

MEETING RECORD

NAME OF GROUP:	URBAN DESIGN COMMITTEE
DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING:	Wednesday, August 3, 2011 3:00 p.m., Room 214, County/City Building, 555 S. 10 th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska
MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:	JoAnne Kissel, Gill Peace, Michelle Penn, Gordon Scholz, Michele Tilley and Mary Anne Wells. Scott Sullivan absent.
OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:	Travis Davis (Urban Development); JJ Yost (Parks & Recreation); Marvin Krout, Ed Zimmer & Michele Abendroth (Planning Department)
STATED PURPOSE OF MEETING:	Regular Meeting of the Urban Design Committee

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 p.m. The Nebraska Open Meetings Act was acknowledged.

Adoption of meeting record from the regular meeting of June 1, 2011 and July 6, 2011

Wells moved approval of the June 1, 2011 and July 6, 2011 meeting records, seconded by Scholz. Motion carried 6-0. Kissel, Peace, Penn, Scholz, Tilley and Wells voting 'yes'; Sullivan absent.

Design for Near South neighborhood sign at pocket park, NW corner of South 27th and South Street (Urban Development Department);

Davis presented a sketch of the sign at the pocket park at S. 27th and South Street. Yost noted that a planting bed will be in the northwest corner and buffalo grass in the turf area in order to keep the sight lines open. They want to locate the sign at the front edge of the planting bed. There is also a cabinet for the traffic signals, and they want to locate the sign offset from that. They worked with the neighbors when they put together the landscape plan. Davis noted that the sign is 4 feet tall and 8 feet across and will be raised approximately 2 feet with brick pillars on each side. The sign is steel and has a cutout of a skyline representative of the Near South neighborhood. Yost commented that the height of the sign and the cutout with sharp edges may be concerns. Members made suggestions for retaining the design concept while addressing the safety concerns.

Zimmer noted that the Committee asked for a review of the sign design at its last meeting. Revisions will be brought back to a future meeting.

Draft 2040 Comprehensive Plan, especially Chapter 4: "Placemaking"

Zimmer noted that the Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission reviewed the Placemaking chapter last week. They made two recommendations. The first is regarding adding a statement to recognize the importance of the Malls to the capitol. The second is to add a statement regarding enforcement and maintenance of landscape standards.

Scholz asked how the Downtown Master Plan (DMP) fits and asked if there should be a reference to it in the Comprehensive Plan. Krout noted that the DMP is referenced in the Vision and Plan chapter as a subarea plan, although it probably needs to be updated. Many of the design principles from the DMP are being implemented. Scholz noted that one of the goals of the DMP is to create public spaces, and he believes it would be useful to have a reference to that in the Comprehensive Plan.

Kissel asked if the West Haymarket Integrated Development Plan (IDP) should be referenced in this

chapter as well. Krout noted that the IDP was not formally adopted, and they have been careful to reference only documents that have been approved.

Kissel asked about the timeframe for the Comprehensive Plan. Krout stated that there are three Planning Commission public hearings in August and September with action on September 7. He noted that comments should be submitted as soon as possible, preferably before the August 17 Planning Commission hearing.

Scholz asked about the statement on page 4.4, "The benefits of this guidance would be strengthened by including all public projects under UDC review . . .". He suggested changing the word "would" to "should" as he believes it is best to state an intention in this section. Zimmer suggested leaving the statement where it is and adding a statement in the Strategies section under Urban Design Standards to address this concern.

Scholz asked about the bullet under Guiding Principles regarding the public buildings blending with the surrounding development as he is concerned that all the public buildings will be bland and blend in with the background, but some of the buildings could be iconic.

Penn asked if Antelope Creek should be referenced in the Plan. Zimmer stated that Antelope Valley most closely fits in the redevelopment nodes and corridors. Staff has struggled with whether this is downtown and if the Downtown Design Standards should be applied. Krout suggested that it could possibly be referenced the same way as the DMP. Zimmer suggested that a reference to Antelope Valley be added in the Strategies section.

Staff Report/Misc.

Zimmer reminded the Committee of the joint Historic Preservation Commission and Urban Design Committee meeting next week with the focus of the meeting on streetscape.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

***Please note that these minutes will not be formally approved until the next meeting of the Urban Design Committee. ***

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