

## MEETING RECORD

**NAME OF GROUP:** URBAN DESIGN COMMITTEE

**DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING:** Wednesday, June 2, 2010 3:00 p.m., Room 203, County/City Building, 555 S. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** JoAnne Kissel, Michelle Penn, Gordon Scholz and Mary Anne Wells. Mike Eckert and Scott Sullivan absent.

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Dennis Scheer & Tim Rogers (The Clark Enersen Partners); Steve Werthmann & Olga Kanne (Urban Development); Terry Genrich (Parks & Recreation); Marvin Krout, Ed Zimmer & 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.

### **Adoption of meeting record from the regular meeting of May 5, 2010**

Kissel moved approval of the meeting record of May 5, 2010, seconded by Wells. Motion carried 4-0. Kissel, Penn, Scholz and Wells voting 'yes'; Eckert & Sullivan absent.

### **Union Plaza Active Living Center**

Genrich stated that the Parks & Rec Department has been developing a trail center on the southeast corner of 21 & Q Streets. In the discussions with the trail center, it has grown into an active living center. It includes a public gathering space and a public restroom as well as retail on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. The second floor is the Community Health Endowment office. They have been looking for the right location, and they believe it is a good fit.

Scheer stated that this project is in the three block Union Park Plaza. The active living center overlooks the channel. Just to the east of the active living center is a retaining wall that is in place now and defines the 100 year floodplain. The active living center will be out of the floodplain once the floodplain gets re-mapped. There are four fountains and an amphitheater in the park. They are trying to design the building so that it becomes a four sided park building. There is a lot of sidewalk plaza space. They are viewing this as a park space first. He noted that the building is very "green" with many sustainability features.

Rogers stated that the building elements include brick as the primary element and also some zinc and burnished block. In terms of sustainability, they are looking at a geothermal system and a refrigerant based cooling system.

Scheer stated that this will tie in to the trails system with two connections.

Zimmer stated that the Committee is advising the Parks Department on the active living center and advising Parks and Public Works on the right-of-way.

Committee members suggested extending the wall in an L-shape in order to screen the transformer.

Committee members were generally pleased with the plan and were appreciative of the creativity in the design.

Penn moved approval of the proposed plan with the addition of the wall to screen the transformer, seconded by Wells. Penn, Scholz and Wells voting 'yes'; Kissel abstaining. Eckert and Sullivan absent.

### **In-fill house designs for 901 Garfield and 1347 N. 26<sup>th</sup> Street**

Werthmann stated that the money for these projects is federal stimulus funding. Kanne stated that the interior of 901 Garfield was destroyed by fire in February 2009. The owners did not have any funds to repair it, and the City purchased the home from the owners. Most of the homes in the area are 1.5 story homes. The proposed design is a 1.5 story and will have three bedrooms. There will be an egress window in the basement. This is also an energy efficient home.

Kanne noted that the home at 1114 C Street is in complete disrepair. Zimmer stated that this design will be reviewed by the Historic Preservation Commission as it is in the Everett Historic District.

1347 N. 26<sup>th</sup> Street is also in disrepair and has been vacant for many years. The owner defaulted on the loan so the City acquired the property.

Plans were presented for all the homes. Zimmer stated that all the designs meet the Neighborhood Design Standards.

Kissel moved approval of the proposed infill for homes at 901 Garfield and 1347 N. 26; seconded by Wells. Motion carried 4-0. Kissel, Penn, Scholz and Wells voting 'yes'; Eckert and Sullivan absent.

### **Durango Taco vendor's cart**

Zimmer stated that the sidewalk vending ordinance states that when someone applies for a permit, it must be reviewed by the Urban Design Committee. Most of the carts are very similar because they must meet very specific health standards. Krout noted that there is a proposed change to the ordinance that would omit the review by the Urban Design Committee.

Kissel moved approval of the proposed vendor cart, seconded by Penn. Motion carried 4-0. Kissel, Penn, Scholz and Wells voting 'yes'; Eckert and Sullivan absent.

### **Update on the Wayfinding project**

Zimmer stated that the broad charge for this project is a wayfinding system for downtown and attractions throughout the City. There are many regulations including color, font, letter height and reflectivity. There are two broad proposals. Concept 1 is a straightforward pole with dark blue, red and brushed aluminum color scheme. The vehicular guide system would be mounted to existing street poles. The logo reflects the capitol dome. Concept 2 is a dark green and copper color scheme. The vehicular system would be mounted to existing street poles. It uses extruded aluminum structural side frame with hidden mounting brackets. Variations include a design for signs at the UNL City Campus perimeter containing only UNL destinations.

The next step is to choose a design concept preference. The funding partners for the study include the Planning Department, Urban Development Department, Parks Department, Downtown Lincoln Association, Convention & Visitors Bureau and the University of Nebraska.

Committee members expressed concern with concept 2 being too contrived and the fact that this design has not been tested or used in other cities. Members generally liked concept 1 in terms of its simplicity and that it has been used in other cities. With respect to the color scheme, members were uncertain of the color choice. Zimmer stated that they will bring this to the Committee again.

**LES Central Reliability Study**

Zimmer stated that LES is doing a study on replacing a transmission line that runs through the Woods Park neighborhood.. The study will look at routes and overhead or underground lines or a combination. The Committee will review the project. There is a significant cost increase with the underground line.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:23 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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