



Urban Design Committee

2019 Annual Report

The Urban Design Committee was established by ordinance in 1981 to advise city government on enhancing the physical environment of our city to increase enjoyment of living in and visiting 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 Tuesday of the month at 3 p.m.

Ten meetings were held in 2019. Urban Design Committee members at the beginning of 2019 included Michelle Penn (chair), Gill Peace (vice-chair), Amber Brannigan, Emily Deeker, Tammy Eagle Bull, Tom Huston, and Trenton Reed. Mr. Reed resigned during the year and Mark Canney was appointed. The Committee is staffed by Stacey Hageman, supported by Ed Zimmer and Teresa McKinstry.

The past year brought numerous projects to the Urban Design Committee for review and advice, as described below. The year also saw several items related to redevelopment projects. Many items were continuations of or amendments to projects reviewed in the previous years. First reviewed in 2018, Lied Place Residences returned to the Committee in January with more detailed information regarding the building materials and for review of the associated streetscape improvements. Also, the 48th & Leighton mixed use redevelopment project returned to the Committee in March for advice related to building material changes. Then, at the July meeting, Lincoln Sports Facility plans were brought back to UDC for review of site plan and building design changes.

Canopy Park (Canopy & N Streets)

In April, the Committee reviewed plans for the Canopy Park redevelopment at the northwest corner of Canopy and N Streets. The Canopy Park complex will include first floor commercial space as well as a mix of residential uses that includes affordable housing units.



1. View from Canopy & N Streets, looking northwest

9th & O Redevelopment (9th & O Streets)

Although a project at 9th & O had been to UDC in previous years, a new redevelopment project came to the Committee in April with plans for a 6-story Holiday Inn Express & Suites at this prominent downtown corner. The hotel will include 1,200 square feet of commercial space on the corner and underground parking.



2. View from 9th & O Streets, looking southeast

The review process contributed significantly to the refinement of the final design.

Nebraska Innovation Campus Hotel (21st & Transformation Dr)



3. View from 21st & Transformation Drive, looking southeast

The Committee recommended approval of another 6-story hotel proposal at Nebraska Innovation Campus in September.

Cotner & P Redevelopment (Cotner & P Streets)

The Committee reviewed a proposal for a residential building at the northwest corner of Cotner Boulevard and P Street in September. The project includes 153 dwelling units with underground parking. The landscape plan was subsequently reviewed by UDC in October and the project was recommended for approval.



4. View from Corner & P, looking northwest

Campion Redevelopment (9th & M Streets)

The Committee provided advice for a potential redevelopment project on the block bound by 9th, 10th, M, and L Streets. The project is to include 134 student housing units.



5. View from 9th & M, looking southeast

Oriental Market/Stone Elephant (27th & T Streets)

UDC reviewed plans for expansion of the existing Oriental Market on North 27th Street in October. The existing building and associated parking lot will double in size.



6. View from 27th Street, looking southeast

Sidewalk Cafes & Vendors

The Committee was asked to review several sidewalk cafés and sidewalk vendors in 2019. UDC reviewed a sidewalk café at Saro Cider and a Cultiva bicycle vendor cart in May; sidewalk cafés at The Foundry and Raising Canes were reviewed in August; and a sidewalk vendor for Roastbusters was reviewed in September.

Public Projects

Several public projects came to the Committee for their advice. UDC was briefed on two right-of-way projects in 2019: 33rd & Cornhusker in January and Haymarket South Streetscapes in



7. View from 14th & N, looking northwest

December. A new concept for a bike share Art Station at 13th and F Streets was brought to the Committee in March. The unique station features artwork from Lincoln students. In November, UDC reviewed plans for the renovation of the City Garage (formerly Eagle Garage) at 14th and N Streets.

Larry Enersen Urban Design Award

The Committee has annually recognized significant urban design enhancements to the City through the Larry Enersen Urban Design Award, which was initiated in 1984. Beginning in 2013, the Committee strengthened the award process by enlisting a “jury” of former UDC members and other design professionals to nominate award-worthy projects to the Committee for endorsement. The 2018 winner—announced in 2019—was The Mill Coffee & Tea (& Bistro).

The citation recognized The Mill for enriching the urban environment and catalyzing redevelopment in each of the four districts in which they are located—Haymarket at 8th & P, College View on Prescott at 48th, Nebraska Innovation Campus, and Telegraph District at 21st & L.

The jury’s recommendation and Committee’s choice for 2019 will be announced among the Mayor’s Arts Awards. The 2019 jury was co-chaired by Tom Huston and Gordon Scholz, with Margaret Berry, Tom Laging, Robert Ripley, and Planning staff support.

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