



## City of Birmingham Design Review Committee Meeting Minutes January 22, 2020

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Applicants please note: The decisions of the Design Review Committee (the Committee) are binding. It is each applicant's responsibility to see that the decisions of the Committee are carried out as stipulated. Any changes or deviations from the Committee's decision, including but not limited to: colors, forms, configurations, materials, assemblies or any other aspects of the approved work shall not be undertaken by the applicant or the applicant's agent unless said changes are approved by the Committee beforehand. Under the terms of City ordinance, any change or deviation from work approved by the Committee constitutes a violation of the ordinance and renders the applicant subject to citation with penalties as prescribed by a city magistrate.

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Members Present: Abra Barnes, Ivan Holloway Creig Hoskins, Lea Ann Macknally, Richard Mauk, Willie Oliver, Ben Wieseman, Brian Wolfe

Members Absent: Scott Burnett, Sheila Montgomery-Mills, Chris Swain

Staff Present: Karla Calvert, Lauren Havard, Pamela Perry, Tonte Peters, John Sims

Others Present: Tarzene Abrams, Sidney Aulds, Chris Bailey, Lester Barrow, Sharon Bradshaw, Sean Bryant, Paul Burdine, Tammy Cohen, Kip DeArman, Anne Marie Ellis, John Forney, Cynthia Franklin, Danny Franklin, Mike Gibson, Erik Hendon, Chase Jones, Shelley Screws, Dan Taylor, Larry Townley, Christopher Woods

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. by Chairman Mauk. He stated that draft minutes were not ready at this time.

**I. Name:** Mr. Chris Woods

**Site Address:** 3805 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue South

**District:** Avondale Park Local Historic District

**Requesting approval for:** Renovation and Addition Related. Construct rear addition; install new balustrade on front porch; repaint and perform site improvements

**Statements:** Mauk stated that per the report from the Avondale Park LHAC the case was recommended for approval by the LHAC with no conditions. The LHAC recommendation stated that the proposal is in keeping with the architectural integrity of the neighborhood. The applicant has agreed to both conditions. The Avondale Park AC also made the following Standard of Review Findings of Fact: (1) The proposed change conforms to the design standards established; (2) The proposed change is compatible with the character of the historic property and the historic district and does not detract from their historic value; (3) The proposed action will not detrimentally change, destroy, or adversely affect significant architectural features of the said property; and (4) The proposed change will be compatible with the exterior features of other improvements within the District.

Mr. Forney stated that he would like to renovate the home, including an addition on the rear of the home, a new railing on the porch, a new driveway and fence, and new paint.



## City of Birmingham Design Review Committee Meeting Minutes January 22, 2020

---

Wieseman verified that the new fence would be 4' tall. Mr. Forney presented his colors for the home and the trim. Macknally asked that the landscape plan return at a later date for approval.

**Motion:** Wieseman made a motion to approve this proposal, with a landscape plan to come back to the DRC.

**Motion seconded by:** Macknally

**Discussion:** None

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

### II.

**Name:** Mr. Tarzene Abrams

**Site Address:** 1324 33<sup>rd</sup> Street North

**District:** Norwood Local Historic District

**Requesting approval for:** Repair and replace wood siding on rear elevation with Masonite siding

**Statements:** Mauk stated that per the report from the Norwood LHAC the case was recommended for approval by the LHAC without conditions. The LHAC recommended to approve the design review request for the following reasons: "Proposed new siding matches the existing siding profile and is approved for installation on the rear of the house. Any required patches to the front and sides of the structure will be done with existing salvaged material." "Paint is approved for siding and trim. Previously unpainted brick shall not be painted." The recommendation of the Local Historic Advisory Committee was based on the following sections of the local historic district's design guidelines: Page 15-Item K-Materials, and Page 16-Item L-Paint. The Norwood AC also made the following Standard of Review Findings of Fact: (1) The proposed change conforms to the design standards established; (2) The proposed change is compatible with the character of the historic property and the historic district and does not detract from their historic value; (3) The proposed action will not detrimentally change, destroy, or adversely affect significant architectural features of the said property; and (4) The proposed change will be compatible with the exterior features of other improvements within the District.

