

MEETING RECORD

NAME OF GROUP: URBAN DESIGN COMMITTEE

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING: June 7, 2016, 3:00 p.m., Conference Room 210, County-City Building, 555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln, NE.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Emily Casper, Tom Huston, Gill Peace, Michelle Penn and Michele Tilley; (Tammy Eagle Bull and JoAnne Kissel absent)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Ed Zimmer, Stacey Groshong Hageman and Teresa McKinstry of the Planning Department; Hallie Salem of Urban Development; Dan and Tamara Sloan; Dennis Kann and other interested parties.

Penn called the meeting to order and acknowledged the posting of the Open Meetings Act in the room.

Penn then requested a motion approving the minutes for the regular meeting held April 5, 2016. Motion for approval made by Huston, seconded by Casper and carried 5-0: Casper, Huston, Peace, Penn and Tilley voting 'yes'; Eagle Bull and Kissel absent.

SIDEWALK CAFÉ FOR THE MILL COFFEE HOUSE, 4736 PRESCOTT AVE.

Members present: Casper, Huston, Peace, Penn and Tilley; Eagle Bull and Kissel absent.

Dan Sloan stated he and his wife Tamara are owners of The Mill. A few years ago, they acquired the building on the corner of 48th & Prescott. Dan and Tamara stated that the streetscape improvements the City completed on Prescott were phenomenal, but there is a huge empty space in front of this corner building and a wide sidewalk. There is a great bakery on the corner and a few shops in between. They would like to do a sidewalk café for these businesses similar to what they already have in front of The Mill. He doesn't want to brand this outdoor space as The Mill. Dan Sloan stated that now there is a super friendly pedestrian street and they are trying to enhance the neighborhood. As owners they would be in control and responsible for the space.

Tamara Sloan stated they felt like the hours of their business would have people migrating to the space later in the day. They didn't feel it was fair for the bakery tenant to feel like they were responsible for the space and its maintenance.

Ed Zimmer wondered if there would be any signage on the canopy. Dan Sloan stated they would prefer "Shops on Prescott" or a blank canopy. It would not say "The Mill". Zimmer noted that it therefore would not be an off-premise sign.

Huston questioned if the bike rack will be moving. Tamara Sloan stated they are expanding into Prescott Gallery. There is room to place a bike rack.

Tilley would like the fence explained a little more. Dan Sloan replied it is more of a barrier with fabric inserts. Tamara Sloan added that the tables won't be fixed. Tilley believes it will be adjacent to Paper Kite. Dan Sloan stated it will be located more towards the bakery, leaving clear views and access to the two shops between The Mill and the bakery.

Huston commented that it looks like a great addition. Tilley agrees.

Casper questioned if anyone will be able to see the Paper Kite sign over the canopy. Dan Sloan doesn't believe the slope of the canopy will hide the sign in any way. They have talked to the business owner and she is excited about it.

ACTION:

Huston moved approval of the railing, café furniture and awning as proposed, seconded by Peace and carried 5-0: Casper, Huston, Peace, Penn and Tilley voting 'yes'; Eagle Bull and Kissel absent.

SIDEWALK CAFÉ FOR HIGHNOONERS, 1414 O STREET

Members present: Casper, Huston, Peace, Penn and Tilley; Eagle Bull and Kissel absent.

Dennis Kann stated that the sidewalk café is pre-existing. He is the new owner. Everything will be maintained the same and the business hours won't change. Tables and signs will stay the same. They aren't changing or adding anything.

Huston inquired if the permit applies to the use or the building. Zimmer stated there is a requirement for an annual renewal. This one lapsed. Kann added that his mother was the previous owner.

ACTION:

Huston moved approval of the railing and furniture, seconded by Tilley and carried 5-0: Casper, Huston, Peace, Penn and Tilley voting 'yes'; Eagle Bull and Kissel absent.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Zimmer received an application for a food cart. He sees nothing different from what is ordinarily approved. The name of the business is Badang. There are certain rules and restrictions on food carts. Urban Design Committee reviews for supporting a vital downtown streetscape. Typically any of these food carts have to be professionally made to properly heat and/or cool food.

