

## 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.*

<b>NAME OF GROUP:</b>	URBAN DESIGN COMMITTEE
<b>DATE, TIME AND</b>	Tuesday, September 10, 2024, 3:00 p.m., County-City Building, City
<b>PLACE OF MEETING:</b>	Council Chambers, 555 S. 10 <sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, NE.
<b>MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	Jill Grasso, Tom Huston, and Gill Peace; Emily Deeker, Mark Canney and Michelle Penn absent.
<b>OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	Arvind Gopalakrishnan, Collin Christopher and Juan Carrasco of the Planning Department; media and other interested citizens were present.

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

Peace then called for a motion approving the minutes of the regular meeting held August 6, 2024. Due to not having a quorum this month; minutes will need to be approved at the October 1, 2024, Urban Design Committee meeting.

Motion tabled.

### **7<sup>th</sup> and N St, and 7<sup>th</sup> and M St Streetscape Design:** **Advisory review and Final Action**

**September 10, 2024**

#### **Arvind Gopalakrishnan, Planning Department, 555 S 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, NE**

There are two projects on here, but they are combined since they are close to each other.

**Hallie Salem, Urban Development Department,** came forward and explained how the project started and how it led to today. The project started as part of the 2005 Downtown Master Plan regarding South Haymarket and streetscape improvements around the future park. Salem stated that they started working on this improvement

in the 2010's. Salem continued by mentioning the redevelopment of South Haymarket 8N Student Housing Project and needing to build connectivity throughout South Haymarket with sidewalks and parking areas while also addressing resiliency with flood plan and landscaping. Salem also mentioned lighting and basic improvements for connectivity throughout the district. Salem mentioned that moving forward with the project there was also a South Haymarket Neighborhood Plan that was developed prior to the 2018 Downtown Master Plan update, which also identified the South Haymarket Park streetscape improvements in the area in connection with West Haymarket and overall general improvements with parking and connectivity to redevelopment projects. Salem stated that one of the redevelopment projects that was being worked on was the Meadow Gold Telesis project which has the right of way on the south of M Street that was vacated, which had a requirement that a connecting sidewalk on the N side of Meadow Gold be rebuilt. Salem continued with Phase 2 of the project with contemplates connecting with 7<sup>th</sup> Street with some ADA ramps. Salem also mentioned the Cotswold Redevelopment that came along in 2019 and is wrapping up by the end of 2024 which has also contemplated a streetscape with 7<sup>th</sup> Street coming between West Haymarket, South Haymarket Park, South Haymarket neighborhood and many redevelopments have been either completed or coming online.

Salem then introduced Karen Nalow from Parks and Recreation, to explain the 7<sup>th</sup> and N Street Project.

**Karen Nalow, Capitol Project Administrator for Parks and Recreation;** stated that they are working with Olsson as consultants for the South Haymarket Park, which is currently being designed and will be presented to UDC within the next couple of months. Some objectives of the area are pedestrian safety and connectivity. Nalow stated that knowing that the Historic District, West Haymarket, and a very wide N Street, they must consider creating an area that is safe for pedestrians to cross. Nalow also mentioned South Haymarket in general and the streetscapes that were previously mentioned by Salem. This project is bordering the park site both on the east and north side and in addition to the wide cross section that is on N Street, which has a lot of speeding vehicles, they are also working on a large LES Transmission line along the south side of N Street. Nalow added that Canopy Street and 7<sup>th</sup> Street have a shift in the intersection and the N Street cycle track that is terminating south of Canopy Street. Nalow mentioned that there is a lot of moving parts, intersections, and conflicts in this area that they'd like to address as part of this project. Nalow wanted to start with 7<sup>th</sup> Street and a walk through on what is being done with the project before it's sent out for bidding. Nalow stated that they are looking at ways to straighten defining

the beginning and end of parking, adding striping, and straightening and widening the sidewalk. Nalow added that they are also providing accessible ramps along the area. Nalow continued by mentioning the 7<sup>th</sup> and N Street intersection and terminating the cycle track on the east side of 7<sup>th</sup> Street just north of Midwest Steel, from there it will become a shared use path which can be used for any mobility that isn't motorized. Nalow continued by stating that they are also looking into raising the elevation of the cross walk as it crosses 7<sup>th</sup> Street to ease the vertical change that cyclists must make as they're crossing, while also addressing pedestrians in this area. Nalow mentioned that one difficulty at hand is a lot of speeding vehicles not only on N Street but also as people are taking corners. Other changes include the cycle track which will be sloping up with a wider curb, this will be the barrier between the cyclists and the vehicular traffic that is going to run along N Street. There will also be a transition from a full height curb to a zero height where the crosswalk is and then it'll go back down. There will be a slight elevation change because there will be some sloping and curbs back down to the streets, so they'll end up with a four-inch difference in elevation. Nalow stated that as they continue to Canopy and N Street this area doesn't have any clearly designated crosswalks north and south across N Street, so they'll be adding on to this location on either side of Canopy Street. Nalow mentioned that they will also be tabling this intersection like what was discussed on 7<sup>th</sup> Street by having a vertical change calling attention to pedestrians that are crossing and vertical change along N Street that will help slow traffic down in the area. Thanks to a traffic study they can identify that designated turn lanes are only needed during events where they will have people on sight directing traffic. Nalow stated that they are going to take those turn lanes and make them landscape medians which will make the N Street crossing feel smaller and provide refuge to pedestrians if needed. Nalow mentioned a side path on N Street continuing along the north side of the park, they want to identify for cyclists and pedestrians that they have a blending of uses in the area. Specialty pavement and brick pavers are to be used to delineate where the change happens as a visual queue of change in traffic. Nalow mentioned that there are looking at a drop off area along N Street which will not be long term parking, it will only serve as drop off for the park and events.

