

## **AGENDA ITEM 4 B**

### **GATEWAY CORRIDOR OVERLAY DISTRICT**

# Memorandum



**To:** Planning Commission Members  
**From:** Chris Solberg, City Planner  
**Date:** 2/13/2012  
**Re:** Amendments to Sections 5.17 of the Zoning Ordinance (Gateway Corridor Overlay)

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Currently the City of La Vista's Zoning Ordinance, Section 5.17, Gateway Corridor District (Overlay District) references specific areas for the application of the overlay district. The amendment recommends the removal of these references and refers to the zoning map for the geographically depicted area, consistent with all other zoning districts.

Other verbiage throughout the ordinance has also been updated for clarification and to reflect proper practices.

## RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of Amendments to Sections 5.17 of the Zoning Ordinance (Gateway Corridor Overlay).

## **Section 5.17 GATEWAY CORRIDOR DISTRICT (OVERLAY DISTRICT)**

### **5.17.01 Intent:**

The City of La Vista has established basic site and building development criteria to be implemented within the boundaries of this overlay district *for all multi-family, industrial, and commercial building projects*. The Gateway Corridor District has been established in order to implement the policies developed in the Future Land Use Plan portion of the Comprehensive Development Plan. These criteria include, but are not limited to the following: landscaping, building material selection, lighting, and interior street development. The purpose for regulating these issues is to provide for a cohesive and properly developed entrance into the City of La Vista from the Interstate corridor. Guiding development in this manner promotes the general health, safety and welfare of the residents within the zoning jurisdiction of the City, by providing quality design and construction which will also aid in the protection of past and future investment in the corridor.

Within the Gateway Corridor Overlay District there is a sub-area secondary overlay centered on the intersection of 96th and Giles Road (see Official Zoning map). The purpose of this secondary overlay evolves around a partnership between the City of La Vista and Metropolitan Community College which have made a significant investment in the community with the new La Vista Public Library / MCC Sarpy Center. The City's desire is that this district be the standard of quality for all *multi-family, industrial, and commercial building projects* within this *geographically defined area*. See Section 5.17.06 for special design criteria for this sub-area. (*Ordinance No. 1048, 10-2-07*)

### **5.17.02 Purpose:**

The purpose of these criteria is to establish a checklist of those items that affect the physical aspect of La Vista's environment. Pertinent to appearance is the design of the site, building and structures, planting, signs, street hardware, and miscellaneous other objects that are observed by the public.

The criteria contained herein are not intended to restrict imagination, innovation or variety, but rather to assist in focusing on design principles that can result in creative solutions that will develop a satisfactory visual appearance within the city, preserve taxable values, and promote the public health, safety and welfare.

### **5.17.03 Geographic Area:**

For a geographically defined area of the Gateway Corridor Overlay District, see the Official Zoning Map. The Gateway Corridor Overlay District extends generally from 132<sup>nd</sup> Street to 108<sup>th</sup> Street and from Harrison Street to West Giles Road/Giles Road, roughly following close to West Giles Road, Giles Road, and Interstate 80, and along 84<sup>th</sup> Street from Harrison Street to Giles Road. If a site is partially covered by said overlay district, then the entire portion of the site facing the Gateway Corridor is to be covered by these regulations. For a geographically defined area, see the Official Zoning Map. (*Ordinance No. 1048, 10-2-07*)

The sub-area secondary overlay -area occurs within all developments that front on the 96th Street and Giles Road corridors including:

- Giles Road Corridor – from 90th Street to 108th Street.
- 96th Street Corridor – from Harrison Street to Portal Road

If a site is partially covered by said sub-area secondary overlay district, then the entire portion of the site facing 96<sup>th</sup> and/or Giles Road is to be covered by these regulations. See Section 5.17.06 for special design criteria for this geographic area. *For a geographically defined area, see the Official Zoning Map.* (*Ordinance No. 1048, 10-2-07*)

### **5.17.04 Criteria for Application:**

5.17.04.01 All developments consisting of more than one principal building, mixed-uses, multiple-pad development and/or similar shall be required to meet the zoning requirements for a Planned Unit Development (PUD). The PUD process and rezoning shall be in conjunction with Preliminary and Final Plat review and approval.

5.17.04.02 All developments consisting of one principal building with single or mixed uses shall comply with the design criteria of this section.

5.17.04.03 *All substantial redevelopment of existing buildings shall comply with the design criteria of this section. Substantial redevelopment shall mean any reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvement of a structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the start of the redevelopment. Multi-family structures damaged by fire or other environmental event may be reconstructed without adherence to the Gateway Corridor Overlay District regulations, provided that reconstruction activities involve less than 50% of the complex's structures.*

## **5.17.05 Criteria for Appearance**

### **5.17.05.01**

#### **Relationship of Buildings to Site.**

The site shall be planned to accomplish a desirable transition with the streetscape and to provide for adequate planting, safe pedestrian movement, and parking areas.

