



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Economic Development Division

m e m o r a n d u m

TO: Laurel Lunt Prussing, Mayor

FROM: Elizabeth H. Tyler, FAICP, Community Development Director

DATE: May 7, 2009

SUBJECT: Ordinance to Approve an Agreement with Champaign County for the Placement of a Newspaper Rack at the Champaign County Courthouse site

Introduction and Background

The integration of art into feasible public works projects—promoting functional and streetscape art was identified in the Urbana City Council Common Goals in 2005 (Exhibit A). The Community Development Services Department and the Public Works Department have partnered to initiate the Downtown Newspaper Rack Project, a project which achieves this goal by addressing a streetscape concern with an artist-designed solution. Through coordination with Champaign County officials, a newspaper rack design and location have been selected for the project. The attached ordinance (Exhibit B) approves an agreement with Champaign County for the Placement of the Newspaper Rack project at the Champaign County Courthouse Site.

Discussion

The Downtown Newspaper Rack Project is a project that would help to improve the appearance of the downtown area while addressing a functional streetscape concern. The project started with the recognition that the existing newspaper racks on the corner of Broadway Avenue and Elm Street present an unsightly appearance and may pose a potential hazard due to their insecure installation and location which can impede pedestrian and vehicular traffic. Attached is a photograph of the existing newspaper racks (Exhibit C). Consequently, staff researched the feasibility of an artist-designed solution and, in June 2007, initiated a call for designs for a new newspaper rack to address these concerns. Upon the receipt of proposals, a selection committee was convened to select a design for the project. The selection committee included representatives from the City, Urbana Business Association, Champaign County, the News Gazette, and the Urbana Park District. The selection committee reviewed three proposals and selected the “Urbanastand” proposal submitted by Frederic Beaugeard. Information regarding the “Urbanastand” design is included in the agreement

described below.

Since mid-2007, staff has coordinated with Champaign County officials and staff to identify a location on County property in the courthouse plaza block at a location that would not interfere with persons using the sidewalks or otherwise attending to matters in the courthouse. Attached is an aerial photograph illustrating the identified location for the newspaper rack project (Exhibit D). Champaign County Board member and Facilities Committee Chair, Steve Beckett, greatly assisted in facilitating the process with the County Board, Facilities Committee, and County staff.

The resulting proposed agreement, attached as Exhibit E, describes the responsibilities of the City and the County in relation to the Newspaper Rack Project. As described, the County will allow the news rack to remain on the designated area of the County Courthouse property for a period of fifteen years. Should the parties desire to extend the term of this Agreement, they will do so in writing at least ninety days prior to the expiration of this term. Additionally, the County will not allow other news racks to be placed on the County Courthouse property. If any other news racks are placed on County Courthouse property, the County will promptly remove such news racks.

On April 23, 2009, the Champaign County Board approved a resolution approving the proposed agreement between the County of Champaign and the City of Urbana Respecting the Placement of a “Courthouse” News Rack. Attached is the resolution which was approved (Exhibit F).

Fiscal Impact

In FY 07-08, Downtown Improvement funding of \$15,000 was set aside for the Downtown Newspaper Rack Project. This amount will be used to provide an artist stipend and the cost of fabrication and installation. Community Development Services and Public Works Department staff will partner to oversee the fabrication and installation of the project.

The City will work in conjunction with various vendors regarding proper display of newspapers in the news rack. A fee to newspaper distributors to cover the cost of maintenance may be charged.

Recommendations

Staff recommends that the Committee of the Whole forward the attached ordinance to the City Council’s regular meeting on May 18, 2009 as presented with a recommendation for approval.

Prepared by:

Anna Hochhalter, Public Arts Coordinator

Attachments: Exhibit A: Excerpt from 2005 City Council Common Goals

- Exhibit B: Draft Ordinance Approving an Agreement with the Champaign County for the Placement of a Newspaper Rack at the Champaign County Courthouse site
- Exhibit C: Photograph of Existing Newspaper Racks
- Exhibit D: Aerial Photograph of Newspaper Rack Proposed Location
- Exhibit E: Draft Agreement Between the County of Champaign and the City of Urbana Respecting the Placement of a “Courthouse” News Rack
- Exhibit F: Resolution approved by Champaign County Board

Excerpt of Urbana City Council Goals, as approved September 19, 2005, related to the Creation of a Public Arts Program

10.) Create a Public Arts Program

- a. Establish a dedicated revenue stream for public art – consider percent for arts approach.
- b. Encourage the preservation and commemoration of local and multicultural traditions and histories.
- c. Integrate art into every feasible public works project – promote functional and streetscape art.
- d. Create a public art program that represents our community in all its diversity – in terms of race, geography, gender, class, sexual orientation, belief-system, etc.
- e. Provide opportunities for local and national, established and emerging artists in Champaign County.
- f. Develop a strong public collection of artworks representing diverse communities, artistic styles, and disciplines.
- g. Establish a public arts commission.

