

STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTIES OF POTTER §
AND RANDALL §
CITY OF AMARILLO §

On the 11th day of June, 2015, the Downtown Design Review Board met in a scheduled session at 5:30 p.m. in Room 306 located on the third floor of City Hall, 509 East 7th Avenue, Amarillo, Texas, with the following members present:

VOTING MEMBERS	PRESENT	NO. MEETINGS HELD	NO. MEETINGS ATTENDED
Vacant	NA	NA	NA
Steve Gosselin (Alternate)	Yes	19	17
David Horsley	Yes	33	29
Charles Lynch	Yes	33	25
Kevin Nelson	No	33	24
Steve Pair	Yes	2	2
Bob Rathbun	No	33	26
Wes Reeves	Yes	33	25
Howard Smith, Chairman	Yes	33	32
Dana Williams-Walton	Yes	33	22

CITY STAFF:

Kelley Shaw, Planning Director

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Kyle Schniederjan, Assistant City Engineer

Chairman Smith opened the meeting, established a quorum, and then conducted the consideration of the following items beginning with Item 1.

ITEM 1: Approval of May 28, 2015 Downtown Urban Design Review Board meeting

Mr. Smith asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the minutes. Mr. Horsley motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Reeves seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 2: Discuss and consider a streetscape design alternative by the City of Amarillo Engineering Department related to tree, planter, and pedestrian way locations

Mr. Smith asked Mr. Shaw to begin the item. Mr. Shaw began the item by giving some background on what the DAUDS states regarding the design/placement of the sidewalks, street trees, and pedestrian lights. He described what is referred to the furnishing zone and pedestrian way. Mr. Shaw then explained to the Board that with the Buchanan streetscape project, staff has been looking at a design alternative given specific scenarios that to maintain the gap between the

planter beds and tree areas there may be areas where the pedestrian way does not meet the 7 foot minimum requirement but it would be slightly less and only where the planter beds would be.

Mr. Shaw introduced Mr. Kyle Schniederjan, Assistant City Engineer and asked him to further explain the alternative design. Mr. Schniederjan began by explaining the work that had gone into working on the Buchanan streetscape design and also the collaboration with Mr. Cleve Turner on the alternative design. He explained that the design would include some continuous planter areas covered by grates that could be removed if a private party wished to place ground cover. At this time the City is not going to plant within the planer areas but will "prep" the areas to where it could be planted at a future date.

Mr. Schniederjan explained two scenarios that might come up. There could be developments that already have existing improvements that are up to the property line that may not, depending on the distance between the back of curb to the property line, have enough space to meet the 7 ft. walkway requirement. Also, there may be an elevation issue given the property where a development exists or is planned.

Mr. Schniederjan explained in more detail the scenarios that could impact the pedestrian way because of someone wanting to use the planter areas which would require the removal of the grates. If the grates were removed, technically the pedestrian way would be less than 7 ft. as the area once covered by the grate is now not accessible. Mr. Schniederjan also explained that there may be a temporary situation where because of the grade, the walkway improvements might be constructed up to the property line where a retaining wall may be needed until the building on such a property was built and a proper grade could be set to tie into the streetscape improvements.

Mr. Lynch expressed concern with any kind of steps incorporated into a streetscape design, regardless of if ADA standards were met. He stated he would prefer some way to incorporate access without any barriers along the block. He mentioned some areas that tried to do this. He would like to try as much as possible to look at eliminating barriers, regardless of what ADA requires. Mr. Schniederjan said he could incorporate a design that may help the situation but would then burden the adjacent property owner with having to design for meeting the City's elevation criteria. Mr. Reeves stated that he understands the concern but felt the downtown area had some issues specific to downtown that may warrant a different perspective.

Mr. Horsley stated he thought it was interesting that he was prepared to discuss the pedestrian way and now the Board was getting into another discussion regarding barriers. Mr. Shaw stated Mr. Lynch's concerns were duly noted. Mr. Lynch then stated that he was fine with the proposed design alternatives but had questions about how certain right-of-ways would limit curb extensions and the designs. Mr. Schniederjan stated that the City has different curb extension designs based on the width of the right-of-way. Mr. Smith wanted to make sure the grates were walkable and Mr. Schniederjan explained there design and the gravel fill that would be beneath them and stated they are walkable.

Mr. Shaw stated that since the City was getting so far with the design now and that these scenarios have come up, he wanted to make sure that the Board was aware of the situation so that when the alternatives have to be applied, the Board would be familiar with the situation. Mr. Horsley motioned that the Board allow as an alternative, the lesser walkway design as referred to by Mr. Schniederjan's design, when the situation requires. Mr. Reeves seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Mr. Schniederjan stated that he would be following up with TXDOT and other Boards and entities with the design alternatives as well. He stated he expected a November bid.

ITEM 3: **Public Forum**

There were no comments.

ITEM 4: **Consider Future Agenda Items**

Hearing no comments, Mr. Smith adjourned the meeting.

Kelley Shaw
Planning Director