

MEETING RECORD

NAME OF GROUP: URBAN DESIGN COMMITTEE

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING: March 6, 2018, 3:00 p.m., Conference Room 214, County-City Building, 555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln, NE.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Amber Brannigan, Emily Casper, Gill Peace and Michelle Penn; (Tammy Eagle Bull and Tom Huston absent).

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Ed Zimmer and Teresa McKinstry of the Planning Department; and Matt Olberding of the Lincoln Journal Star.

Michelle 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 of the regular meeting of February 6, 2018. Casper moved approval, seconded by Peace and carried 4-0: Brannigan, Casper, Peace and Penn voting 'yes'; Eagle Bull and Huston absent.

SIDEWALK CAFÉ, WENDY'S:

Ed Zimmer stated that Wendy's has substantially refaced the building and completed the interior remodel. They had some landscaping outside the building. They are asking for a sidewalk café. The railing is very straightforward.

Penn does not like the table and chair design. It is not aesthetically pleasing to her. She has seen some other elegant furniture from other applications that is not overpriced. She understands they don't want it to be movable, but it could look better.

Brannigan believes if the fence is black, it would look like what is in front of Honest Abe's.

Casper reads that the fence will be gray and the table will be HDP. HDP is not the easiest to maintain. Peace stated that HDP is a recycled polymer plastic. Casper would concur with Penn. The furniture could look better without spending more.

Brannigan wondered if there are any safety issues with the location. Zimmer stated this would be on the Q Street side. It will be on the sunny side. It could be hot in the summer. He doesn't believe we have had an application for a traditional fast food sidewalk café. They have to keep it clean, trash receptacles outside and monitor the area. He doesn't know that a sidewalk café has been reviewed with furniture that cannot be taken inside or stored in the winter.

Casper would suggest the applicant look at other furniture. Victor Stanley is a local vendor. There is another company in town that TMCO produces their furniture. She believes it is called Sidescapes. Peace suggested BMP which is a branch of Bison, Inc.

Penn stated that this isn't what she would want to see at the heart of the gateway to UNL (University Nebraska Lincoln).

Casper noted that metal will get hot. A wood or recycled plastic would be a better option. Penn sees an umbrella hole in the table that is pictured. She questioned if umbrellas are wanted as well. Zimmer doesn't think there is enough room for umbrellas.

The committee members agreed that they would like to see furniture that is more consistent with the remodeled building. They believe there are more durable choices that would provide a better appearance for the highly visible location.

Peace likes the idea of outdoor dining and the proposed fence looks good. The applicant can shop for different furniture while they are installing the fence.

ACTION:

Penn moved approval of the fence design and approval of the sidewalk café in concept, with the caveat that the applicant explore a different furniture aesthetic, seconded by Peace and carried 4-0: Brannigan, Casper, Peace and Penn voting 'yes'; Eagle Bull and Huston absent.

STAFF REPORT

- Zimmer stated that there could be some TIF projects coming forward, such as the sports complex. There is a lot still in discussion for down the road.
- The Mayor's Art Awards are coming up.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.