

## **BIRMINGHAM PLANNING COMMISSION**

### **MINUTES**

The Birmingham Planning Commission convened in the Gallery of Distinguished Citizens on Wednesday, August 2, 2023, at 8:47 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Michael Morrison, Vice-Chairman Dr. Nyeshia Black, Chairman Pro-Tem Haley Colson Lewis, Patty A. Pilkerton, Councilor Valerie Abbott, J. Charles Jordan II, Sharon Deep-Nelson, Stephen Schrader, Brian Gunn, Denise Bell, and Mashonda Taylor

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Chief Chaz Mitchell, Ronald Crenshaw, and Councilor LaTonya Tate

**STAFF PRESENT:** Michael Ward, Heather Garrison, Tim Gambrel, Kim Speorl, Tracey Hayes, Thomas Yuill, Hunter Garrison, Christina Argo, and James Fowler

#### **I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Michael Morrison. Commissioner Taylor made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gunn and the agenda was approved unanimously.

#### **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 20, 2023 MEETING**

Commissioner Schrader made a motion to approve the minutes from the Commission's meeting on June 20, 2023. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jordan, II and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Chairman Morrison welcomed and introduced Director of Capital Projects, Denise Bell, as a new commissioner.

#### **III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

No Director's Report

#### **IV. PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO MICHAEL EDDINGTON**

On behalf of the Birmingham Planning Commission, Chairman Morrison presented the following Resolution of Appreciation to Mr. Michael B. Eddington II:

**WHEREAS**, Michael B. Eddington II has rendered distinguished service to the City of Birmingham since February 16, 2009 as a professional staff member of the Planning, Engineering & Permits Department, the Department of Capital Projects, and since July 20, 2019 as City Engineer; and

**WHEREAS**, under his able leadership the City of Birmingham has administered the design and construction of numerous public improvement projects instituted to meet expanding community needs and serving to enhance the quality of life of Birmingham's citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Eddington has served with distinction as a member of the Birmingham Planning Commission since March 4, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, during this period of public service he has made a significant contribution to a more effective planning program through his experience, knowledge, and active dedication; and

**WHEREAS**, his valuable counsel and guidance have greatly assisted the Birmingham Planning Commission and its Project Review and Subdivision Committees in the furtherance of their work; now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Birmingham Planning Commission that said Commission hereby recognizes and publicly expresses its appreciation to Mr. Eddington for his participation on the Commission and his continuing efforts to improve the public health and welfare of this community.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution be incorporated into the permanent minutes of this meeting and that a copy of this resolution be presented to Mr. Eddington as an expression of this organization's deep affection and esteem.

**ADOPTED** unanimously this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of August 2023.

- V. CASE NO.:** PF-4-23
- SUBJECT:** Request for approval of an UAB Master Plan Amendment and the approval of the location, character, and extent of a new 21,000 s.f., single floor laboratory facility.
- APPLICANT:** Brian Templeton, Director of Planning, Design, and Construction at UAB
- PREMISES:** The facility is located on Block 744 bounded by University Boulevard to the north, 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue South to the south, 22<sup>nd</sup> Street South to the west, and 23<sup>rd</sup> Street South to the east.

Senior Planner Heather Garrison introduced the case and Brian Templeton, Director of Planning, Design, and Construction at UAB, gave a brief presentation.

Chairman Morrison asked if there were any questions. Commissioner Pilkerton asked why they were using cream colored brick to which Mr. Templeton responded that it matches the nearby Southern Research Institute's (SRI's) buildings for continuity.

Commissioner Taylor made a motion to approve the case as presented. Commissioner Gunn seconded the motion. Commissioner Schrader recused himself from this case. The following resolution was approved:

**WHEREAS**, the proposed Genomics Diagnostic Laboratory (GDL) will integrate and house several existing UAB Hospital laboratories and will accommodate a comprehensive clinical test menu facility; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed GDL facility will provide new opportunities and efficiencies by consolidating existing diagnostic testing and services, and the anticipated development of new tests and services; and

**WHEREAS**, the GDL will benefit the health of residents in the Birmingham area, the State of Alabama, and rural communities by helping to address certain health disparities and needs that were identified during the Covid-19 pandemic response; and

**WHEREAS**, this project includes the construction of a new state-of-the-art genomic laboratory facility offering existing and new diagnostic tests and services for UAB Hospital, affiliated entities, as well as outside healthcare providers from around the state and region; and

**WHEREAS**, the project will provide approximately 21,000 s.f. of laboratory, laboratory support, office and administrative, and building support space, in a single-story facility to house research and staff their programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Subdivision Committee approved the resurvey of the site on March 8, 2023 (SUB2023-00013); and

**WHEREAS**, the Southside Neighborhood Association reviewed and unanimously approved the requested UAB Master Plan Amendment and the proposed GDL project on Thursday, June 15, 2023; now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Birmingham Planning Commission that the request for the approval of the UAB Master Plan Amendment and approval of the location, character, and extent of improvements associated with the Genomic Diagnostic Laboratory Facility is hereby approved as illustrated in the document entitled "University of Alabama At Birmingham – Genomic Diagnostic Laboratory", dated July 5, 2023.

## **VI. PARKING REFORM – STAKEHOLDER WORKING GROUP**

Principal Planner Michael Ward described the makeup of the stakeholder working group. He then expressed that the vote was to create the stakeholder group and to accept the meetings and workshops that were planned. Mr. Ward also explained that the group was comprised of members with expertise in parking that are committed to the city.

Chairman Morrison asked if there were any volunteers. Councilor Abbott, Vice-Chairman Dr. Black, Commissioner Jordan, and Chairman Morrison volunteered as representatives of the commission. Additional discussion provided Commissioner Pilkerton, Commissioner Gunn, and Commissioner Taylor to volunteer as alternates.

Chairman Pro-Tem Colson Lewis asked if this group is set in stone or could we look at including environmental groups. Principal Planner Michael Ward responded that we could look into it.

Commissioner Gunn asked if the Commission would see the final list when determined to which Mr. Ward responded yes.

Commissioner Schrader made a motion to approve the parking reform stakeholder working group and the tentative schedule and topics, as listed below. Commissioner Taylor seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

### **Tentative Stakeholder Working Group:**

- Clark Bailey, Traffic Engineer, representative of BPA and BJCTA
- Rob Burton, Glen Iris Neighborhood President
- Dora Sims, Bush Hills Neighborhood, former BPA Board Member
- David Fleming, President and CEO, REV BHAM
- Brian Atkinson, Executive Director of Transportation at UAB
- Amanda Loper, Principal Architect, David Baker Architects
- Randall Minor, Attorney, Maynard Nexson
- Dick Schmalz, Real Estate Developer
- Carolyn Buck, Red Rock Trail System Director, FWLT
- Faris Zaibaq, Citizen Parking Reform Advocate
- Councilor Valerie Abbott
- Vice-Chairman Dr. Nyesha Black
- Commissioner J. Charles Jordan II
- Chairman Michael Morrison
- Alternate: Commissioner Patty A. Pilkerton
- Alternate: Commissioner Brian Gunn
- Alternate: Commissioner Mashonda Taylor

Tentative Schedule and Topics:

- Week of August 7: Working Group – Parking Minimums
- Week of August 12: Working Group – TDM Plans
- Week of September 4: Working Group – Parking enforcement and overall parking reform strategy
- Week of September 18: BPC Workshop – review and discuss proposed parking amendments

**VII. OTHER BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:39 a.m.