Mr. Abrams presented his plan to replace the wood siding on the rear of the home, and paint his home. He presented the new paint color. It will be a light yellow. He stated that the trim would be blue. He stated that he would be matching the existing materials. Macknally asked if any windows would be replaced. Mr. Abrams said yes. He stated that he would replace the windows with matching windows in the front attic area. Wieseman asked if the brick would be painted. Mr. Abrams said that only previously painted brick would be repainted.

**Motion:** Macknally made a motion to approve this proposal as presented.

**Motion seconded by:** Wieseman

**Discussion:** None



**City of Birmingham Design Review Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**January 22, 2020**

---

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

- III. Name:** Mr. Chris Bailey (C. N. Bailey & Company, Inc.)  
**Site Address:** 2300 Bessemer Road (Taco Bell)  
**District:** Five Points West  
**Requesting approval for:** Add storage room onto dumpster

**Statements:** Mr. Bailey presented his plan to add a storage room to his dumpster enclosure. The storage room will be 10'x10' and will not have electrical or plumbing. Mauk asked what the building will be made of, and Mr. Bailey stated that it would be made of split-face to match the dumpster enclosure. He also stated that the paint would match the dumpster, a tan color. Macknally asked if there would only be one door. Mr. Bailey said yes.

**Motion:** Wieseman made a motion to approve this proposal as presented.

**Motion seconded by:** Holloway

**Discussion:** None

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

- IV. Name:** Mr. Paul Burdine (Knight Sign Industries, Inc.)  
**Site Address:** 616 29<sup>th</sup> Street South (Half Shell Oyster House)  
**District:** Lakeview  
**Requesting approval for:** Sign face replacement from ABSCO FIREPLACE & PATIO to HALF SHELL OYSTER HOUSE

**Statements:** Mr. Burdine stated that he wanted to replace the faces on the pole sign. He stated that the sign would be pan-faced with embossed letters, and presented the colors of the sign. Wieseman asked if the sign would be internally lit. Mr. Burdine said yes. Wolfe asked if the pole and cabinet would be painted black. Mr. Burdine said yes.

**Motion:** Wolfe made a motion to approve this proposal as presented.

**Motion seconded by:** Wieseman

**Discussion:** None

**Vote:** The motion carried. Mauk voted against.

- V. Name:** Ms. Shelley Screws  
**Site Address:** 1617 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North  
**District:** 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue North  
**Requesting approval for:** Signage

**Statements:** Ms. Screws presented her updated signage plan for her building. She stated that she only wanted to have her logo as the signage, instead of all the letters. She also stated that the signage would be located above the sign band. Wolfe asked if this signage fit within the guidelines. Sims said yes. Wolfe asked if the color was integral or if it was painted on. Ms. Screws stated that it was baked on. Wolfe asked if any lighting



## City of Birmingham Design Review Committee Meeting Minutes January 22, 2020

---

would be added. Ms. Screws said no, that the lighting already existed.

**Motion:** Wolfe made a motion to approve this proposal as presented.

**Motion seconded by:** Hoskins

**Discussion:** None

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

- VI. Name:** Mr. Dan Taylor (bDot Architecture)  
**Site Address:** 2201 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
**District:** Midtown  
**Requesting approval for:** Renovation

