



City of Birmingham Design Review Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2021

Meeting Time: 7:30 a.m.

Meeting Location: Birmingham City Hall, 3rd Floor Council Chamber

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. In addition, please note that prior to obtaining any permit(s), all applicants must meet with Zoning staff to determine compliance with the Zoning regulations. Design Review approval does NOT mean that Zoning has approved the request.

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

Members Absent: Shelia Montgomery-Mills, Willie Oliver, Chris Swain

Staff Present: Karla Calvert, Pamela Perry

Others Present: David Brandt, James Hindman, Clay Ousley, David Steele

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. by Chairman Mauk. He stated that the minutes from the 7/28/2021 meeting were ready. Wieseman made a motion to approve the minutes. Hoskins seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

- I. Name:** Mr. David Steele (Lord Aeck Sargent)
Site Address: 1510 5th Avenue North (A. G. Gaston Motel)
District: 4th Avenue North
Requesting approval for: Phase 2 / Landscaping (Last seen 5/26/21)

Statements: Mr. Steele presented his plan for Phase 3/Landscaping of the A.G. Gaston Motel. Mr. Steele presented an historic postcard of the outside of the Motel, and stated that the new plantings would be in keeping with the look of the hotel/landscaping from the postcard. Mr. Steele went on to explain that much of the hardscape of the Motel had changed, but that the proposed landscaping was still in keeping with the historic layout. He stated that they used historic photos to dictate the new design. He stated that he would be adding planters and a bird bath as shown in the historic photos. Mr. Steele stated that they site would be secured with security gates and fencing. He stated that the paving would be asphalt with concrete pavers. Mauk asked what the historic garage



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footprint would be, Mr. Steele stated that it would be concrete pavers.

Macknally asked if the landscaping would be irrigated. Mr. Steele said no but that there would be a spigot nearby. She also asked what plants would be planted. Mr. Steele stated that it would be glossy abelia, euonymous, and dwarf yaupon. Macknally stated that the species that he mentioned were invasive and would grow too large. She suggested that Mr. Steele contact City Staff to choose more appropriate species for this site.

Motion: Macknally made a motion to approve the plans as submitted on the condition that the applicant work with City Staff on the selection of more appropriate planting material.

Motion seconded by: Wieseman

Discussion: none

Vote: The motion carried, Hoskins recused himself.

II.

Name: Mr. David Brandt (Fravert Services)

Site Address: 701 25th Street North (Jones Valley Teaching Farm)

District: Cultural District

Requesting approval for: Signage

Statements: Mr. Brandt presented his plan for the signage master plan for the Jones Valley Teaching Farm. He stated that the main signage were monument signs and building signs on the NE corner and SW corner, and the entrance at the west of the property. He stated that most of the signage would be room identification signs and donor identification signs within the site, and were not meant to be seen from the road. He stated that the larger monument sign would be at the NE corner of the site and that it would be internally lit. He stated that the west entrance monument sign would be the same construction as the one at the NE corner. He stated that the signs would be made of push through acrylic and would feature a white halo around the letters. He stated that the colors would light up and be seen at night.

He stated that there will be several donor signs that will be within the site. He stated that they would be small and would not be lit. At location 30, there will be non-lighted letters mounted to the north face of the building. Macknally stated that she was concerned about having three main monument signs on the site, two of which were within the same sight lines. She was also concerned that the 2nd sign would obstruct sight lines for pedestrians, and might be unsafe. She stated that signs 1 and 3 made sense, but the second sign seemed excessively large. She suggested that a smaller sign marking the entrance might be a better choice. Brandt asked if he moved the sign back from the road a bit, if that would be better. Macknally stated that the sign was still just



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too large for that location. Hoskins asked if sign 30 was at the front entrance to the building. Mr. Brandt stated that there were several entrances to the building, but that the main entrance was on the north side. Hoskins asked if sign 1 was the pedestrian entrance to the site. Mr. Brandt said yes. Burnett stated that he was a little disturbed by the use of these types of signs on this site. He thought the styles didn't work well together. Mr. Brandt stated that his client wanted internally lit signs, and that these types of lit signs are required to be in metal boxes. He stated that the color palette was his client's. Hoskins asked if sign 2 was necessary. Mr. Brandt stated that something was needed there. Macknally stated that sign 2 was repetitive, and it might be better to have a different type of sign there. Mr. Brandt asked if something smaller and more directional in nature would be better. Macknally said yes. Macknally asked if this much signage was allowed per Zoning. Mr. Brandt said yes. Wolfe asked if multiple design options were considered. Mr. Brandt stated that he wasn't sure, and that this signage complied with the client's branding. Wolfe stated that the materials of the signs don't work well with the materials of the buildings. Hoskins suggested that Mr. Brandt use the building materials (painted aluminum, for example) on his monument sign to make the signage and the building more cohesive. Macknally suggested that wayfinding signs be added, to help better define the site. Hoskins stated that the smaller signage wouldn't be visible from off the site, and that it was more important to get signs 1, 2 and 3 right first.

Motion: Macknally made a motion to carry this case over pending revisiting the materials of signs 1 and 3, and a redesign of sign 2 incorporating wayfinding. She also stated that when this project is re-presented, building materials need to be included, for comparison.

Motion seconded by: Wolfe

Discussion: Mr. Brandt clarified that the wayfinding would be specifically for sign 2. Wieseman stated that Mr. Brandt may choose to include more signage for wayfinding.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

III.

