

MEETING RECORD

NAME OF GROUP: URBAN DESIGN COMMITTEE

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING: Wednesday, July 10, 2013, 3:00 p.m., Room 214, County/City Building, 555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Jessica Lindersmith (U.S. Property); Charles Yin (Hiro 88); Katrina Stoffel (Alley Poyner Macchietto Architects); Jordan Pascale (Journal Star); Chris Connolly (Law Department) Hallie Salem (Urban Development); Ed Zimmer, Stacey Hageman & Michele Abendroth (Planning Department)

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

JoAnne Kissel called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m. The Nebraska Open Meetings Act was acknowledged.

Adoption of meeting record from the UDC meeting of June 12, 2013

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

Street art application, intersection of L St. and Lyncrest

Zimmer stated that this application is associated with Eastridge School. The school has concerns about the safety of the intersection. The principal is the driving force behind this. The design is an eagle, which is the school mascot. She has gotten the 60% approval required of the property owners within 300' of the location. They plan to proceed in August before school starts.

The Committee was supportive of the application.

Bison Witches sidewalk/Civic Plaza café, 1320 P St. (Parks, Urban Development)

Lynn Johnson began by stating that there was an interest in making Civic Plaza an active space on the north and east. There is seating on the plaza with tables and chairs. A number of the planters are seat height. There are two locations for outdoor dining. The café under current discussion is in the southeast corner of the space. It is about 20' by 40' feet. This is subject to an agreement that is currently before City Council. U.S. Property has the option of securing a permit to establish a sidewalk café in that location. The agreement is standard but the one difference is that it would run for a period of time and not just year to year. The same fee would be charged as is paid by all the sidewalk cafes on public right-of-way. Connolly stated that rather than applying for a permit year to year, they are doing it for five years, to amortize the costs.

Sullivan stated that the paper made it sound like this is an advantage to Bison Witches. Connolly stated that the presumption is that they do not want to take it out. It is a free-standing structure. Connolly stated that it is all keno money being used. The money could have been spent on the wall, but it is

expanded to the café cover. The first \$50,000 is the responsibility of U.S. Property. Both the city and the owner want to put money into the wall to make it look better and to make it stronger.

Sullivan asked about the money. Connolly stated that up to \$85,000 is what the city must pay for the wall. U.S. Property will pay the balance over \$85,000. To build the café canopy, the first \$50,000 is U.S. Property responsibility. Fence is already part of civic plaza structure, which is TIF money. The footings will be part of the first \$50,000.

Johnson stated that the city will have a property interest in the face of that wall. Salem stated that it has been a long process of trying to find a way to open up the walls adjacent Civic Plaza to activate those edges, and we finally have a solution.

Kissel stated that this is a good example of the city and private investment working together.

If Bison Witches decides they do not want to operate out of there any more, they can take out the fence and just have the canopy area.

Tilley asked if artist Jun Kaneko has approved this design. Johnson stated that Kaneko has reviewed the design and signed off on it.

Sullivan stated he was pleased to hear the canopy would have a similar quality of construction to Lead Belly's (8th & Q) in Haymarket. He was curious about if there will be any room for vendor carts at Civic Plaza. Johnson stated that there may be some temporary vendor space along the west or south edges around the performance structure space.

Sullivan expressed a concern that we are using TIF money to pay for private fencing. Salem stated that it is important to activate the edges. Also we have an opportunity to have uniformity in the fencing.

Kissel stated that to make a big impact in the urban fabric, you have to look holistically. We are sensitive to the fairness issue, but the urban design issues are so great that she believes this café project has value.

Tilley stated that she is concerned that we are breaking up the space. There is a beautiful design that is now being broken up.

Panda Express sidewalk café, 1317 Q Street

Zimmer stated that Panda Express is located along Q Street of the Larson Building. It is not fenced and comes up against the building. The four tables are proposed to be permanently anchored. The owners were concerned that they do not have a lot of frontage as it is only 15'.

Sullivan stated that this is awkward for a pedestrian without any kind of delineation. It is too intrusive in the sidewalk.

Tilley stated that she has a concern with the tables being anchored.

Sullivan stated that if they do not want a fence, he believes that it should be limited to a couple table tops up against the building.

Kissel stated that if you are going to put something into the public right-of-way, there has to be a public benefit, and she does not see a public benefit to this.

Zimmer noted that the ordinance does allow unfenced sidewalk cafes, but the owner does not have exclusive use of the space.

Hiro 88 sidewalk café, 601 R Street, Suite 100 (Canopy St. opposite Railyard)

Stoffel stated that they would like to place illuminated trees at the Hiro 88 restaurant to help with branding. The trees will have LED lights and will be a single gold color. The branches can be molded and moved. They will be placed in front of the entrance in planters. They will feel as if they are a part of the sidewalk café even though they are in the public right-of-way. Yin stated they have had these in Omaha and there have been no issues with light. It will be a nice visual without a sign.

Sullivan stated that he has seen these in Omaha and he likes the trees. Kissel likes the design.

The Committee was supportive of the application.

Jimmy John's sidewalk café, 601 R Street, Suite 120 (R St. opposite Arena)

Zimmer stated that Jimmy John's is next to Mellow Mushroom. It will have metal furniture.

Salem stated that the fencing has already been approved. It will go all the way around because of the Entertainment District.

The Committee was supportive of the application.

Jack & Jane's sidewalk café, 300 Canopy St. (SW corner of Railyard, at Q Street)

Zimmer stated that Jack and Jane's is on the corner across from the park at the beginning of the Rail Yard. This is not a sidewalk; as they turn the corner, it becomes Rail Yard, which is private space. It is fenced with large 16' openings. The furniture is silver and light-weight aluminum.

The Committee was supportive of the application.

El Mariachi Taco Cantina sidewalk café, 601 R Street

Zimmer stated that this application was just received after the agenda was mailed. It is located at 601 R Street next to the Canopy Lofts. The sidewalk café will be located on the north side and will have a permanent fence. The furniture is powder-coated tubular steel with aluminum finish.

The Committee was supportive of the application.

Staff report/miscellaneous:

Zimmer invited the Committee to a joint meeting with Historic Preservation Commission on July 18th at 1:30 p.m. to review the Arena Drive Parking Deck enhancements.

Zimmer also noted that Project Oscar will be reviewed by the Committee at the August UDC meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

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