ORDINANCE NO. 2009-05-048

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FOR
THE PLACEMENT OF A NEWSPAPER RACK LOCATED AT 101 EAST MAIN
STREET / CHAMPAIGN COUNTY COURTHOUSE SITE

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE URBANA,
ILLINOIS, as follows:

Section 1. That an Agreement with the Champaign County concerning the placement of a newspaper rack at the Champaign County Courthouse site, in substantially the form of the copy of said Agreement attached hereto, be and the same is hereby approved.

Section 2. That the Mayor of the City of Urbana, Illinois, be and the same is hereby authorized to execute and deliver and the City Clerk of the City of Urbana, Illinois, be and the same is authorized to attest to said execution of said Agreement as so authorized and approved for and on behalf of the City of Urbana, Illinois.

PASSED by the City Council this ____ day of _____, 2009.

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSTAINS:

Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk

APPROVED by the Mayor this ____ day of _____, 2009.

Laurel Lunt Prussing, Mayor



STOP

ALL WAY

Mass Transit District

THIRTY NICKEL

Chicago Tribune

USA TODAY



Proposed Newsrack Location

AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF CHAMPAIGN
AND THE CITY OF URBANA RESPECTING THE PLACEMENT OF A
“COURTHOUSE” NEWS RACK

WHEREAS, as a result of cooperative efforts between the County of Champaign (hereinafter referred to as "County") and the City of Urbana (hereinafter referred to as "City"), the County was able to accomplish an architecturally impressive courthouse renovation in a setting of carefully considered streetscape treatment of the adjacent sidewalk right-of-way and the block bounded by Main Street, Vine Street, Elm Street, and Broadway Avenue, and,

WHEREAS, in addition, the City has spent considerable time and funds in an effort to beautify the downtown area and has recently established a Public Arts Program to enhance the streetscape further, and,

WHEREAS, that the City has created a TIF District encompassing the downtown in an effort to revitalize the downtown, and,

WHEREAS, the parties recognize that the existing newspaper racks on the corner of Broadway Avenue and Elm Street present an unsightly appearance and pose a potential hazard due to their insecure installation which frequently impedes pedestrian traffic, and due to their location which frequently impedes vehicular traffic, and,

WHEREAS, the parties recognize that it is a convenience to the public to be able to purchase or acquire newspapers in the downtown area especially at the courthouse plaza block, and,

WHEREAS, the parties recognize that in consideration of these factors, it would be desirable for the City and County to cooperate in the design and placement of a more attractive and contained news rack as proposed by the City Public Arts Program, and place it on the county property in the courthouse plaza block at a location that would not interfere with persons using the sidewalks or otherwise attending to matters in the courthouse.

THEREFORE the parties agree as follows: -

1. That the City may place and maintain a news rack, utilizing the design recommended by the City Newspaper Rack Project Selection Committee as portrayed generally in Exhibit A attached to this Agreement, on the Northeast quadrant area of the County Courthouse property near the main entrance, subject to the prior approval of the Champaign County Sheriff's Office.
2. That the City working in conjunction with various vendors shall be solely responsible for what newspapers are displayed in the news rack, including the establishment and operation of whatever system is implemented for permission to display newspapers in the said news rack.

3. That the City shall be solely responsible for maintenance of the news rack, specifically including the artistic features of the news rack.

4. If a claim of a violation of a constitutional right because of or based upon the City policies which govern the use of the news rack is made, and the County, its officers, officials or employees or any of them are named as parties, the City agrees to undertake the legal defense against such claim by counsel satisfactory to the parties and indemnify the County, its officers, officials or employees for any judgment entered in court against them or any of them, based on such claim.

5. That the news rack shall be placed on the County Courthouse property in the designated area shown in Exhibit B at the completion of the Courthouse Masonry Stabilization Project, which the parties anticipate will be completed no later than August 30, 2009. In addition, should the County have the need to engage in further restoration or maintenance of the County Courthouse property during the term of this Agreement, or any extension of this Agreement, if it becomes necessary to move the news rack for such work to be performed, the City shall remove the news rack to a temporary location during the project until it can be restored by the City to its original location on the County Courthouse property.

6. That the County shall allow the news rack to remain on the designated area of the County Courthouse property for a period of fifteen years. Should the parties desire to extend the term of this Agreement, they shall do so in writing at least ninety days prior to the expiration of this term.

