

MEETING RECORD

Advanced public notice of the Urban Design Committee meeting was posted on the County-City bulletin board and the Planning Department's website.

NAME OF GROUP: URBAN DESIGN COMMITTEE

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING: Tuesday, August 3, 2021, 1:00 p.m., County-City Building, City Council Chambers, 555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln, NE.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Mark Canney, Emily Deeker, Jill Grasso, Peter Hind and Tom Huston; (Gil Peace and Michelle Penn absent).

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Stacey Hageman and Teresa McKinstry of the Planning Dept.; Todd Ogden; Brett West; Michael Penn; and other interested citizens.

Acting Chair Huston called the meeting to order and acknowledged the posting of the Open Meetings Act in the room.

Huston introduced the newest member of the Committee, Jill Grasso.

Huston then called for a motion approving the minutes of the regular meetings held May 4, 2021, June 1, 2021 and July 6, 2021. Motion for approval made by Hind, seconded by Canney and carried 5-0: Canney, Deeker, Grasso, Hind and Huston voting 'yes'; Peace and Penn absent.

DIGITAL KIOSK AT 14TH & P

Members present: Canney, Deeker, Grasso, Hind and Huston; Peace and Penn absent.

Todd Ogden appeared. He stated this application is for a digital kiosk in downtown. They were able to encumber some of their funds that would have been used for other items such as Zoofest for example, that didn't happen due to the Covid pandemic. He believes this fits with supporting our businesses. He showed a model of the kiosk that they have ordered. It will be either silver or dark silver colored. Most of the kiosk is the digital element itself. It is set up to promote events going on and a business directory. It will work with the website. There could also be some dynamic features. Nanonation is the company doing the kiosk. Given the proposed location, this is the only location on 'P' Street where there isn't a light pole. This is one of the most heavily trafficked intersections due to University of Nebraska Lincoln (UNL) traffic.

Huston inquired where this will be located in the right-of-way. Ogden responded that they have met with Lincoln Transportation and Utilities (LTU) and Urban Development and it was determined it would fit within LTU's height ordinance. He showed the location on a map.

Canney asked if the kiosk will be one sided or two. Ogden believes two. It would be set up for one person or two to use at the same time. Canney asked if the Downtown Lincoln Association (DLA) will keep up the programming or will this duty fall onto Nanonation. Ogden replied it will be the responsibility of DLA. This will be owned by the City, but the DLA will purchase the programming and program the events and information.

Hind sees that this would take the place of a light pole location. He questioned why it can't be off to one side. Why does it have to be in the middle? Ogden doesn't think there is a preference on their end. He believes this is due to LTU location of utilities. They will continue to work LTU on the location. Hind sees two stone benches at the corner. This could make it somewhat congested. We want to make sure this area has a good relationship with snow removal. Ogden stated that DLA does the snow removal for intersections and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) ramps. This would be a DLA snow removal location. Hind would like to see this closer to the pedestrian area. Ogden agrees if LTU would allow it.

Huston asked about graffiti removal. Ogden stated they have a graffiti removal machine that they use in other areas.

Canney inquired if a camera is involved in the kiosk to see who is using it or if someone is vandalizing it. Ogden is not aware of any camera. Canney knows there have been some instances of happenings downtown.

Canney asked if there is a speaker in the kiosk. Ogden believes there is an option for a speaker if utilities allow it. The wattage and voltage need to be in place for it to be connected property.

Deeker wondered about the life span of the screen and components. Ogden believes it is ten years. He believes some of the panels can be replaced. He thinks Nanonation has done the Nebraska Crossing signs in Gretna, NE and they have lasted longer than anticipated.

Canney asked if the goal is to replace other kiosks with this. Ogden believes perhaps at some point, with the redesign of 'O' Street. It would be nice to have a digital kiosk. There would be a lot more hoops to go through with the Haymarket historic district. He would like to see one per district such as the Telegraph District, Haymarket District, etc.

Huston believes this could this be a first step in event marketing. Ogden stated they did a survey that found more people want to know what is happening downtown. This could be huge and a strategic element.

ACTION:

Deeker moved approval with an amendment suggesting that Lincoln Transportation and Utilities or Downtown Lincoln Association investigate placing the kiosk in the seating area outside the main traffic way, seconded by Hind and carried 5-0: Canney, Deeker, Grasso, Hind and Huston voting 'yes'; Peace and Penn absent.

ANTELOPE VALLEY MULTI-FAMILY PROJECT UPDATE

Members present: Canney, Deeker, Grasso, Hind and Huston; Peace and Penn absent.

Brett West with Assurity is the developer on the project, along with Brester Construction and CIP. He was able to acquire the seven plex on the corner. It is under contract. This is a collaboration.

Michael Penn stated they presented this application at the June 2021 Urban Design Committee meeting. At that time, this little piece of property was not part of the project. This is to update the committee on the changes. They are now going to fold this piece into the project. They have added 24 additional apartments along with some additional parking. There will be 170 parking spots altogether. There will also be some street parking. On the full length of the west block, they are proposing the diagonal parking be extended the full length of the block. A three story building is being proposed for that block. Traffic is being kept as far to the west as possible. Previously, there was a two story project that faced north. We slid that building to the right and connected it. The structures are similar. This project is not taller from what was previously proposed, just more units. The aesthetic of the project hasn't changed from the last time they presented to this committee. The materials haven't changed either. There will be two story lofts at the corner. He showed the entrance. Overall, he believes this is the same project that was previously presented. He feels this has moved in a good direction.

Huston understands the project has grown by 24 units. He inquired what the final count is for units. Penn responded 152. There is still more parking within the boundaries than units. Huston thinks completion of the block is a great thing. He pointed out how hard it is to complete an entire block.

Canney appreciates the assemblage and the development of this block. This is a positive step. With regard to parking with Union Plaza across the street, he wondered if this parking will be reserved for occupants or the public. Penn responded there is public parking to the west. This will this have the same restrictions as downtown. This will be open primarily for folks visiting. Residents will park underground.

Huston asked if the applicant is comfortable with the parking ratio. West replied the ratio is around 1:1. There is a lot of street parking around this. Huston believes that part of the beauty of adding density to downtown is that you don't have to have a car. It is part of the package for reduction of parking stalls for multi-family.

Hind inquired if there will be an elevator. West responded yes. The area to the right is a direct entry to the units. By creating a bridge, the move ins and move outs are handled. Hind asked if these will be all rental. West replied yes.

Huston stated that increasing density is exactly what we want. Hind likes the looks of the building from edge to edge. It is fully utilizing the property.

West stated there will be amenities for the tenant, no retail. This is part of a package that went to the State to apply for a low income housing grant. We put in a community room that could be rented for events.

Huston appreciates the applicant coming back to show the changes. This is what we want near downtown.

ACTION:

Hind moved approval of the project as presented , seconded by Huston and carried 5-0: Canney, Deeker, Grasso, Hind and Huston voting 'yes'; Peace and Penn absent.

West stated they are waiting for the grant to be approved. They can't do anything until that is done. They hope to get a shovel in the ground at the end of this year. They anticipate it being 18 months from then that this will open.

Huston thinks this looks good. The other committee members agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.