

# Urban Design Committee - *Annual Report 2012*

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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 meets as necessary on the first Wednesday of the month at 3 p.m. Eight meetings have been held in 2012, including three joint meetings with Historic Preservation Commission on West Haymarket topics.

The Committee members at the beginning of 2012 were JoAnne Kissel (chair), Gill Peace, Michelle Penn, Gordon Scholz, Scott Sullivan, Michele Tilley, and Mary Anne Wells. Gordon Scholz's term expired after many years of dedicated service and in mid-year Peter Hind was nominated by Mayor Beutler and confirmed by City Council to serve on the Committee.

## ***West Haymarket Redevelopment***

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The Committee's major contribution in 2012 continued to be providing public input into design aspects of the West Haymarket redevelopment. In January, February, and September, the Committee met jointly with Historic Preservation Commission for presentations and feedback on Lincoln Traction Partners' private development efforts and on the public streetscape master plan.



Proposed  
◀ Canopy Street  
Development



THE YARD - FESTIVAL BLOCK  
TRACTION DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS  
SCHEMATIC DESIGN - PROGRESS  
CANOPY STREET & 'R' STREET  
LINCOLN, NE  
EA Project No. 12-1500  
JUNE 15, 2012

# Courtyard Marriott (8<sup>th</sup> & R Streets)

In September the joint group also responded to the sign package for the Courtyard Marriott at 8<sup>th</sup> & R, a private venture with public redevelopment assistance. The discussion resulted in changes to the package and a more unified overall appearance to the hotel, which has since opened.



December 2012



## ***Haymarket Park***

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In February, the Committee also worked with the Saltdogs organization on a major identification sign for the sports complex, supporting an amendment to the Special Sign District.



*Approved Haymarket Park Sign*

 DLR Group

## ***Near South Neighborhood***

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In April, members reviewed designs for a Near South neighborhood identification sign at 27<sup>th</sup> & South Streets, and recommended to Urban Development Department one of the options as a distinct improvement on concepts seen the preceding year, complimenting the project proponents for their efforts.



*Approved Sign*

# Chipotle (13<sup>th</sup> & Q Streets)

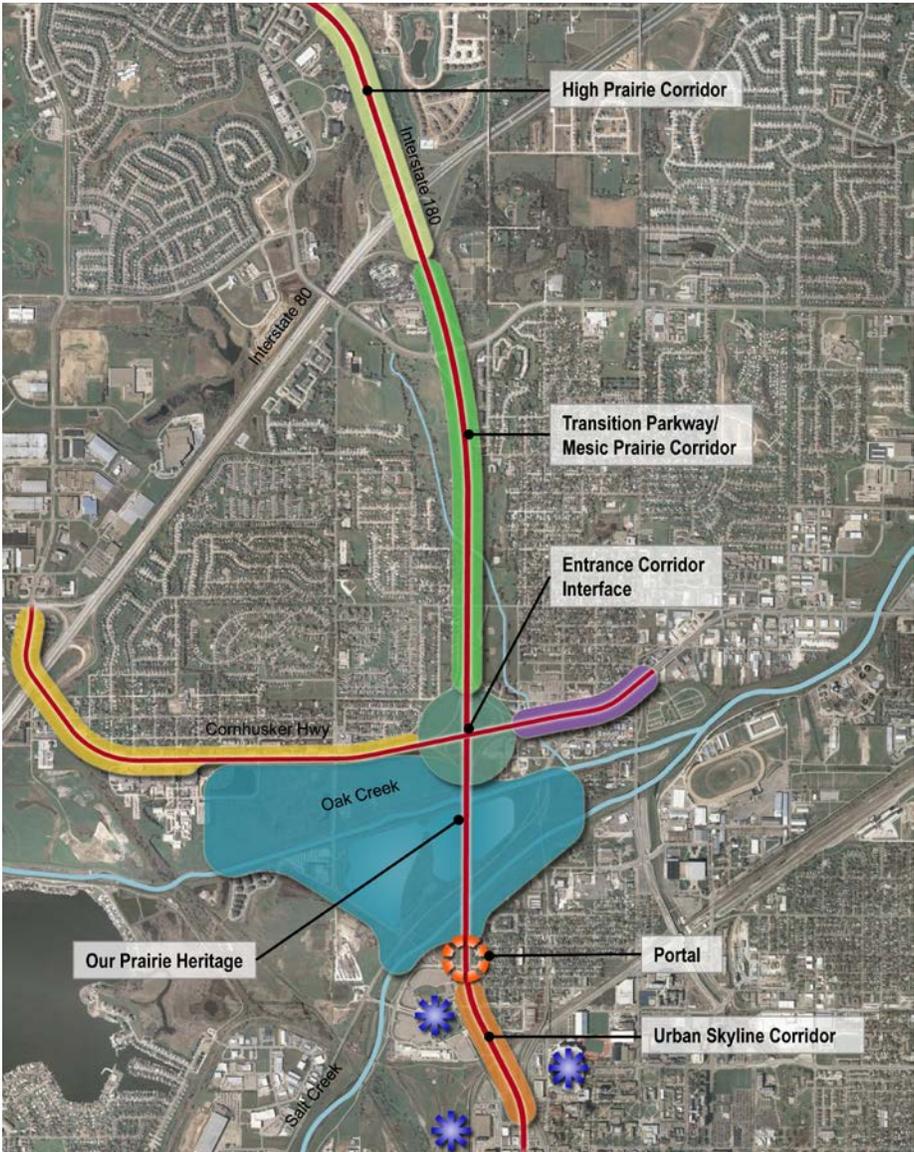
In June, the Committee offered suggestions for improvements to Chipotle’s proposed sidewalk café at 13<sup>th</sup> & Q Streets and the design was subsequently amended.

## Entryway Corridors & Public Art

Two significant, long-range master plans were discussed in July—one for entryways of I-180 and Cornhusker Highway (from Airport to 14<sup>th</sup> St.), the other a Public Art master plan. The landscape plan for an LES substation at Folsom and Pleasant Hill was reviewed and approved.

Further development of the Entryway plan was discussed in August.

Entryway Corridor Concept Plan



# ***Student Housing Project (Antelope Valley Pkwy, Q to R Streets)***

Finally, in December the Committee reviewed designs for the joint public/private parking garage and student housing on Antelope Valley Parkway at Q-to-R Streets. UNL and a private developer are creating the project, with city involvement through TIF and land acquisition. The Committee made suggestions in its role as urban design advisor on public-private projects, and gave general (and favorable) response in its likely future role as the appeal board for Downtown Design Standards. Suggestions included strengthening the landscaping and pedestrian experience on Q Street (where the proposal as shown would require a waiver of Downtown Design Standards), creating a more defined and welcoming principal entrance on R Street, and enhancing the transformer screening on Antelope Valley Parkway.