In addition to the crossings on Canopy Street they are adding a mid-block crossing which will provide access from the Gold 4 parking garage to the park and to South Haymarket in general. In addition, they will have an RRFB as a visual queue flashing beacon to instruct pedestrians to cross the street. Nalow mentioned that they will also have designated crossing striping to aid on pedestrian crossing in the area. Nalow mentioned additional landscaping that will work in accentuating what is happening in the park and work along the landscaping that is already installed. Nalow added that

they are looking at some native species of plants with native grasses but are also looking at some low growing shrubs to provide the green, but they won't block the view. Nalow added that they are introducing some columnar trees, they need to have a tree that has a narrow canopy so that it doesn't interfere with any beacons or crossing signage.

**Salem** came forward and presented the 7<sup>th</sup> and M site plan and the bump out reductions in the crossing distance on both the north and south side of the M and 7<sup>th</sup> intersection. Salem mentioned that the bump outs didn't provide protection to the parking and now they will. Salem stated that on the north side, the sidewalk will then be widened and straightened, and they will also add sidewalks in areas in which these were not available. Salem added that functionally the change is that of a residential type of street as it meets the criteria. Salem mentioned that they added railroad details to the bump outs as a nod to what used to be in the South Haymarket. Salem stated that they are adding to pedestrian circulation and connectivity to the south side on M Street to the sidewalk built on the south side of M Street, connectivity down the east side of 7<sup>th</sup> Street, and connectivity north and south on the West side of 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Salem added that there will also be connection to the park in the future as well as employee connectivity to the Cotswold Building. Further connectivity will be provided once sidewalks can be installed along the Midwest Steel block.

**Peace** mentioned that the information provided looks great. Peace asked why these are separate projects and why are they not part of the overall project.

**Salem** mentioned that they were on track for the Cotswold Building to be bid first because they were planning on wrapping up their building construction sooner than the park was going to be ready for their construction. The slowdown enabled them to tie in these projects together.

**Huston** mentioned that there is a huge need for this update. Huston also mentioned that all the events and activities that happen after a home basketball game, like the fast cars and the people trying to cross are a factor. Huston stated that defining the areas is important and agrees with the objective.

**Salem** stated that they are planning to bid the project this month, looking for approval during this meeting, but can wait for approval after bidding and then they will proceed with construction.

**Huston** had a concern regarding the termination of the cycle track. Huston asked if it's a termination or a transition of the surface.

**Nalow** stated that it changes use. With the cycle track they only have bikes using it. Nalow mentioned that they are shifting from street level to sidewalk level, and they are introducing pedestrians. Nalow added that cyclists will no longer have exclusive use of the area and there will signage stating that.

**Peace** asked for clarification about the beacon and asked if it's there is only one included in the project.

**Karen** confirmed that there is only one of these crossings mainly because the beacon is not in an intersection rather than in a mid-block crossing which adds an element of safety.

**Huston** mentioned that in the Canopy right-of-way in the north Side of N Street is a challenge for all of them and sees the design making the area much safer.

**Peace** mentioned that in a couple of the images presented, there is a bit of a tease in the margins of what is happening in the park and asked for a bit more information.

**Nalow** mentioned that the tease that is shown has most likely changed as the north area is evolving which one of the reasons that it isn't here this month because of changes mainly to the North Side.

**Peace** asked for a timeframe for which they'll be able to provide more information.

**Nalow** mentioned that it will be based on the design direction that they will see then.

**Huston** mentioned that 7<sup>th</sup> and M Street portion of the plan is important because it ties into the M Street plan of the Downtown Master Plan that was approved six years ago.

**Salem** stated that there is the M Street Green Way proposal, so this item bumps the curb a little further South to then tie in with the future greenway which helps establish the future greeway.

**ACTION:**

**Peace** makes a motion to advice for approval, **Grasso** seconded. Motion tabled until next month's Urban Design Committee meeting due to lack of a quorum.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

**Peace** wanted to mention that Bison Witches called him, and they are in plans of meeting and talking to them. Just wanted to bring it up during the meeting.

**Salem** mentioned that it was advised to set something up for the October meeting.

**Gopalakrishnan** mentioned that information was exchanged with Bison Witches regarding deadlines and coming up with something to be presented.

**Salem** mentioned that she will get in contact with Gopalakrishnan and set a meeting up.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.