

MEETING RECORD

NAME OF GROUP: URBAN DESIGN COMMITTEE

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING: Wednesday, July 11, 2012, 3:00 p.m., Room 214, County/City Building, 555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Scott Sullivan, Michele Tilley and Mary Anne Wells. Peter Hind, JoAnne Kissel, Michelle Penn and Gill Peace absent.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Jake Behrends (LES); Eileen Bergt (EBLA); Dennis Scheer, Karen Nalow, Elizabeth Thomas (Clark Enersen); Lynn Johnson (Parks & Recreation); Jordan Pascale (Journal Star); Hallie Salem (Urban Development); Marvin Krout, Nicole Fleck-Tooze, Ed Zimmer, Stacey Hageman & Michele Abendroth (Planning Department)

STATED PURPOSE OF MEETING: Regular Meeting of the Urban Design Committee

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m.

Adoption of meeting record from the UDC meeting of June 6, 2012

Due to the lack of a quorum, the meeting record was not voted upon.

Entryway Master Plan, I-180 and Cornhusker (Airport to I-180): Preliminary report (Nicole Fleck-Tooze, Planning Dept.)

Fleck-Tooze began by explaining that the goal of the Entryway Master Plan is to strengthen the entryway corridors as identified in the Comprehensive Plan. They are moving forward on studies on I-180 and Cornhusker Highway. This has a short time frame with completion of the Master Plan in August.

Scheer stated that we are early in the process. They have a couple big ideas for the Plan. They have thought that context and understanding context are important. Understanding the region and topography become very important to design. The end thought is that entryways go both ways so it is important to think about outbound as well.

Nalow stated that the influence of the native area has had an impact on the concept. The north side is the high prairie corridor. We are higher up so there are views to the capitol. They believe there are opportunities to soften and refresh it. There are a lot of existing trees. As we get to the interchange, there is a lot of open space to utilize. Just south is the transition parkway. The topography is lower so views to the capitol are hit and miss. They want to look at ways to soften the landscape to bring in the mesic prairie.

Thomas noted that Cornhusker Highway has a very different feel. Some of the uses are less than ideal. They want to make the focus the streetscape until you get past Pfizer when the views to the capitol open up. As we move east to I-180 and Cornhusker, they want to continue the prairie landscape as well as screen the industrial uses.

Wells asked if the Plan will include 14th and Cornhusker. Scheer stated that Lynn Johnson wants to include that area as it is an important area.

Nalow continued by explaining that as we go farther south, there are great views but they need to be refined. As we move toward 1st and Cornhusker, they want to look at how we screen. As we get closer to the intersection, they want to revise this to create that nice swatch of prairie.

They are also looking at how to treat Oak Lake, Oak Creek and Salt Creek. Scheer stated that they are looking at whether some of the lagoons, especially the two split by the Interstate, should become wetlands.

Nalow stated that as you cross Oak Creek, they really want to make that a prominent location. As we enter into the urban skyline, there are a series of three view changes. On the north, one of the main focuses is Haymarket Park and the arena in the background, next is Memorial Stadium and then finally is the view of the skyline and the capitol.

Scheer stated that they are in the early stages and will come back to next month's meeting with further development.

Krout stated that this is the corridor for public art, so there is a potential for environmental art or land art. He asked if there is an artist on the team. Scheer stated that these are issues we need to address. There is not an artist on the team, but they are working with LPPAD (Lincoln Partners for Public Art Development).

Sullivan stated that this is a wayfinding piece, and he is thinking that those intersections should be special points. He is not thinking signs.

Wells stated that NDOR has different seed mixes all throughout the state. She offered suggestions on mixes they might consider.

Bergt stated that billboards create a big impact and asked if they are going to look at those. Scheer stated that the majority are in the sports triangle and are well-placed at the more "urban" end of the entryway experience.

Tilley asked if they are looking at no-mow zones. Scheer responded that they are, as they want it to be sustainable.

Tilley commented that 14th Street is an important entry.

Landscape plan for LES substation, Folsom and Pleasant Hill (Eileen Bergt)

Bergt stated that she is here to present the landscape plan for the substation at Highway 77 and Warlick Boulevard. It is out in the open, but they believe the surround area will be commercial at some point. She wanted to get evergreen screening on the north side with some shade trees. They want to keep the plants big and simple.

Wells asked if it is irrigated. Bergt stated that there service at the site, primarily to water the plants.

Committee members were supportive of the design.

Public Art Master Plan (Lynn Johnson, Parks & Rec.)

Johnson explained that there are amendments to the code that state there must be a Master Plan for art on City property. A subcommittee was formed and they created the Master Plan. There are 10 objectives. He noted that Lincoln Partners for Public Art Development (LPPAD) has said we need to be discerning when acquiring art. There are two groups that review art: LPPAD and the Mayor's Art Advisory Group (MAAG). All public art must have a license agreement issued by the Mayor, and all grievances go to City Council. He presented a map identifying areas available for art. There is a database of public art inventory that describes the art and how it should be maintained.

Sullivan asked how the two committees were established. MAAG is comprised of City staff with representatives from the art community. LPPAD is under the Lincoln Community Foundation.

Staff report/Misc.

Civic Plaza

Johnson explained that the plan for Civic Plaza at the northeast corner of 13th and P Streets is a project that is different for a variety of reasons. The intent is to engage artists in a meaningful way by having them engaged with the team from the beginning. The landscape team has created the vision. They went through a selection process and Jun Kaneko was selected as the artist. He has designed an internally lit, 57' fused glass tower. The design is for a multi-purpose space with gathering space. They asked the team to look at how it could be set up for a variety of uses. He presented images of several arrangements such as a class setting or a market. He presented images showing the perspective of the space.

Johnson stated that construction costs are \$2.6 million including the cost of the public art and the other infrastructure, planting materials, etc. They plan to raise an endowment of \$600,000 for future repair and replacement. Fundraising will begin immediately. Public meetings are scheduled in June and July. Construction drawings are anticipated in the fall of 2012 with the construction completed in the summer of 2013.

Tilley asked about the curbs. Johnson responded that the curbs will be designed with a gentle curve to step off easily.

Bergt commented that she believes there needs to be more green space. Johnson replied that they are working on exploring possibilities to incorporate green space.

Tilley complimented the design as she feels it is beautiful. She likes the balance of geometry.

Sullivan stated that it is an interesting fight between art and useable space. As a piece of art, it is beautiful, but if the goal is to create a useable space, then that is not achieved. He suggested rethinking the trees to provide more canopy for daily use.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:41 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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