7. That the County shall not allow other news racks to be placed on the County Courthouse property. If any other news racks are placed on County Courthouse property, the County shall promptly remove such news racks.

Dated this _____ day of May, 2009.

COUNTY OF CHAMPAIGN

CITY OF URBANA

*C. PIUS WEIBEL
COUNTY BOARD CHAIR*

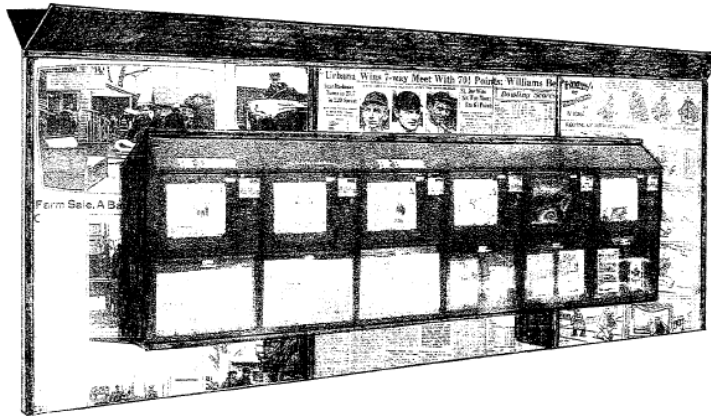
*LAUREL L. PRUSSING
MAYOR*

*Attested by: _____
Mark Sheldon
County Clerk and ex-officio
Clerk of the Champaign
County Board*

*Attested by: _____
Phyllis Clark
City Clerk*

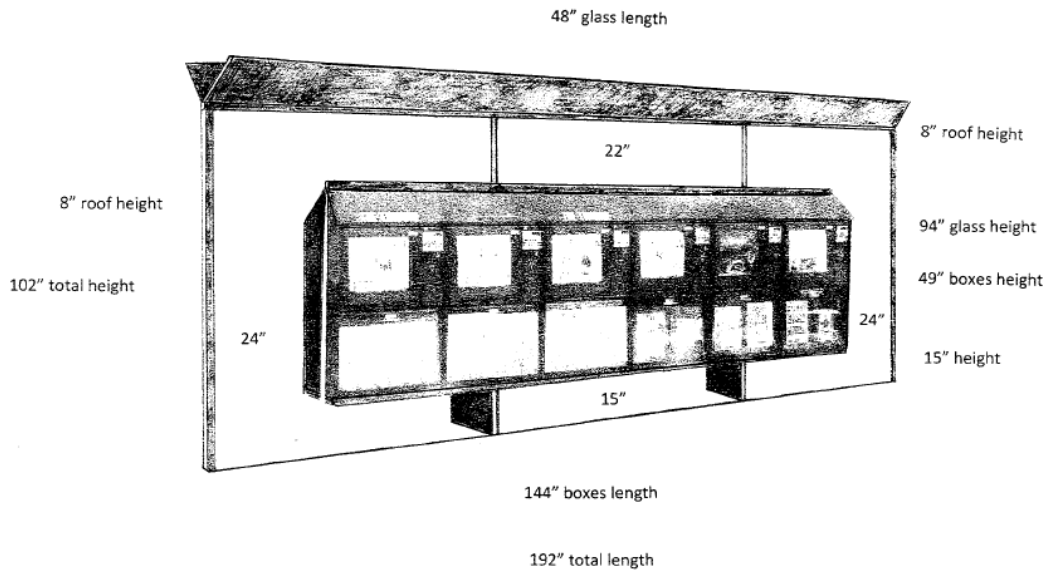
Exhibit A

STREET KIOSK



The three newspapers chosen could be different from the ones displayed here.
Community groups might like to participate in selecting historically significant issues of current or past area newspapers.