**Statements:** Mr. Taylor presented his plan to renovate the old Berthon's Cleaners. Mr. Taylor stated that he wanted to do a significant facelift on the building. He stated that he wanted to paint the existing brick, replace the windows and storefront, redo the canopy and repaint it. Mr. Taylor stated that there would be two tenants, so a new door would be added for the second tenant. Macknally stated that the DRC typically doesn't allow previously unpainted brick to be painted, and asked why the brick on this building needed to be painted. Mr. Taylor stated that parts of the building had graffiti on them, thus painting the brick. Wolfe asked if the owner would be open to not painting the brick, Mr. Taylor stated that he would check. Hoskins asked if there was any signage being presented today, Mr. Taylor said no. Wolfe advised Mr. Taylor to develop a master signage plan for the building. Mauk asked if Mr. Taylor had a landscaping plan, Mr. Taylor said that at this time, he didn't. He stated that the site plan was being worked on by a different contractor, and that they didn't have it ready yet. Wolfe stated that the DRC preferred to look at the project as a whole, instead of piecemeal.

**Motion:** Macknally made a motion to carry this case over, pending more information, and pending the applicant considering not painting the brick, since painting brick causes long-term paint issues. She stated that a site plan and master signage plan were also needed.

**Motion seconded by:** Hoskins

**Discussion:** None

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

- VII. Name:** Mr. Mike Gibson (Creature)  
**Site Address:** 2216 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue South (The Railyard)  
**District:** Automotive  
**Requesting approval for:** New Residential Construction (Informational/Advisory Review Only)

**Statements:** Mr. Gibson presented his plan for a new development called The Railyard. Peters stated that this project does not fall under the DRC's purview, but that Mr. Gibson wanted to present it anyway. Mr. Gibson stated that this development will be part of a



## City of Birmingham Design Review Committee Meeting Minutes January 22, 2020

---

much larger project. Mr. Gibson stated that this development falls within the MU-D zoning, so no onsite parking is required. He stated that he would build out to the property lines. Mr. Gibson stated that the building would be 6 stories tall and would have 135 micro-units. He stated that each unit would be 350 square feet, with a balcony. Mr. Gibson stated that the main materials would be poured in place concrete, hardie-board lap siding, and Corten steel. Wieseman cautioned Mr. Gibson to pay careful attention to how this new building addressed Powell Avenue, as it starts to be redeveloped. Macknally asked Mr. Gibson to reference the Railroad Reservation Right of Way plan in his planning.

**Motion:** No vote was taken.

- VIII.** **Name:** Mr. Larry Townley  
**Site Address:** 112 24th St North (Queen Park)  
**District:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North  
**Requesting approval for:** Outdoor Cafe

**Statements:** Mr. Townley presented his plan for a new outdoor café. Wieseman asked what the railings would be made of, and Mr. Townley said wood. Wieseman asked if they would be bolted to the cement. Mr. Townley stated that he was told that he was not allowed to do that, so the railings/planters will be sufficiently heavy so as not to be knocked over. Sims stated that the ROW section had already approved this plan. Hoskins asked what color the railings would be painted. Mr. Townley said they would be royal blue. Wieseman verified that all the site furnishings would be moved inside each night.

**Motion:** Wieseman made a motion to approve this proposal as presented.

**Motion seconded by:** Holloway

**Discussion:** Wolfe verified that the rubber walkway would be used around the tree well. Macknally asked for verification of whether the City's ROW section approved the accessibility at this site.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

- IX.** **Name:** Mr. Eric Hendon (Hendon, Huckestein Architects)  
**Site Address:** 1301 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North (Jim Burke Automotive)  
**District:** Downtown Northwest  
**Requesting approval for:** Building addition

**Statements:** Mr. Hendon presented a new building addition for Jim Burke Automotive, in their existing parking lot. Mr. Hendon stated that the new building would be a pre-engineered metal building. He stated that there would be an outward facing door where the existing curb cut is located. Wieseman asked why the building was going to be metal instead of continuing the stonework from the other two buildings along the same street. Mr. Hendon stated that it was a cost/ease of construction decision. Mr. Hendon stated



## City of Birmingham Design Review Committee Meeting Minutes January 22, 2020

---

that the color would be a slate gray and would match the existing building as close as possible. Macknally asked for a site plan, Mr. Hendon stated that he didn't bring one at this time. Hoskins asked what the corrugation would be. Mr. Hendon stated that the panels would be vertically corrugated, and the panels would be 16" wide. Macknally stated that she was concerned about the blank façade and the lack of attention given to the pedestrian at this site. Hoskins agreed. Hoskins stated that the exterior material needs to continue, instead of changing to metal panels. Mr. Hendon agreed to continue the brick along the street and use metal panels at the interior of the site.

