

MEETING NOTES

NAME OF GROUP:	URBAN DESIGN COMMITTEE
DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING:	Wednesday, February 3, 2010, 3:00 p.m., Room 106, County-City Building, 1 st Floor, 555 South 10 th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska
MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:	Mike Eckert, Michelle Penn, Gordon Scholz and Mary Anne Wells. JoAnne Kissel and Scott Sullivan absent.
OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:	Gill Peace (BVH Partners); Hallie Salem (Urban Development Department); Ed Zimmer and Michele Abendroth (Planning Department.)
STATED PURPOSE OF MEETING:	Regular Meeting of the Urban Design Committee

The meeting was called to order at 3:06 p.m. The Nebraska Open Meetings Act was acknowledged.

Adoption of meeting records from joint meeting of December 2, 2009 and regular meeting of January 6, 2010

Scholz moved approval of the December 2, 2009 and January 6, 2010 meeting records, seconded by Wells. Motion carried 4-0. Eckert, Penn, Scholz and Wells voting 'yes'; Kissel and Sullivan absent.

Review of M Street elements of Downtown Master Plan and update on streetscape improvements for Color Court project, M Street between 8th and 9th Streets

Gill Peace of BVH Architects presented a plan showing the improvements to the Color Court building. They have been working on this project for two years. There are two pieces to the improvements funded by Tax Increment Financing (TIF), including utilities and streetscape. They broke the streetscape elements into three packages. The 9th Street side will be done first because it is an important street and there is an urgency to remedy failing utility vaults. On 9th Street, there will be new curb and gutter, new sidewalk, trees will be replaced, and a new porch will be added for accessibility and to make the building functional. Based on the comments from the Urban Design Committee at the last meeting, they reduced the size of the porch to 8 feet. They are proposing a ramp and glass canopy as well.

Peace noted that they have decided to leave the M Street side basically the way it is. The existing sidewalk will remain. They are also proposing a concrete wall to screen the parking area west of the Booth Building at 9th & M.

On the 8th Street side, they are proposing to bring the existing curb in 18 feet and put in diagonal parking. This would still allow a wider 8 foot sidewalk.

Peace noted that they have presented this plan to Public Works, and they did not voice any concerns.

Scholz asked about the expectation for M Street. Peace stated that the owner would like to get as much benefit as they can now, but that is part of the negotiations with the City. Salem stated that the bids are coming in lower than expected on the utilities, so the hope is that there will be money for M Street. She also noted that there are other projects needing design guidance for M Street, so they want to create an overall design for M Street. Zimmer added that it has been almost five years since the Downtown Master Plan was adopted, and it will be reviewed this year.

Scholz asked about the glass on the canopy. Peace stated that it is laminated glass with about 50% light exposure.

Penn moved approval of the design for this project, seconded by Scholz. Motion carried 4-0. Eckert, Penn, Scholz and Wells voting 'yes'; Kissel and Sullivan absent.

Enersen Urban Design Award

Zimmer reminded the Committee of the previous year's nomination for the Enersen Urban Design Award of the Antelope Valley bridges. He suggested that perhaps the J Street bridge could be considered on its own. The Committee discussed private projects, but no nominations were made at this time. The Committee recommended that the Antelope Valley bridges be nominated, but would like to seek the input of the absent members.

2009 Annual Report of UDC

Zimmer submitted a report of the projects the Committee reviewed in 2009.

Miscellaneous

Penn asked if the Committee would be meeting with the Historic Preservation Commission regarding West Haymarket. Zimmer stated that they would probably not meet until after the arena vote.

Scholz asked about the status of the wayfinding study. Zimmer stated the consultants will be here in March to begin discussions. The consultant is Corbin Design which the University used for their sign project. This item will likely be updated on the March agenda.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:26 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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