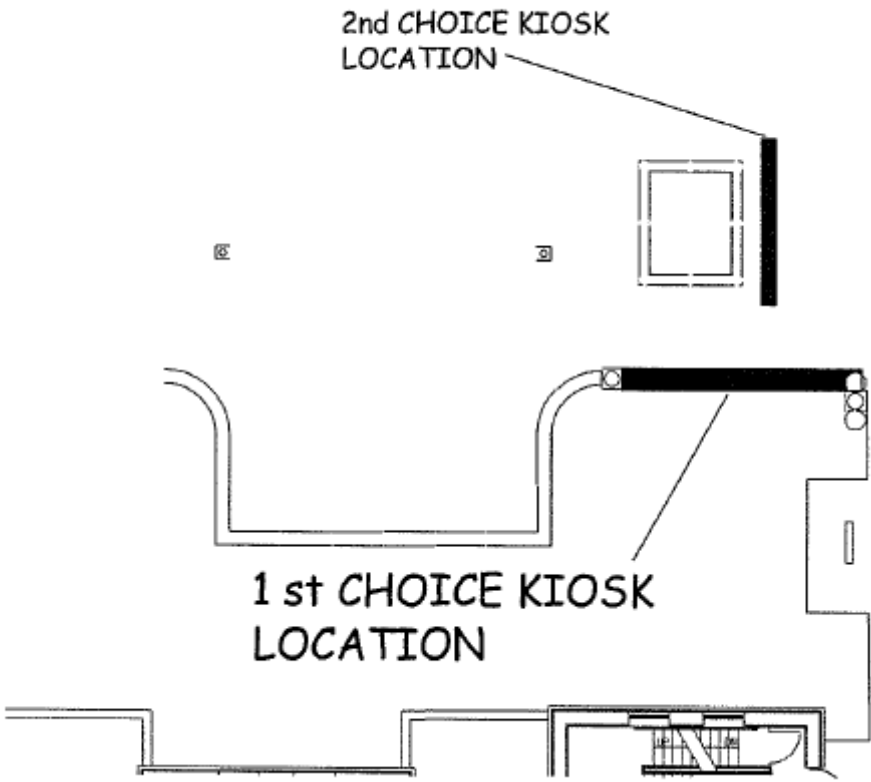
The glass will be semi-transparent (to keep the building behind visible for a global light effect) with the print of an old newspaper (sepia color ?) on the four panels (without newspaper title) connected to the tradition or history of Urbana.



The design will feature integration of the newspaper racks inside four panels of glass like the bus shelter.

The boxes and the reinforcements (outside structure purchased) will be dark brown, the same color as the existing urban furniture in Urbana (benches, bus shelter, dustbins) that matches the traditional architecture in red brick in the town center.

There will be a small roof in the opposite direction of the top of the boxes (must be built with the reinforcement welded to it) for the esthetic floating effect, that will give some height to the existing building, and will give the impression of a protected place, a sense of welcome.



RESOLUTION NO. 6927

RESOLUTION APPROVING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF
CHAMPAIGN AND THE CITY OF URBANA RESPECTING THE PLACEMENT
OF A "COURTHOUSE" NEWS RACK

WHEREAS, as a result of cooperative efforts between the County of Champaign and the City of Urbana the County was able to accomplish an architecturally impressive courthouse renovation in a setting of carefully considered streetscape treatment of the adjacent sidewalk right-of-way and the block bounded by Main Street, Vine Street, Elm Street, and Broadway Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the City of Urbana has spent considerable time and funds in an effort to beautify the downtown area and has recently established a Public Arts Program to further enhance the streetscape as well as creating a TIF District encompassing the downtown in an effort to revitalize the area; and

WHEREAS, the parties recognize that the existing newspaper racks on the corner of Broadway Avenue and Elm Street present an unsightly appearance and pose a potential hazard due to their insecure installation and due to their location which frequently impedes traffic; and

WHEREAS, the parties recognize that it is a convenience to the public to be able to purchase or acquire newspapers in the downtown area especially at the courthouse plaza block; and

WHEREAS, the parties recognize that in consideration of these factors, it would be desirable for the City and County to cooperate in the design and placement of a more attractive and contained news rack as proposed by the City Public Arts Program, and place it on the county property in the courthouse plaza block at a location that would not interfere with persons using the sidewalks or otherwise attending to matters in the courthouse; and

WHEREAS, the parties agree that the City may place and maintain a news rack, utilizing the design recommended by the City Newspaper Rack Project Selection Committee, on the Northeast quadrant area of the County Courthouse property near the main entrance, subject to the prior approval of the Champaign County Sheriff's Office; and

WHEREAS, the City, working in conjunction with various vendors, shall be solely responsible for what newspapers are displayed in the news rack, including the establishment and operation of whatever system is implemented for permission to display newspapers in said rack and the City shall be solely responsible for maintenance of the news rack including the artistic features of the news rack; and

Resolution No. 6927

WHEREAS, the news rack shall be placed on the County Courthouse property in the designated area at the completion of the Courthouse Masonry Stabilization Project, which is anticipated to be complete no later than August 30, 2009, and the County shall allow the news rack to remain on the designated area for a period of fifteen years and the County shall not allow other news racks to be placed on County Courthouse property; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the County Board approve the Agreement between the County of Champaign and the City of Urbana respecting the placement of a "courthouse" news rack.

PRESENTED, ADOPTED, APPROVED and RECORDED this 23rd day of April, 2009.

C. Pius Weibel, Chair
Champaign County Board

ATTEST:

Mark Shelden, County Clerk and
Ex-officio Clerk of the Champaign County
Board