

City of Jordan CGO –Downtown Design Standards Design Charrette
Tuesday, May 12, 2009 6:30-8:30 p.m.
High School Lecture Room

Present: Kevin Breeggemann, Terry Jeffrey, Al Weirke, Donna Breeggemann, Jeanne Marnoff, Mara Wallach, Rob Mishica, Joyce Schneider, Gene Borchardt, Becky Borchardt, Jonathan Lee, Terri Knox, Dawn Benko, Kathy Klehr, Herb Baldwin, Margaret Knutson, Dan Schmidt, Ray Sandey, Vanessa Morrell of 1000 Friends of MN. Mayor Pete Ewals, City staff members: City Administrator Ed Shukle, City Planner Joe Janish, consultants Joanne Foust of MDG, Inc., Michael Knisely and Kendra Fjerstad of Distyle Design.

As a part of the public input process for the development of design standards for the downtown, a design charrette was conducted. Following is a summary of the workshop and input received.

City Planner Joe Janish welcomed the group. He noted the purpose of the charrette is to explore and understand various design issues in the central business district. Through the sharing of ideas and information, it is hoped there is an understanding and joint ownership of the solutions or design standards which are ultimately adopted.

Consultant Joanne Foust introduced design charrette team members Michael Knisely and Kendra Fjerstad and 1000 Friends of MN liason Vanessa Morrell.

Knisely provided an overview of the design charrette process requesting groups of four to five use design elements from desirable characteristics in Jordan to propose changes to two project areas, the north side of 1st Street between Varner and Rice Street, as illustrated below:



1st Street

and the west side of Broadway, south of 1st Street and north of Water Street, as illustrated on the next page.

Following small group working sessions, illustrations by the various groups were shared, along with the following recommendations or explanations:

Table 2 : First Street

- Remove the city owned apartment building and create a downtown parking lot
- Redevelop the open lot as a downtown park and enhance with iron rod fencing.
- Incorporate more uniform facades on the buildings on the block
- In the back alley, add green space.
- Convert the “old city hall” building into a new city hall.

Table 4: **First Street**

- Replicate what works in Jordan such as the creation of courtyards between buildings
- Incorporate different awnings using a color scheme from the 18990s
- Incorporate the iron work from the bridge throughout First Street and the downtown
- Rebuild stairways to upper level apartments with iron rod for continuity
- On the city owned building, incorporate scallops on the top of the building and add awnings
- Replace 1960s/70's windows and restore to the original size
- Add more green – hanging planters
- Repaint brick to more historically correct colors
- Enforce existing ordinances (e.g. overflowing trash)
- Replace garage doors with more historic friendly doors
- Remove one buiding
- Update the open space between buildings with green space, fountain and iron rod fencing.

Table 1: **Broadway Avenue**

- Incorporate signage that is perpendicular to the buildings so it is visible to faster moving traffic. Period signage was recommended.
- Enhance the character of historic buildings
- Add awnings and cornices to the library building, and reface with a different color brick.
- Weirke building- add a cornice, try to square it up or blend in with awnings
- Handicap accessibility is an issue on some buildngs
- Add rod iron fences/gates along sidewalks leading to stairs/access to upper level apartments.

Table 3: **Broadway Avenue**

- Focus on creating “space” and consider how people get here, not how to get “through” Jordan
- Create a distinctive and unique place, like Water Street
- Consider methods to make the downtown more pedestrian friendly – concerns with crossing Broadway
- Identify “Old Town” Jordan
- Create angle parking in the center of the street and remove the parking adjacent to the curb

Table 5: **Broadway Avenue**

- Weirke building – redevelopment opportunity; possible parking lot
- Large parking lot backing up to city hall or vacate the alley and make downtown parking facing Broadway with access off Rice and a walkway to Broadway
- Dr. Anderson's building- restore the bottom ½ to a 1880's look
- Library – rework and add windows
- Old hardware store – replace with original windows



The group briefly discussed trees and possible benefits of including green amenities in concentrated areas such as downtown parks/mini parks.

The design charrette adjourned at 8:15 p.m.