



## City of Birmingham Design Review Committee Meeting Minutes September 8, 2021

**Meeting Time: 7:30 a.m.**

**Meeting Location: Webex Video & Teleconference**

(Video Link: <https://birmingham.webex.com/birmingham/j.php?MTID=md4a9475e95acf948f8ed8fefde5bd9cb>)

Phone Number: 1/415-655-0002 or 1/312-5358110; Meeting Access Code: 2492 128 6095; Meeting Password: YdnpWJeG253)

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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. 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.

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Members Present: Abra Barnes, Ivan Holloway, Creig Hoskins, Lea Ann Macknally, Richard Mauk, Shelia Montgomery-Mills, Willie Oliver, Chris Swain, Ben Wieseman, Brian Wolfe

Members Absent: Scott Burnett

Staff Present: Karla Calvert, Lauren Havard, John Sims

Others Present: Christina Argo, Julie Barnard, Brian Barrett, Rob Buddo, Jonathan Crain, Beth Currie, Mike Gibson, Mark Goodwin, Jay Kasten, Kim Magraw, Daniel McCurry, Mary Morgan, Joseph Posey, Jason Robb, Brian Robertson, Atticus Rominger, Stephen Schrader

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. by Chairman Mauk. He stated that the minutes from the 8/25/21 meeting were ready. Oliver made a motion to approve the minutes. Macknally seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

- I. **Name:** Ms. Beth Currie  
**Site Address:** 401 19<sup>th</sup> Street North  
**District:** Birmingham Green  
**Requesting approval for:** Mural

**Statements:** Ms. Currie presented her plan for a new mural at the Wells Fargo on 19<sup>th</sup>



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Street North location. The mural will celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Freedom Riders. The mural will not be hand painted; it will be photographs in a collage. The mural will have a key giving credit to all the photograph contributions. She stated that she worked with three of the original Freedom Riders to develop this mural. Ms. Currie also stated that some of the landscaping would be removed in front of the mural to provide ADA access. Ms. Currie also discussed how the mural would be installed on the building. In addition, she stated that the spigot would be moved to make room for the ADA accessible pad. Ms. Currie stated that there would also be an ADA accessible, non-lit mural key. She also presented the lighting for the mural. Oliver asked how long the other mural on 4<sup>th</sup> Ave S had been in place. Ms. Currie said it had been up since 2014. Oliver asked if the quality and style of the mural would be similar to the other mural. Wolfe asked if the lighting was in place to cover the key. Ms. Currie said yes, and that there wouldn't be a separate light for the key. Macknally stated that she thought the landscaping was appropriate.

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

**Motion seconded by:** Wolfe

**Discussion:** Wieseman asked if the ADA key would be in the ROW. Ms. Currie said no.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

## II.

**Name:** Ms. Christina Argo

**Site Address:** 20<sup>th</sup> Street North (Railroad Park to Linn Park)

**District:** Various (City Center)

**Requesting approval for:** The World Games legacy sculptures and 20<sup>th</sup> Street Refresh

**Statements:** Ms. Argo presented the Birmingham Green Refresh Project. She stated that the project would go from the railroad to Linn Park. She stated that new landscaping would be added, along with new street furniture. Ms. Argo stated that each block would be mostly the same as far as landscaping and site amenities. She also stated that crosswalks would be redone, and that there would be lots of plants in pots added. She stated that the flex lane and a bike lane would be added to 20<sup>th</sup> Street.

Mr. Kasten presented the sculpture project that he would like to install along 20<sup>th</sup> Street. Mr. Kasten stated that the sumo wrestlers were specifically placed at the Heaviest Corner on Earth (name of the historic district). Oliver stated that he was concerned that the Sumo wrestling sculpture might be out of scale. Mauk confirmed that it would be only 6' tall. Wolfe asked what paint color 1 and paint color 2 were. Mr. Robertson



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stated that color 1 would be a bright orange (Sherwin Williams “Daredevil”) to help the sculptures pop. He also stated that the base color would be dark bronze (Sherwin Williams “Urbane Bronze”). Mr. Robertson stated that the colors would be more subdued than they appeared in the image provided. Oliver asked if the sculptures would be labelled. Mr. Kasten said yes.

Macknally stated that she thought the landscaping was appropriate. Oliver wanted to be sure that all ADA guidelines would be followed.

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

**Motion seconded by:** Holloway

**Discussion:** Montgomery-Mills asked why bump outs were in some locations, but not in others. Schrader stated that the bump outs were at the exits of the flex lanes, and the bumps on the ground at the entrances to discourage drivers.

**Vote:** The motion carried. Wieseman recused himself.

### III.

**Name:** Mr. Andrew McCurry

**Site Address:** 1138 Lakeview Crescent

**District:** Highland Park Local Historic District

**Requesting approval for:** Installing steps for alley access (seen from the street)

**Statements:** Chairman Mauk asked if there was a report from the LHAC. Calvert stated that the proposal was recommended for approval as presented by the LHAC.

On 8-30-2021, the Local Historic Advisory Committee (LHAC) for the Highland Park Local Historic District heard the DRC case for the property located at 1138 Lakeview Crescent, the Committee took the following action: Approve.

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

The request is compatible with the historic character of the District.

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.