Name: Mr. James Hindman (Paul Davis of Greater Birmingham)

Site Address: 1615 29th Street North

District: Norwood (Local Historic District)

Requesting approval for: Fire Restoration- New wood siding, windows, roofing and paint

Statements: Chairman Mauk asked if there was a report from the LHAC. Perry stated that the proposal was approved with conditions by the LHAC, and that Mr. Hindman has agreed to those conditions.



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On August 2, 2021, the Local Historic Advisory Committee (LHAC) for the Norwood Local Historic District heard the DRC case for the property located at 1615 29th St N, and the Committee took the following action: Approve with Conditions.

The recommendation of the Local Historic Advisory Committee was to **Approve with Conditions** the design review request for the following reasons:

Page 15-Item K-Materials

"Alternative materials shall not be used unless such materials visually replicate the original exterior in appearance, dimensions, and texture. etc. to every degree possible." Hardie plank siding matching the exposure of the existing wood siding is approved.

Page 16-Item L-Paint

"Previously painted brick and stone may be repainted"

Page 18-Item O-Roofs

Asphalt shingles are an approved material.

Page 19-Item T-Trim (decorative)

"All historic trim shall be repaired and maintained"

Page 19-Item U-Windows

".,,where window replacement is unavoidable because of deterioration, new frame units are to match the original window in terms of material style, light pattern (design), construction. and proportions.

Wood windows...(with true divided lights or simulated divided lights if historically accurate} are

acceptable, Replacement windows with between-the-glass muntins are not acceptable ..."

Page 20-Item V-Window Shutters

"Original shutters shall be repaired and maintained in working order where possible. Deteriorated shutter elements shall be repaired or replaced with new wood to match."



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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

Page 16-Item L-Paint

Page 18-Item Q-Roofs

Page 19-Item T-Trim

decorative

Page 19-Item CT-

Windows

Page 20-Item V-Window Shutters

The Local Historic Advisory Committee also voted to request that the following conditions be placed upon this request:

1. Application showed 1-over-1 aluminum windows. Applicant clarified that the intention is to use wood windows from the same manufacturer. 1 over 1 light pattern does not match the original window design. A 6 over 6 configuration matches the original windows and is the configuration that will be approved.

2. Committee understands that the shutters are not original to the home. Item 4 on Page 11 of the Norwood Historic Preservation Plan states:

Changes which may have taken place in the course of time are evidence of the history and development of a building, structure or site and its environment. These changes may have acquired significance in their own right, and this significance shall be recognized and respected.

With this in mind, it was decided that replica shutters could be added to the front window of the exposed porch in order to bring consistent character to the entire home. The shutters that flank either side of the enclosed porch may be left in place or reused as one set of shutters on the front of the enclosed porch.

The LHAC also made the following findings:

1. The proposed change, erection, or demolition: Conforms to the design standards established.

2. The proposed change, erection, or demolition: Is compatible with the character of the historic property and the historic district and does not detract from their historic value.

3. The proposed erection, alteration, restoration, relocation or demolition, in whole or in



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part: Will not detrimentally change, destroy, or adversely affect any significant architectural feature of the resource.

4. The proposed erection, alteration, restoration, relocation or demolition, in whole or in part: Will be compatible with the exterior features of other improvements within the District.

Mr. Hindman presented his plan to remove the asbestos siding and replace the windows with 6-over-6 windows. The house had previously burned, prompting the renovation. He stated that he would keep the open soffit and the corbels. Hoskins asked if the house would be painted yellow. Mr. Hindman said yes. Macknally stated that the specific color needs to be added to the record. The shutters will be built in place to match.

Motion: Hoskins made a motion to approve this proposal in agreement with the LHAC, on the condition that the yellow matches the photograph, and that the applicant submits all final colors to City Staff for approval.

Motion seconded by: Macknally

Discussion: none

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

- IV. Name:** Mr. Clay Ousley
Site Address: 5507 1st Avenue North
District: Woodlawn
Requesting approval for: Signage

Statements: Mr. Ousley presented his plan for signage and paint for a retail space in Woodlawn. He stated that there would be a projecting blade sign. Macknally verified that the banners would be removed. Mr. Ousley confirmed that they were already removed. Mr. Ousley stated that the blade sign was less than 8 square feet per the Zoning Ordinance. He also stated that there would be door vinyl, and lettering on the front window. Burnett asked what the material of the blade sign would be. Mr. Ousley stated that that it hadn't been determined yet. He stated that the applicant would put up the door vinyl and window lettering first. Wieseman stated that the blade sign would not be internally lit. Burnett stated that he didn't have a problem with the signage itself, but that attachment and construction details were missing.

Motion: Hoskins made a motion to approve this proposal, as presented, with the exception of the blade sign. The applicant can move forward with the window lettering, door vinyl and painting, but must return with more details for the blade sign.

Motion seconded by: Burnett

Discussion: none



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Vote: The motion carried. Wieseman recused himself.

Mauk stated that language was added to the meeting preamble. The verbiage states “In addition, please note that prior to obtaining any permit(s), all applicants must meet with Zoning staff to determine compliance with the Zoning regulations. Design Review approval does NOT mean that Zoning has approved the request.”

Burnett made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Wolfe seconded. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 a.m.