



MAYOR CHRIS BEUTLER

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March 12, 2013

JoAnn Kissel
3310 South 29th Street
Lincoln, NE 68502

Dear JoAnn,

Thank you again for taking some time to visit with me about the concerns surrounding Project Oscar. I greatly appreciate you, and the Urban Design Committee, and all the valuable input into all the wonderful projects that are occurring in Lincoln. I know we are all excited about the unprecedented growth we are witnessing in our city.

The committee's input as my advisory body has been enormously helpful. I know your group has been hearing quite a bit about West Haymarket projects over the last couple of years. The critique of the projects and the committee's suggestions are always appreciated and as an Administration we certainly try to incorporate those suggestions.

We also try to bring things to the committee in a timely manner and will continue to do so. As you can imagine, there will be times when the timing of a project is critical and we must act decisively and quickly to move forward projects that invest millions of dollars into our economy.

Project Oscar was just such a case for us. The first design that came to the city was unacceptable for the West Haymarket and I asked the developers to go back to their architects and try again. My request for a huge redesign did affect the entire project timeline. To make sure that this project was able to take advantage of the upcoming construction season and the need for Olsson Associates to be in the building in 2014 necessitated quick action on the city's part.

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You concern was with the plaza space. The developers have now hired Illuminating Concepts as their lighting consultant. They assure me that the Urban Design Committee's comments have been taken seriously and they will be working to make the public plaza space as pleasing and interesting as possible. They also have indicated that they have some cool ideas that take advantage of new technologies that will create a very unique, interesting and interactive public space. We will insist on reviewing what they design prior to acceptance of the overall design.

Best Regards,



Chris Beutler
Mayor of Lincoln

cc: AIA
Zach Wiegert, Josh Berger
Trish Owen
Dave Landis
Marvin Krout