

MEETING RECORD

NAME OF GROUP: URBAN DESIGN COMMITTEE

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING: Wednesday, August 14, 2013, 3:00 p.m., Room 214, County/City Building, 555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: JD Linscott, Jake Behrends & Dan Pudenz (LES); Eric Casper, Kate Hier, and Rob Olson (The Clark Enersen Partners); Jordan Pascale (Journal Star); Mike Davis & Brian Praeuner (StarTran); Jerry Shorney (Parks & Recreation); 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 3:01 p.m. The Nebraska Open Meetings Act was acknowledged.

Adoption of meeting records UDC meetings of June 12, 2013 and July 10, 2013; and from the joint UDC/HPC meeting of July 18, 2013.

Hind moved approval of the June 12, 2013 and July 10, 2013 UDC meeting records and the July 18, 2013 joint UDC/HPC meeting record; it was seconded by Wells. Motion carried 4-0. Hind, Kissel, Penn and Wells voting 'yes'; Peace and Tilley absent during vote; Sullivan absent.

Fence replacement/upgrade, 11th & N St. bus stop (StarTran).

Praeuner stated that he would like to get feedback on replacement of the fence for the bus stop at 11th and N Street. They are removing the 4' chain link fence and replacing it with a steel fence. He presented photos of examples of fences being used in the downtown area.

Kissel asked about the reason for the change. Praeuner stated that there were concerns about the aesthetics of the fence. He noted that there were complaints from businesses about the types of activities going on there, and this will assist the Lincoln Police Department in enforcing the trespassing ordinance and prosecuting offenders who are doing things they should not be doing there. Zimmer noted that this will help define the area to those who are actually waiting for the bus.

Hind expressed a concern with the durability of the fence.

Kissel asked if there are other options that could be considered or if we are locked into having a fence. Praeuner stated that he believes that the decision has been made to have a fence.

The Committee suggested using a sturdy, simple design. They would like to see a design solution as opposed to a fence. They suggested looking into other options such as concrete planters. Praeuner stated that he will look into other options and forward those to Zimmer for the Committee's consideration.

LES Substation screening, 8th & N St. substation (Clark Enersen for LES)

Linscott stated that they would like to discuss two substations; one is at 8th and N Street and the other is at 21st and N Street. They do not have much space at either site so they felt it was necessary to have alternate screening in place of chain link fence. Their goals are to have something that is aesthetically pleasing, cost effective, protects the equipment and provides safety.

Casper stated Clark Enersen has been heavily involved with the site design at 8th & N. When they started this project for the 8th and N substation, they wanted to understand the context and what was going on with Canopy Street. The substation panel system is comprised of precast panels with brick and form liner inlays. It is a series of 3 panels on the east side, 9 panels on the south end, and 5 panels on the west end. The system is precast panel that is 9' above grade and 3' below that sits on concrete footings. They are looking at a series of plantings that break up the 9' panels. Hier stated that the materials will be pulled from other Haymarket buildings. They want to break up the 265' wall. They are using 30' panels, and the way they use the reveals between the brick and the way they mix up the panels will create some interest. They will use some grasses in front of the panels. Casper stated that the gate system will be ornamental commercial grade.

Linscott stated that the 21st and N substation is part of the Central Lincoln Reliability Project which involves 150Kv transmission line with the majority of it underground. He presented a diagram of the site. They have made provisions for future added capacity. The wall is just a plain wall, and they are at the initial stages of asking for input.

Linscott stated that they will go out for bids for the design and construction on the 8th and N substation in the fall of this year with construction in the spring of next year. For the 21st and N project, they would like to get input today, and they will present a final design in the spring of next year.

Kissel asked why they are going with this approach. Linscott stated that they typically have landscaping and a chain link fence with barbed wire. Pudenz stated that this is the first time they have taken this approach. In the Haymarket and in residential areas, they feel this is an appropriate decision. They also took into consideration the security of the substations and keeping people out.

Tilley asked about the standards. Linscott stated that the standards are more based on height. The fence panels are taller than the chain link with barbed wire. Behrends stated that the panels would be higher than the safety standards.

Hind stated that he likes the idea of the plantings changing across the face of the wall, but he suggested they consider some roses or burning bushes to deter people from trying to climb over that.

Peace stated that he appreciates the efforts as it is a huge improvement over the chain link fence. There is a random mix, but he would trade some of the complexity of the wall for more plants and a greater variety of plants. He asked if there is something they can add to the gate to obscure the vision. He noted that if the panels work at 8th and N, they should use them at the 21st and N substation too. This would help set a tone for the substations.

Wells asked if they looked at adding limestone texture into the mix. Hind stated that he would be concerned about adding too many types of materials. The quieter it is, the more it's going to go away with the landscaping in front of it.

Penn stated that she likes it a lot. She is pleased to see this. She likes the repetition of it.

Peace moved approval of the 8th and N substation design, seconded by Hind. Motion carried 6-0. Hind, Kissel, Peace, Penn, Tilley and Wells voting 'yes'; Sullivan absent.

Public gardens maintenance building, Antelope Park (south of WaterPark/former A St. Light & Water Building)

Yost stated that the central maintenance yard at 21st and N is being relocated. Most of the functions are being relocated to the new MSC building. They would like to move the public gardens section closer to where they work. They need to construct a new office space and storage for their equipment. The proposal is to construct a new building in Antelope Park. The site is pretty well screened, and it is their intention not to change that. The new building will be on the west side, three storage bins and a shade house. There will be three full time staff and five seasonal staff working from this building. It will be metal roof and Hardyboard siding painted a natural color to blend in with the surroundings. The western side of the building will be secured by fence. It is a pretty simple, utilitarian building. They want to get this out to bid by the end of the month so that they are up and running by next spring.

Wells suggested adding some screening on the north side west of the three storage bins so it will screen the area from the residential.

Peace commented that this is the second project from the Parks Department recently that has been described as simple and utilitarian. He would like to see them look at the whole picture and how to use and arrange the space differently.

Tilley moved approval of the design for the maintenance building, seconded by Wells. Motion carried 6-0. Hind, Kissel, Peace, Penn, Tilley and Wells voting 'yes'; Sullivan absent.

Staff report/miscellaneous.

Zimmer stated that he hopes the N Street bikeway will be on next month's agenda.

Hind asked about the status of the design standard proposals. Hageman stated that they will be forming committees in the next month to begin discussions with the public about the proposal.

Penn added a comment about the bus stop fence as she feels that it is a great urban design problem that could be resolved in a much better way. This is an opportunity to do something good. Hind stated he agrees with Penn and added that this is a node in our city that looks like a construction site at best.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:29 p.m.

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