2 nd Floor, 555 South 10 th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska
MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:	Margaret Berry, Mike Eckert, JoAnne Kissel, Michelle Penn, Gordon Scholz, Scott Sullivan and Mary Anne Wells.
OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:	Rick Noyes (Downtown Neighborhood Association); David Landis and Dallas McGee (Urban Development); Kent Morgan, Stephen Henrichsen and Michele Abendroth (Planning Department.)
STATED PURPOSE OF MEETING:	Regular Meeting of the Urban Design Committee

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. The Nebraska Open Meetings Act was acknowledged.

Accept meeting notes of July 2 and August 6, 2008

Scholz moved to accept the meeting notes of July 2, 2008 and August 6, 2008 with corrections to the July 2 minutes as follows: clarification on the member seconding the motion on the Gallup project (the notes will be changed to indicate that Kissel seconded the motion); and the addition of a sentence on the Color Court project regarding the western addition being sheathed in corrugated metal. The motion to accept the meeting notes was seconded by Wells. Motion carried 4-0. Penn, Scholz, Sullivan and Wells voting 'yes'; Berry, Eckert and Kissel absent.

Update on West Haymarket Redevelopment (Kent Morgan)

Morgan presented the four alternative site plans on the West Haymarket Redevelopment project, identified as the red, white, blue and yellow options. The purpose is not to select one option over the other. In all four options, the arena is located directly west of the post office. Differences among the options include the location of 6th Street, the location of Breslow Ice Center, vehicular access, the location of festival space, and the location of a festival street and canopy streets. Morgan noted that these options will be continually refined over the next months. He asked the Committee for their input and noted that staff will bring the options to the Committee again.

In response to a question regarding the post office discussions, Morgan noted that staff has met with the Postmaster and he was not concerned with the access on R Street. He was very willing to work with staff.

Morgan noted that the yellow option was designed during the Mayors' Institute on City Design visit in mid-August. One of the things they felt was important is to preserve the existing canopy to the Amtrak Station.

Sullivan commented on the location of the Breslow Ice Center in the red and white options and its isolation from the parking and mixed-use space.

Kissel asked about the use of the festival space. Morgan noted that staff has wrestled with the concept of making the festival space flow with the Haymarket or making it have more of its own identity.

Landis expressed a concern with the festival space being too large and not intimate enough and losing a human scale. He feels that if the space is designed well, it can have many uses.

Scholz urged staff to keep as much of the canopy intact in order to preserve the historical significance of the area.

Committee members were concerned about the scale of the mixed-use and parking spaces in the yellow option, as they felt it does not relate to the Haymarket.

Members also generally did not support the additional small ice sheet and felt it could best be used as turf space.

Penn and Wells commented that the festival space can be turf and does not have to be concrete. Penn feels there are many unique opportunities for gatherings that can take place in the festival space which should be explored.

Update on Downtown Design Standards and Antelope Valley Opportunity District zoning (Staff)

Henrichsen noted that this process is at the final step with City Council final action on its September 8 agenda. He stated there was some opposition received at the Planning Commission hearing regarding the use of building materials. Additional language was added to note that other building materials could be reviewed by the appropriate review board.

Henrichsen noted that a councilperson has proposed amendments which would delete the building materials section completely. He added that the Lincoln Chapter AIA has submitted a letter to the Planning Department requesting that the building materials section 4.2 be reviewed following the adoption of the standards and zoning changes.

Wells suggested adding clarification that the design must take into consideration the location of street trees, specifically on Antelope Valley Parkway.

Sullivan moved to approve the proposed design standards as written without amendments with the recommendation similar to what is proposed by the Lincoln Chapter AIA that the building materials section 4.2 continue to be reviewed as needed with public input; it was seconded by Kissel. Motion carried 7-0. Berry, Eckert, Kissel, Penn, Scholz, Sullivan and Wells voting 'yes'.

Staff Report

There was no discussion under this agenda item.

Misc.

Noyes stated that he appreciates the process that was taken with the downtown standards and Antelope Valley zoning changes and feels there was ample opportunity for public input. The Downtown Neighborhood Association does not agree with the proposed amendments made by Councilwoman Eschliman and they submitted a letter stating such.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:26 p.m.