**Motion:** Hoskins made a motion to approve the concept of this plan, but change the metal panels along 4<sup>th</sup> Ave to match the existing brick, and to have the brick turn the corner to the south along that wall. The only metal panels should be the wall facing the interior of the site. Oliver asked that the wall height match the existing building as well.

**Motion seconded by:** Wieseman

**Discussion:** None

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

- X.**      **Name:** Ms. Sharon Bradshaw (Scott Electric Sign Co.)  
**Site Address:** 2201 Bessemer Road (McDonald's)  
**District:** Five Points West  
**Requesting approval for:** Building signage package

**Statements:** Ms. Bradshaw presented her plan to upgrade the signage for McDonalds, per their new branding. She stated that they were also going to add a driveway. The signs would mostly be one for one replacements. Macknally stated that the Committee hadn't seen plans for the building renovation yet. Hoskins added that the DRC couldn't approve the signage plan without first seeing the building plan. Wieseman stated that the building plan had been approved previously, but hadn't been completed yet. Sims stated that the previously approved curb cut would not be added.

**Motion:** Wolfe made a motion to approve the signage on the condition that the applicant comply with the previously approved building plans.

**Motion seconded by:** Wieseman

**Discussion:** none

**Vote:** The motion carried. Hoskins voted against.

- XI.**      **Name:** Ms. Anne Marie Ellis, AIA  
**Site Address:** 101 Richard Arrington Jr. Blvd. South (Line Scale Offices)  
**District:** Midtown  
**Requesting approval for:** Vinyl sign



## City of Birmingham Design Review Committee Meeting Minutes January 22, 2020

---

**Statements:** Ms. Ellis presented her plan for a new vinyl sign for her business. She stated that she wanted a sign that matches the height of the door, and it would go to the left of the door. Macknally verified that all other building signage would be removed, Ms. Ellis said that the address numbers over the door would remain, but the rest of the signage would be removed. Ms. Ellis stated that the sign would not include the phone number of the business, but would include the web address. Wieseman asked if this would be a solid vinyl sign. Ms. Ellis said yes. Mauk asked if the sign conformed with the District Guidelines. Sims said yes.

**Motion:** Macknally made a motion to approve this proposal as presented.

**Motion seconded by:** Hoskins

**Discussion:** None

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

**XII. Name:** Mr. Lester Barrow

**Site Address:** 1210 33<sup>rd</sup> Street North

**District:** Norwood Local Historic District

**Requesting approval for:** Installing new wood windows for the entire house and repairing damaged wood siding

**Statements:** Mauk stated that the case was recommended for approval by the Norwood LHAC with no conditions. The LHAC recommended to approved that the design review request for the following reasons: “Windows Proposed new wood windows in a 1-over-1 double hung and casement configuration are in keeping with the character of the original structure and will be allowed.” The recommendation of the Local Historic Advisory Committee was based on the following section of the local historic district’s design guidelines: Page 19-Item U-Windows. The Norwood AC also made the following Standard of Review Findings of Fact: (1) The proposed change conforms to the design standards established; (2) The proposed change is compatible with the character of the historic property and the historic district and does not detract from their historic value; (3) The proposed action will not detrimentally change, destroy, or adversely affect significant architectural features of the said property; and (4) The proposed change will be compatible with the exterior features of other improvements within the District.

