MEMBERS PRESENT: Timothy Holland – Chair
Robert Peters – Vice Chair
Michael McMeekin
Craig Moody
Anna Nubel (non-voting)
April Rice
Leanne Ziettlow

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Larry Jobeun
Jay Noddle
Gerald Torczon

STAFF PRESENT: Jed Moulton, Urban Design Manager
Trina Westman, Urban Design Review Board Administrator
Carlos Morales, Planner (Bike/Ped Coordinator)
Will Acosta-Trejo, City Law
Clinette Warren, Recording Secretary

Certification of Publication: Urban Design Review Board Administrator certifies publication of this agenda in the Daily Record, the official newspaper of the City of Omaha on Monday, February 10, 2014.
At the Urban Design Review Board meeting held on January 16, 2014, Chris Koenig (HDR, Inc.) appeared before the Board in support of the request.

Ms. Zietlowl recused herself from this case since her firm is handling the project.

Mr. Koenig provided an overview of the project. He stated that currently 16th Street is two lanes but would be widened to provide diagonal, back-in parking on both sides of the street. Streetscape elements would also be added to include planters, trees, benches, and paving between the planters and corner nodes. He displayed several renderings of the proposed changes. The scope of this project is from Howard Street to the alley north of Harney Street and includes reconstruction of the sidewalks and intersections at Howard Street and Harney Street. The corner nodes on the south side of Howard Street will be addressed in a future project.

Mr. Koenig explained that originally the project included Farnam Street, however, it was discovered that there is a large, 2-story vault at 1600 Farnam Street that extends 20' into the right-of-way. He stated that there is ongoing communication with the building owners on how to address that issue. He noted that Phase 1 of the project will begin April 1, which is mainly consists of sidewalk work on the east side of the block and construction of the planter areas. The current project (Phase 2) is proposed to begin June 2 with a 3-month construction period. As part of this project, Metropolitan Utilities District will be replacing the water main from Howard Street to Farnam Street. Phase 3 of the project will pick up at the alley north to Douglas Street.

Next, Mr. Koenig addressed the following four issues that were raised on the Preliminary Design Report: 1) The 30' wide opening between the nodes; 2) The establishing of a pedestrian light standard. (Acorn-style lighting was chosen since it is currently being used in the Downtown area); 3) Consistent curb material. (Concrete curbing will be used throughout the project); and, 4) Additional nodes on the side street intersections. He noted that there are some nodes already installed on the side streets. He presented the plan for the Howard Street to Harney block, which included parallel parking that could be used as a drop-off lane before and after events at the Orpheum. He supplied a sample of the dove-grey pavers which would be used between the planters and corner nodes. He also showed the benches, trash can, and bike racks that would be installed between the planters and are similar to what is currently used in the Downtown area.

Jed Moulton, Urban Design Manager, noted that a discrepancy with the type of planter suggested and the one being proposed. He stated that he would coordinate with the applicant on that issue and also about the installation of landscaping in the nodes. Joe Gudenrath (Downtown Improvement District) addressed maintenance of the proposed landscaping.

There was discussion between the Board and applicant about the reasons behind many of the design choices that were made for this project. In response to Mr. Holland, Mr. Gudenrath stated that it has been requested that the light poles be able to hold banners and that electrical outlets fixtures are
available near the top of the poles. Mr. Moody inquired about the possibility of installing sharrows on the street. Todd Pfitzer, City Engineer – Public Works, stated that sharrows could be installed at the request of the Committee and Bike/Ped Coordinator. There was also discussion about what should be placed in the empty space in front of the Lerner Building that lays above and underground vault.

In response to Mr. Peters, Mr. Moulton clarified the details of the Planning Department’s request.

Mr. Peters moved to APPROVE subject to the Planning Department’s recommendations as follows: 1) Trees shall be provided in accordance with the Downtown Business Improvement District (BID) standards (Details to follow); 2) Street curbs should be all concrete; 3) Coordination with the City Bike/Ped Coordinator to include a B-Cycle station in the project area, possibly at 16th & Howard Streets; 4) The sidewalk control joints should be tooled or saw cut with a bevel (Dundee detail); 5) Coordination with the City Bike/Ped Coordinator on the location and installation of bike racks; 6) The vertical rise dimension of the tree planter curb shall be 1 ½” from the sidewalk surface; 7) Coordination with Public Works regarding the addition of landscaping to the corner nodes; and 8) Ensuring that electrical outlets are located at the top of the street lights. Mr. McMeekin seconded the motion.

AYES: Rice, Peters, McMeekin, Holland

NAYES: Moody

ABSTAIN: Zietlow

MOTION CARRIED: 4-1-1
ADMINISTRATIVE ITEM:

Approval of January 16, 2014 Meeting Minutes.

Mr. McMeekin moved to APPROVE the January 16, 2014 meeting minutes. Mr. Holland seconded the motion.

AYES: Ziettlow, Rice, Peters, McMeekin, Moody, Holland

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

It was the consensus of the Board to adjourn the meeting at 3:42 p.m.

Clinette Warren, Planning Department
Recording Secretary