

MEETING NOTES

NAME OF GROUP:	URBAN DESIGN COMMITTEE
DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING:	Wednesday, April 1, 2009 3:00 p.m., Room 206, County-City Building, 2 nd Floor, 555 South 10 th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska
MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:	JoAnne Kissel, Michelle Penn, Gordon Scholz, Scott Sullivan and Mary Anne Wells. Margaret Berry and Mike Eckert absent.
OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:	Natalie Bubak (nuVibe); Kent Seacrest (Seacrest & Kalkowski); Dennis Scheer and Jeffre Chadwick (The Clark Enersen Partners); Ed Zimmer and Michele Abendroth (Planning Department.)
STATED PURPOSE OF MEETING:	Regular Meeting of the Urban Design Committee

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m. The Nebraska Open Meetings Act was acknowledged.

Accept meeting notes of March 4, 2009

Penn moved to accept the meeting notes of March 4, 2009, seconded by Kissel. Motion carried 4-0. Kissel, Penn, Sullivan and Wells voting 'yes'; Berry, Eckert and Scholz absent.

Downtown Design Standards review of Assurity headquarters project, R to Q Streets, 19th to 21st Streets (The Clark Enersen Partners)

Zimmer stated that this is an update review of the Assurity project. There has been design work since the review last month. They are going to City Council next week, so they are seeking input on the updated work.

Scheer stated that this will go to City Council for a vote on the redevelopment agreement. They are a few months away from seeking a building permit.

Scheer stated that the redevelopment includes 21st to 19th Streets and Q to R Streets. They have thought about the site in its context to the park and the corridor along Q Street. This transitional zone between downtown and the campus is unique. They are trying to create an approach from the street to the entrance that is exciting. Over the last month, they came to the conclusion that the Union Plaza features should be wrapped around to the garage. They began to see the garage wall as an art wall. They feel that they need to represent the structure as a garage, but they also wanted an art wall feature.

Chadwick stated that the garage wall is a series of columns. The objective is to have one panel that can function differently in different areas. There is lot of opportunity to add color to the panels. This will add depth and layering to an otherwise flat facade. They are also proposing landscape to create a pedestrian experience as well as for the drivers.

Sullivan stated that he appreciates the entrance to the building having a reference to Q Street. He also likes the west facade of the parking structure. He suggested treating the south facade of the garage similar to the west side.

Penn stated that she appreciates them taking into consideration their comments from last month. She likes the west facade as well. She also feels that the south facade is still very plain and suggested that some of the landscaping be moved from the west side to the south side.

Scholz applauded their efforts on addressing the concerns from the last meeting.

In general, the Committee was very pleased with the changes made since the review of the project at the last meeting and appreciated their work and consideration of the suggestions.

Redevelopment project at N. 27th and Center Streets for Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach (Urban Development Dept.)

Zimmer stated that this is a redevelopment agreement and relates to the Assurity project. Matt Talbot Kitchen is currently located at 19 & R Streets and is moving to the Carnegie library building. The current location is needed for the Assurity project. The Carnegie building was moved in 1992 and placed a mile north on 27th & Center. NeighborWorks is the current tenant but is moving to another location in Antelope Valley. Matt Talbot would then acquire the building. In the package to the City Council, it is recommended that it be designated as a landmark. Sinclair Hille is doing the design work for the project. They are putting a major addition behind the building. The addition will contain the kitchen, dining room and offices. The original building will be offices.

Kissel questioned the need for the landmark designation status.

Members were concerned with the view of the original historic building being blocked from the north and west sides and with the pedestrian accessibility to the building.

Members generally were pleased with the design elements of the addition and its sensitivity to the historic features of the building.

Sidewalk Café for NuVibe, 126 N. 14th St.

Natalie Bubak, owner of NuVibe, presented designs of the sidewalk café at 126 N. 14 Street. Zimmer noted that the Committee is reviewing the overall design, fence and street furniture.

Committee members generally liked the design.

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

Staff Report/ Misc.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

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