

## MEETING NOTES

<b>NAME OF GROUP:</b>	URBAN DESIGN COMMITTEE
<b>DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING:</b>	Wednesday, September 2, 2009 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>	Margaret Berry, JoAnne Kissel, Michelle Penn, Scott Sullivan and Mary Anne Wells. Mike Eckert and Gordon Scholz absent.
<b>OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	Thuy & Danny Nguyen (Little Saigon); Kevin Hittle (SSH Architecture); Don Johnson (Don Johnson Homes); Ernie Castillo (Urban Development Department); Ed Zimmer and Michele Abendroth (Planning Department.)
<b>STATED PURPOSE OF MEETING:</b>	Regular Meeting of the Urban Design Committee

The meeting was called to order at 3:04 p.m. The Nebraska Open Meetings Act was acknowledged.

### **Approval of meeting notes of July 1, 2009**

Penn moved approval of the July 1, 2009 meeting notes, seconded by Berry. Motion carried 4-0. Berry, Penn, Sullivan and Wells voting 'yes'; Eckert, Kissel and Scholz absent. (Kissel was present for remainder of meeting.)

### **Appeal of Planning Department finding (under Neighborhood Design Standards) for construction of a house at 1243 Belmont Ave.**

Ed Zimmer stated that this appeal is under the Committee's authority as the appeal body for the Neighborhood Design Standards. He noted that they are appealing the Planning Department's finding that this design does not strictly conform to the Neighborhood Design Standards. The Planning Director, Marvin Krout, would have waived it but that takes longer as opposed to coming to the Urban Design Committee. This design evolved over a period of time. There are three iterations with the current design being a one-story home. The reason it does not meet the standards is because the garage is on the facade instead of 5 feet off the facade. It is fairly similar to existing examples on the block but it does not meet the language of the standards in that an exception must follow a predominant (majority) pattern in the block.

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

### **Little Saigon Redevelopment Project (N. 26<sup>th</sup> and W Streets)**

Kevin Hittle distributed site plans for the Saigon Plaza. At the last meeting, there was some discussion about the setback on the south lot where the addition is being added. Since that time, he visited with Terry Kathe and he has indicated that the issue has to do with block face. The setback is actually 0 feet. He has moved the west wall of the addition to be in line with the west wall of the existing structure. They have also added two trash enclosures. The other change is the addition of the landscape area and three proposed trees on the west lot line. On the north side, they will have sidewalk access to the adjacent trail.

The facade will be brick with concrete columns. The fascia is undecided at this point. Currently, it is proposed to be metal panels. Parapets will screen the mechanical equipment. From a distance, you will be able to see the mechanical equipment, but at shorter distances, it will not be visible.

Zimmer noted that the Committee's role is to give advice to the Urban Development Department which will be forwarded to the City Council.

Sullivan feels that all the previous concerns have been addressed. Wells stated that she agrees, but she would like to see more landscaping on the west side.

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

#### **Sidewalk vendor carts - Paw's Dawgs and Hotdoggin**

Zimmer stated that the sidewalk vending ordinance states that carts are subject to review by the Urban Design Committee. Because the Health Department requirements are strict, most of the carts look very similar. Committee members agreed that the design was similar to ones they have seen and approved previously.

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

#### **Staff report: Updates on plazas at Elaine Hammer Bridge (N. 27<sup>th</sup> St.), etc.**

Zimmer stated that Parks & Recreation has made a few modifications to the design on the plaza features around the new Elaine Hammer Bridge. Parks and Recreation sent it out for bid and it is currently under construction.

#### **Streetscape enhancements on South 48<sup>th</sup> Street/ College View Business Area**

Sullivan stated that early in the process they had a meeting with the College View Neighborhood Association. About a month ago, there was a public meeting sponsored by Public Works.

One of the biggest differences from the design at the last meeting is the lighting on 48<sup>th</sup> Street. The lighting design has been continued from Calvert to Pioneers. There will not be overhead LES lights on Prescott, but it will have LED ornamental lighting. The sidewalks and curbs are in poor condition on Prescott but funding is not available at this time. Committee members would like to see enhanced lighting along 48<sup>th</sup> Street for the commercial areas.

One of the points for discussion is how to treat the 48<sup>th</sup> Street entrance into the college. Union College would like to see the lighting pattern continued on to the north side of 48<sup>th</sup> Street. One suggestion is to have banners on the light fixtures. Another suggestion is to continue the sidewalk on the north side and place trees at the entrance. Committee members suggested having banner fixtures at the college entrance, but did not feel it should have commercial treatment along the 48<sup>th</sup> Street side of the campus.

Sullivan noted that the plan will go out to bid on November 1, and the landscape plan will be done in a separate package.

Committee members liked the direction of the project and asked that they come back to give regular updates during the process.

Berry moved approval of the project and encouraged enhanced lighting along 48<sup>th</sup> Street commercial area and banner fixtures for the college, and would like to receive updates along the way; it was seconded by Wells. Motion carried 5-0. Berry, Kissel, Penn, Sullivan and Wells voting 'yes'; Eckert and Scholz absent.

**Misc.**

Zimmer stated that he received an email from StarTran on a design for downtown bus shelters.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:39 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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