

URBAN DESIGN COMMITTEE
2009 ANNUAL REPORT
(DRAFT)

The Urban Design Committee was established by ordinance in 1981 to advise city government on enhancing the physical environment of Lincoln. By Section 4.36 of the Lincoln Municipal Code, the Committee has seven appointed citizen members serving three year terms.

The Committee membership in 2009 was Margaret Berry, Mike Eckert, JoAnne Kissel, Michelle Penn, Gordon Scholz, Scott Sullivan (chair), and Mary Ann Wells. The Committee meets as necessary on the first Wednesday of the month at 3 p.m. Ten meetings were held in 2009, including two special joint meetings with the Historic Preservation Commission to advise on the West Haymarket Redevelopment.

The 25th annual Enersen Urban Design Awards recognized the Harris Overpass and the Liberty Village project on Vine Street as the public and private projects for 2009.

The Committee advised the Urban Development Dept. and the City Administration on several public-private redevelopment projects in 2009, including Lincoln Flats at 1314 O Street, the Assurity campus in Antelope Valley, the Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach relocation to 27th and Center Streets, the Shoemaker Travel Plaza project on West O Street, the Little Saigon redevelopment on North 27th Street, and the West Haymarket project.

Haymarket Park brought interior improvements before the Committee in May, under its agreement with the City. That same month, Panera Bread brought its design for the sidewalk café at 12th & P Streets. Major enhancements to the streetscape in College View on South 48th and Prescott Streets were discussed at the summer meetings. The Committee heard and approved an appeal to the Neighborhood Design standards for a house at 1243 Belmont Avenue in September. The review of the Assurity project included review and approval of aspects of the project under the Downtown Design Standards. A report on the first year of implementation of those Standards is attached.

Finally, a major effort of the Committee, along with the Historic Preservation Commission, resulted in the attached recommendations on the West Haymarket project. Ordinarily the Committee does not review projects in which the Commission has jurisdiction, but West Haymarket is not an ordinary project as it has major implications for Historic Haymarket and for other major aspects of the City's urban form including the West "O" and I-180 entryways and interaction with major districts of the City including Downtown and the City Campus. The discussions were substantive and both design review boards expressed willingness to continue to collaborate on this major undertaking.

Respectfully submitted
January 29, 2010

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