

MEETING RECORD

NAME OF GROUP: URBAN DESIGN COMMITTEE

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING: Wednesday, September 1, 2010 3:00 p.m., Room 214, County/City Building, 555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Rob Schmidt (LES); 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 July 7, 2010

Kissel moved approval of the meeting record of July 7, 2010, seconded by Wells. Motion carried 4-0. Kissel, Penn, Scholz and Wells voting 'yes'; Eckert and Sullivan absent.

Proposed routes, LES Central Lincoln Reliability Project (Rob Schmidt, LES)

Schmidt stated that he is here to update the Committee on the two proposed routes that have currently been identified. One is the staff recommended route, which has a combination of underground and overhead lines. The other is the alternate route which has all underground cables. The biggest concern that came out of their survey was the proximity to houses. They honored the Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission's recommendation to bury cables in the capitol environs district. Other comments received were to protect the trees, minimize the visual impact and minimize costs, consider the visual impact in parks, historic sites and areas, in Antelope Valley, and to not show preference to certain neighborhoods.

Schmidt then presented the map identifying the staff recommended route. It includes a combination of both underground and overhead segments. The proposed route includes overhead cables from the substation at 17th & Holdrege substation to the new substation at 21st & N Streets. Underground cables are proposed from the 21st & N substation through the 30th & A substation and continuing to 30th & South Streets. Overhead cables are proposed to complete the route to the substation at 56th & Everett Streets.

Kissel asked about using underground cables in Antelope Park. Schmidt stated the area around the zoo and Sunken Gardens would make it very difficult and extremely costly to bury the cables in that area.

Schmidt noted that they will continue to receive comments through September. They will have another open house in October and the final recommended route will go to the Board for action in November.

Schmidt stated that the cost for the staff recommended route is \$19.6 million and \$41 million for the all underground route.

Kissel asked if the University has weighed in on this. Schmidt stated that they have met with them several times, and it is their understanding the University is okay with the proposed route.

Scholz stated that one concern he has is the Union Plaza area and what the view would be like looking toward the capitol. Schmidt presented a photo sketch showing the view toward the capitol from that area. He noted that they are very sensitive to protecting the view to the capitol as much as possible. He also presented other photo sketches from various locations. Committee members were appreciative of the photo sketches as it was helpful to see what the views would look like with the proposed cables.

Committee members were generally supportive of the staff recommended route. Penn expressed a concern with the overhead lines in the University area. Scholz stated that he shares that concern and also has a concern with the overhead lines on O Street.

Wells made the following motion: The Urban Design Committee applauds the continuing efforts of LES staff and consultants to gather and consider a wide range of viewpoints and diverse information in planning the Central Lincoln transmission improvements. The Committee finds much to support in the staff-recommended route of August 2010. The “clean-up” of overhead lines on South Street, the underground alignment from South Street to 21st and N, and the respect for the historic and Capitol Environs Districts are especially welcome. The Committee urges further study of the recommendation from 21st and N to 19th and R Streets, keeping in mind the very significant public investment in Antelope Valley improvements and the hopes of maximizing the redevelopment and revitalization opportunities in the central Antelope Valley area. An underground alignment from 21st and N to 19th and R, possibly using the Antelope Creek Roadway median, would enhance views in a key redevelopment area, from Union Plaza, and along the O Street “gateway” to downtown. The recommended overhead route in this area uses several 90 degree corners which may increase the conspicuousness of the poles, insulators and lines in that area. The motion was seconded by Kissel. Motion carried 4-0. Kissel, Penn, Scholz and Wells voting ‘yes’; Eckert and Sullivan absent.

Misc.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

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

Q:\UDC\MINUTES\2010\100901.docx