Huston wondered about the food truck ordinance. Hallie Salem stated that we attempted to make changes to the food truck ordinance, but there was some opposition from bricks and mortar businesses. We thought we had something acceptable, but the food truck vendors could not agree. There was some general consensus that they wanted more events to participate in. She believes some progress has been made on that front. There are quite a few privately owned properties that they operate on in the downtown area. Zimmer added that operating in the right-of-way and getting

reserved stalls in the downtown environment is difficult. The City has located a few spaces that would work, but the food truck vendors didn't like them. The ones that operate most regularly have an arrangement with private property owners like, for example, the gas station across the street. There are also some night time opportunities for parking lots that aren't full.

Salem believes as we get more vendor trucks there might be a push to try again for more leeway. We hover between five to eight trucks total. Zimmer noted it is a hard issue to come to a solution. Salem would like to help them, it is generally a matter of finding something they agree on.

ACTION:

Peace moved approval of the food cart, seconded by Tilley and carried 5-0: Casper, Huston, Peace, Penn and Tilley voting 'yes'; Eagle Bull and Kissel absent.

- Clark Enersen Award

Zimmer stated that the Lincoln Arts Council wondered what should be on the plaque. This year's award involves three decades of improvement on Lincoln Mall. Zimmer believes it should say Community of Lincoln. Jeff Searcy, Chair of the Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission, will accept the award on the community's behalf. There are many areas that have had a lot of work. This raises the discussion of does this award fit within the Arts Council's Mayor's Awards program. Most of their awards are for people. This is different from the other awards. He inquired if there are any thoughts on this.

Tilley can't see this award being done anywhere else. The mother of arts is urban design and architecture. She believes it is a perfect fit.

Huston doesn't agree that it is a perfect fit. He thinks it is an obtuse fit, which he finds perfect. Tilley finds it a perfect fit, but not often considered to be so.

Zimmer stated that this award recognizes a certain project or effort. He likes that we have been expansive over the last couple of years. It is continually being improved. The jury program has made it easier and stronger.

Tom Huston will attend the awards. Tilley hopes the Enersen Award stays at the Lincoln Arts Council. She really feels like we have a big weight with this award. She wants this award to have a larger weight. She wants it to be presented in a way that makes people proud. Zimmer noted that people seem pleased to display the award.

- Zimmer stated that there is a growing list of future joint meetings with Historic Preservation Commission. The Telegraph District master plan is nearing a point to be brought forward with a special sign district proposal and design standards. There is thinking they can adapt the Downtown Design Standards in some way. He hasn't seen anything yet. 9th and O Street is moving forward, but slower than expected. That is still alive just in the planning stages. What we have seen preliminarily shows they are aware of the high visibility of this corner.

- The infill single-family house by NeighborWorks on South 8th Street is under construction. It isn't a container building. That wasn't financeable.
- The Telephone Museum has gone through a process where a community group has met and offered ideas. Kent Seacrest has been mediating and doing some investigating with the most likely funders. He came up with a prospect for a rent free building as long as expansion for more hours a week were available. The phone museum folks have a treasury of about \$90,000.00. They are working with consultants for a new tentative plan for what a new installation might look like. After that, they are seriously considering hiring a fundraiser. They might need a full-time museum employee. They are making some potential progress with careful, thoughtful steps.
- Zimmer noted that Gill Peace has been working with NeighborWorks on a housing development at 9th and D Street. It will go to Historic Preservation Commission because it is in the South Bottoms neighborhood. That is a National Register District, so Historic Preservation Commission will be advisory. The applicant is applying for a Community Unit Plan. It will go to Planning Commission for public hearing.

Peace stated this is the former site of Zion Church that burned down. The site is almost a half block. It is parking and grass now.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.