1. Site planning in which setbacks and yards are in excess of standard commercial zoning restrictions is encouraged to provide an interesting relationship between buildings.
2. Parking areas shall be treated with decorative elements, building wall extensions, plantings, berms, or other innovative means so as to screen parking areas from view from public ways.
3. Without restricting the permissible limits of the applicable zoning district, the height and scale of each building shall be compatible with its site and existing (or anticipated) adjoining buildings.
4. Newly installed utility services, and service revisions necessitated by exterior alterations, shall be underground.

### **5.17.05.02**

#### **Relationship of Buildings and Site to Adjoining Area (Outside Of Subdivision).**

1. Adjacent buildings of different architectural styles shall be made compatible by such means as screens, sight breaks, and materials.
2. Attractive landscape transitions shall be designed to be compatible to adjoining properties.
3. Harmony in texture, lines, and masses is required. Monotony shall be avoided.

### **5.17.05.03**

#### **Landscape and Site Treatment.**

Landscape elements included in these criteria consist of all forms of planting and vegetation, ground forms, rock groupings, water patterns, and all visible construction except buildings and utilitarian structures.

1. Where natural or existing topographic patterns contribute to beauty and utility of a development, they shall be preserved and developed. Modification to topography will be permitted where it contributes to good site design and development.
2. Grades of walks, parking spaces, terraces, and other paved areas shall provide an inviting and stable appearance for walking and, if seating is provided, for sitting.
3. Landscape treatments shall be provided to enhance architectural features, strengthen vistas and important axis, and provide shade. Spectacular effects shall be reserved for special locations only.
4. Unity of design shall be achieved by repetition of certain plant varieties and other materials and by correlation with adjacent developments.
5. Plant material shall be selected for interest in its structure, texture, and color and for its ultimate growth. Plants that are indigenous to the area and others that will be hardy, harmonious to the design, and of good appearance shall be used.
6. Parking areas and traffic ways shall be enhanced with landscaped spaces containing trees or tree groupings.
7. Screening of service yards and other places that tend to be unsightly shall be accomplished by use of walls, fencing, planting, or combinations of those. Screening shall be equally effective in winter and summer.
8. Exterior lighting, when used, shall enhance the building design and the adjoining landscape. Building fixtures shall be of a design and size compatible with the building and adjacent areas. Lighting shall be restrained in design and excessive brightness avoided. Lighting shall be designed to a standard that does not impact adjoining properties, especially residential areas.
9. All fencing within this Overlay shall not exceed six (6) feet in height.
10. Fencing within the District and as part of an Industrial Development may be required to be a solid fence.

5.17.05.04

**Building Design.**

1. Architectural design and style are not restricted, however architectural style should be consistent throughout the subdivision. See Gateway Corridor District Design Guideline Booklet for examples of developments considered meeting this concept. Evaluation of the appearance of a project shall be based on the quality of its design and relationship to surroundings.
2. Buildings shall have good scale and be in harmonious conformance with permanent neighboring development.
3. The primary building material of all portions of the structures shall be negotiated with the City, however, sample materials shall include but not be limited to materials of high quality, such as brick (clay), stucco, wood, glass, split faced concrete masonry units (CMU) with integrated color pigmentation and stone material native to Eastern Nebraska. The materials shall be similar and compatible throughout the entire development. The La Vista staff and design review architect may allow other primary building designs (of good architectural character i.e. CMU, poured-in-place concrete) for portions of the building not visible from public areas. Other secondary building materials shall have good architectural character and shall be selected for harmony of the building with adjoining buildings.
4. Materials shall be selected for suitability to the type of buildings and the design in which they are used. Buildings shall have the same materials, or those that are architecturally harmonious, used for all building walls and other exterior building components wholly or partly visible from public ways.
5. Materials shall be of durable quality.
6. In any design in which the structural frame is exposed to view, the structural materials shall be compatible within themselves and harmonious with their surroundings.
7. Building components, such as windows, doors, eaves and parapets, shall have good proportions and relationships to one another.
8. Colors shall be harmonious and shall use only compatible accents.
9. Colors shall be of "low reflectance, subtle, neutral, or earth tones" and shall not be of high-intensity or metallic colors unless the colors are true to the materials being used.
10. Mechanical equipment or other utility hardware on roof, ground, or buildings shall be screened from public view with materials harmonious with the building, or they shall be so located as not to be visible from any public ways.
11. Exterior lighting shall be part of the architectural concept. Fixtures, standards, and all exposed accessories shall be harmonious with building design.
12. Refuse and waste removal areas, service yards, storage yards, and exterior work areas shall be screened from view from public ways, using materials as stated in criteria for equipment screening.
13. Monotony of design in single or multiple building projects shall be avoided. Variation of detail, form, and siting shall be used to provide visual interest. In multiple building projects, variable siting of individual buildings may be used to prevent a monotonous appearance.
14. Building orientation shall be toward an arterial street, unless it is demonstrated that this would not be feasible.