Mr. Barrow stated that he wanted to replace all the windows in his house, and repair damaged wood siding. Wieseman verified that the windows would be one-over-one. Hoskins asked why the applicant didn’t want to have windows with divided lights, Largue stated that on a house that is not historic, it is better to use a more contemporary one-over-one window, than try to replicate a historic divided light window.

**Motion:** Wolfe made a motion to approve the proposal for all new windows and to repair damaged wood siding as presented, in agreement with the LHAC. The paint color will be approved by City Staff.



**City of Birmingham Design Review Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**January 22, 2020**

---

**Motion seconded by:** Macknally

**Discussion:** None

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

**XIII. Name:** Mr. and Mrs. Danny Franklin

**Site Address:** 559 Valley Road

**District:** Roebuck Springs Local Historic District

**Requesting approval for:** Replacing sunroom wood windows with new vinyl windows

**Statements:** Mauk stated that the case was recommended for approval by the Roebuck Springs/South Roebuck Neighborhood Association, without conditions. The Neighborhood Association recommendation stated that the proposal is in keeping with the architectural integrity of the neighborhood. The Neighborhood Association also made the following Standard of Review Findings of Fact: (1) The proposed change conforms to the design standards established; (2) The proposed change is compatible with the character of the historic property and the historic district and does not detract from their historic value; (3) The proposed action will not detrimentally change, destroy, or adversely affect significant architectural features of the said property; and (4) The proposed change will be compatible with the exterior features of other improvements within the District.

Mr. Sean Bryant with Windows USA presented the case, and Mr. Danny Franklin, the homeowner, provided clarification. Mr. Bryant stated that the windows on the porch needed to be replaced. He stated that the windows would be wood. Macknally verified that the window replacement would be on the back side of the house.

**Motion:** Macknally made a motion to approve this proposal as presented, in agreement with the Neighborhood Association, because the house is non-contributing, and because the windows are on the back side of the house.

**Motion seconded by:** Wieseman

**Discussion:** None

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

**XIV. Name:** Mr. Kip DeArman

**Site Address:** 420 20<sup>th</sup> Street, North (Previous Wells Fargo Tower)

**District:** Birmingham Green

**Requesting approval for:** Conceptual signage approval

**Statements:** Mr. DeArman presented his plan for new Shipt signage for the Wells Fargo Tower. Macknally asked if there would be any additional new signage, in addition to the new sign at the top of the building. Mr. DeArman said yes, and that he knew that a master signage plan was required, but that he didn't have that ready to present at this time. Macknally asked if the sign fit within the guidelines. Sims stated that the building





## City of Birmingham Design Review Committee Meeting Minutes January 22, 2020

---

already had a variance for the building signage, allowing for this much signage. Wolfe asked if the signs would be on all four sides of the building. The applicant said yes. Macknally asked if the signs would be internally lit. The applicant said yes. Wieseman verified that the font and lettering that was shown was what the applicant intended to install.

**Motion:** Macknally made a motion to approve this conceptual proposal as presented, noting that when the applicant returns, he needs to have all details (mounting, lighting, signage, etc) so that the full proposal can be approved all at once.

**Motion seconded by:** Wolfe

**Discussion:** None

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

- XV. Name:** Ms. Tammy Cohen (CCR Architecture & Interiors)  
**Site Address:** 1301 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North (Biso Collective Headquarters)  
**District:** Downtown West  
**Requesting approval for:** Renovation

**Statements:** Ms. Cohen presented her plan for a new development called BISO Collective. She stated that it was an old depot building. She stated that she wanted to replace the windows, repoint the brick, retrim the building, but did not plan to paint the building. Wieseman asked if the windows would have the same light pattern. Ms. Cohen said yes. Ms. Cohen stated that there would be a new canopy on the back of the building.

**Motion:** Hoskins made a motion to approve this proposal as presented.

**Motion seconded by:** Wieseman

**Discussion:** None

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 a.m.