

Urban Design Committee

2020 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.

Urban Design Committee members at the beginning of 2020 included Michelle Penn (chair), Gill Peace (vice-chair), Amber Brannigan, Emily Deeker, Tammy Eagle Bull, Tom Huston, and Mark Canney. Ms. Brannigan resigned during the year and Peter Hind was appointed. The Committee is staffed by Stacey Hageman, supported by Teresa McKinstry. Former staff to the Committee, Ed Zimmer, retired in April.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought about several challenges; one was holding in-person meetings. Only 7 meetings were held in 2020. Meetings were cancelled in May, July, August, November, and December.

Due to restrictions limiting the dining space available inside restaurants, measures were put into place to allow temporary outdoor dining with administrative design review. Therefore, the UDC was only asked to review one sidewalk café in February at Sideshow Still, 1630 P Street. Generally, several applications are reviewed each year.

Projects reviewed by UDC in 2020 are described in further detail below.

Nebraska Innovation Campus Hotel (21st & Transformation Dr)

The Committee recommended approval of another 6-story hotel proposal at Nebraska Innovation Campus in September 2019. Significant changes to the original proposal were reviewed by the Committee in February and March.



1. 2019 Proposal, looking southeast



2. 2020 Design Revisions, looking southeast

Antelope Tower Redevelopment (L St & Antelope Valley Pkwy)

Urban Design Committee reviewed the proposal for this development along Antelope Valley Parkway. Reviews included plans for a five-story mixed-use building, along with landscape and streetscape improvements. Designs were reviewed by the Committee in March, April, and June.



3. Antelope Tower Proposal, looking northeast

Block 65 Redevelopment (14th & N Streets)

UDC reviewed a proposal to redevelop a site on the southwest corner of 14th and N Streets in June. This is currently the site of a surface parking lot adjacent Sharp Building.

The 15-story mixed-use building would include structured parking as well as commercial, office, and residential space.

Plans for the streetscape were reviewed by the Committee in October.



4. Block 65 Proposal, looking southwest

Telegraph Lofts West (21st & N Streets)

UDC reviewed the next Telegraph District building at the southwest corner of 21st and N Streets in October. It will be mixed use, with commercial on the ground floor and residential and office above. The building was found to meet the District's design standards.



5. Telegraph Lofts West, looking southwest

Other Redevelopment Projects

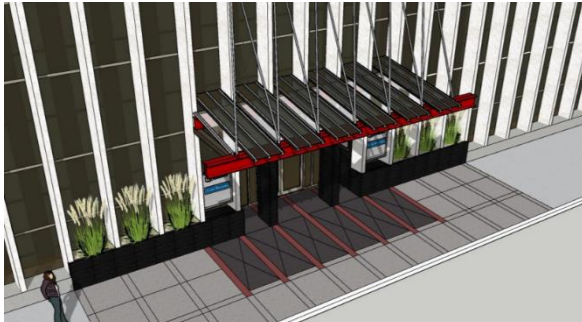
Several small-scale redevelopment projects were reviewed by the Committee as well.

- 13th & O Street Redevelopment was reviewed in March.
- 2400 Q Street Redevelopment was reviewed in March and April.
- 2236 R Street Redevelopment was reviewed in June.



6. Proposal for 2236 R Street

Public Projects



7. US Bank entry design

Several public projects came to the Committee for their advice. Tower Square improvements in April; an update on the Eagle Garage project in June; and designs for a Block 4 parking garage in October.

Although a private project, improvements were reviewed for the public right-of-way at the US Bank 13th Street entry in September.

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 2019 winners—announced in 2020—were Block 52 (Lumberworks Block) and N Street Bikeway/BikeLNK.

The Block 52 streetscape project addressed the Lincoln Electric System substation. Art panels were incorporated in a screen wall along N Street, in an entryway feature at the corner of 8th and N Streets, and in a canopy structure along 8th Street. Block 52 also includes the new Canopy Row building and the Schwarz building which has been renovated for commercial and residential uses. As part of the streetscape, this project added sections of historic canopy south of O Street, extending the Canopy into South Haymarket. Art panels were added to the public stairwell façade on Canopy Street, incorporating a spice can design from a Haymarket business.

The N Street Bikeway, along with the bike share stations, was the second award. With one terminus adjacent Block 52, the protected bikeway extends to Antelope Creek on the east. The bikeway opened in 2014 and sees about 100,000 riders per year. In addition, nineteen BikeLNK stations with 105 bikes are located in Lincoln. BikeLNK has just surpassed 70,000 rides since its inception in April 2018.

The jury’s recommendation and Committee’s choice for 2020 will be announced among the Mayor’s Arts Awards. The 2020 jury will be co-chaired by Peter Hind and Gordon Scholz, with Margaret Berry, Tom Laging, Robert Ripley, and Planning staff support.

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