**5.17.06 Sub-area Secondary Overlay**

5.17.06.01

**Special Criteria For Sub-area.**

The criteria found in this section are intended to be supplemental to the design standards stated in previous sections of this Article. See section 5.17.02 and 5.17.03 for purpose and geographic area of the Sub-area.

5.17.06.02

**Landscape And Site Treatment.**

1. Unity of design shall be achieved by repetition of certain plant varieties and other materials and by correlation with adjacent developments. All projects need to use a minimum of the following listed plant varieties of the plants used at the La Vista Public Library / MCC Sarpy Center. See Gateway Corridor District Design Guideline Booklet for a listing of those plant materials.
  - A. A minimum of two (2) species listed under the deciduous tree category.
  - B. A minimum of one (1) species listed under the coniferous tree category.
  - C. A minimum of one (1) species listed under the deciduous shrub category.
  - D. A minimum of one (1) species listed under the coniferous shrub category.

2. Exterior lighting, when used, shall enhance the building design and the adjoining landscape. Lighting standards and fixtures for the parking areas and drives within the commercial building area shall be similar in appearance and quality level as the light fixtures used at the La Vista Public Library / MCC Sarpy Center. See Gateway Corridor District Design Guideline Booklet for information on the required light fixture style. Building fixtures shall be of a design and size compatible with the building and adjacent areas. Lighting shall be restrained in design and excessive brightness avoided.

#### 5.17.06.03

##### Building Design.

The primary building material of all portions of the building shall be brick (clay) with its color selected for harmony of the building with adjoining buildings within its subdivision. The La Vista staff and design review architect may allow other primary building designs (of good architectural character i.e. split faced concrete block) for portions of the building not visible from public areas (i.e. facades that back up to landscape buffer between commercial buildings and residential). Other secondary building materials shall have good architectural character and shall be selected for harmony of the building with adjoining buildings.

#### 5.17.07 Factors For Evaluation

The following factors and characteristics, which affect the appearance of a development, will govern the evaluation of a design submission:

- 5.17.07.01 Conformance ~~of to~~ ordinances and the Building Design Criteria.
- 5.17.07.02 Logic of design.
- 5.17.07.03 Exterior space utilization.
- 5.17.07.04 Architectural character.
- 5.17.07.05 Attractiveness ~~of m~~Material selection.
- 5.17.07.06 Harmony and compatibility.
- 5.17.07.07 Circulation-vehicular and pedestrian.
- 5.17.07.08 Maintenance aspects.

#### 5.17.08 Process

##### 5.17.08.01

##### Planned Unit Development (PUD) Application

~~All developments within the Gateway Corridor District shall be required to apply for rezoning under the criteria in Section 5.15 of this Ordinance.~~

##### 5.17.08.02

##### Subdivision Approval

~~All Commercial Building projects within the city of La Vista need to receive Subdivision approval. As a condition of its subdivision approval, all commercial building projects within the required geographic region will have to comply with the Gateway Corridor District regulations and Gateway Corridor District Design Guideline Booklet. The Developer shall place maintenance provisions required by this section within all restrictive covenants.~~

##### 5.17.08.03~~01~~

##### Pre-application Conference:

A pre-application conference with city staff to give the applicant an opportunity to discuss plans before a great deal of time or money is expended.

5.17.08.~~04~~02 Application for Design Review:  
The applicant needs to fill out the "Application for Certificate of Approval" and submit it along with the required submittals. See Gateway Corridor District Design Guideline Booklet for a listing of required submittals.

5.17.08.~~05~~03 Design Review:  
The City of La Vista staff in association with the city design review architect will review the submittal documents for compliance with the Gateway Corridor District Design Guideline Booklet.

5.17.08.~~06~~04 Certificate of Approval:  
Upon a successful review the City of La Vista will issue to the applicant a Certificate of Approval. A copy of this will need to be included with the Building Permit documents in order to receive a Building Permit.

5.17.08.~~07~~05 Appeals:  
In the event where the Applicant, City staff and City design review architect cannot come to an agreement within 180 days of initial application submission, the applicant ~~may appeal the decision by requesting an amendment to the Subdivision Agreement from the La Vista City Council~~ request a meeting with the City Administrator regarding an appeal to the City Council.

5.17.08.~~08~~06 Certificate of Occupancy-~~Permit~~:  
After the building permit is issued, all design requirements must be completed as approved in order for a Certificate of Occupancy to be issued.

5.17.08.~~10~~07 Maintenance of Design ~~requirements~~Requirements:  
The Applicant needs to maintain the ~~d~~Design Requirements ~~requirements~~ for the life of the project. In the event that they fail to do so the City may revoke the Occupancy Permit.

5.17.08.~~11~~08 Fees:  
Fees may apply to each individual step as established in the Master Fee Schedule.