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3. The proposed erection, alteration, restoration, relocation or demolition, in whole or in 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. McCurry presented his plan to add stairs at the rear of the property. He stated that the steps would follow the slope and there would be a wood enclosure for the owner's garbage cans. Mr. McCurry stated that he would use brown sandstone, poured in place concrete, and chert rock to make the stairs, the turn back wall, and the landing. The cap of the more formal wall will be poured-in-place concrete, but it would not be visible from the street.

**Motion:** Montgomery-Mills made a motion to approve this proposal as presented, in agreement with the LHAC.

**Motion seconded by:** Holloway

**Discussion:** none

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

**IV. Name:** Ms. Ali Randall & Mr. Joseph Posey

**Site Address:** 3811 Clairmont Avenue South

**District:** Forest Park Local Historic District

**Requesting approval for:** Removing awning to expose windows, painting trim, repurposing existing sign, adding gold lettering on windows, adding new light fixtures, and replacing broken panes

**Statements:** Chairman Mauk asked if there was a report from the LHAC. Calvert stated that the proposal was recommended for approval as presented by the LHAC. Mauk asked if that included the lighting and the signage. Calvert said yes.

On 9/1/2021, the Local Historic Advisory Committee (LHAC) for the Forest Park Local Historic District heard the DRC case for the property located at 3811 Clairmont Avenue, and the Committee took the following action: Approve.

The recommendation of the Local Historic Advisory Committee was to Approve the design review request for the following reasons: The request is compatible with the historic character of the District.



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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 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. Posey presented his plan to update the façade of the storefront in Forest Park. He stated that he wanted to remove the awning and to update the blade sign. He stated that the sign would be painted, and would have the updated logo using the same color as the trim. Mauk asked if the glass would be glazed or if it would be clear. Mr. Posey stated that they were trying to maintain the original appearance. He stated that the windows would be glazed but would be transparent. He also stated that the logo for the building would be applied to the windows in gold. He stated that trim would be repainted in Parisian Patina, and the two light fixtures would be removed and replaced with smaller but similar styled lanterns. Mauk verified that the brick already had been painted.

Wolfe asked if the building had one owner and three tenants. Mr. Posey stated that the building had one owner, and one tenant plus the owner. Montgomery-Mills stated that the building would need to have a master signage plan. Wolfe stated that a sample would be needed for the window glazing. Mr. Posey stated that the windows would be transparent. Mauk asked what color the curtains on the transom windows would be. Mr. Posey stated that they would be the same green as the trim paint.

**Motion:** Montgomery-Mills made a motion to approve the architectural renovations on the building, with signage to return with a master signage plan and a sample of the glass. A cut sheet with dimensions for the light would also be required.

**Motion seconded by:** Wolfe

**Discussion:** none

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.



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- V. **Name:** Ms. Mary Morgan (Barrett Architecture Studio)  
**Site Address:** 1231 & 1235 23<sup>rd</sup> Street South  
**District:** Highland Park Local Historic District  
**Requesting approval for:** New single family development consisting of townhomes and cottages

**Statements:** Chairman Mauk asked if there was a report from the LHAC. Calvert stated that the proposal was recommended for approval on condition by the LHAC. She noted the conditions of approval as indicated below.

On 8/31/2021, the Local Historic Advisory Committee (LHAC) for the Highland Park Local Historic District heard the DRC case for the property located at 1231 and 1235 23<sup>rd</sup> St S, 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: The request is largely compatible with the historic character of the District, subject to conditions.

The LHAC also voted to request that the following conditions be placed upon this request:

1: The overall site plan is acceptable and will not conflict with the historic character of the District. To be compatible with the pedestrian character of the district, the committee requests that a sidewalk be added along the drive entrance to allow pedestrian access to the interior buildings on the site. The committee also suggests that the developer consider retaining the line of cherry trees along the south property line, if possible, to retain an existing buffer against the adjacent property.

2: The character and materials of the townhomes and cottages are generally consistent with the historic character of the district. However, the sliding glass doors at the rear of the townhomes is a mid-20th century element that is not consistent with anything in the District, and we recommend that these be readdressed.

3. The building called the Flats has a rear facade that works well in addressing the need for a public facade where it faces Milner Crescent. However, the front facade of the building, while using similar materials to the rest of the development, does not have a design consistent with the rest of the development. The facade has a commercial appearance that does not reflect the architectural scheme of the other buildings or the District. The LHAC recommends that the front facade of this structure be readdressed to



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be more in keeping with the overall design of the development.

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 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.

Ms. Morgan presented her plan to develop a parking lot into a housing development. There will be three buildings with residential units. Ms. Morgan stated that she would be using cast stone as the base for each building, with brick above. She stated that she would be using more traditional design details. The windows will be double-hung and will not have mullions. The garage doors will have wood veneer, with no windows. She also presented her color scheme. She stated that the owner wanted each unit to be individual, but to coordinate with each other and have a cohesive look. Hoskins asked what the material above the base would be. Ms. Morgan stated that it would be brick, with cementitious board or wood that is painted. Mr. Barrett stated that the lower basement level would be precast, and would only be visible on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Street side of the building, the rear of the units. Wieseman asked when the remainder of the project would return. Mr. Barrett stated that it would return in about two weeks. Wieseman verified that the site plan wouldn't change between now and then.

**Motion:** Wieseman made a motion to approve this proposal as presented, in agreement with the LHAC.

**Motion seconded by:** Barnes

**Discussion:** none

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

- VI. Name:** Mr. Sidney Aulds  
**Site Address:** 1218 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North (Spiffy Warehouse)





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**District:** Downtown West

**Requesting approval for:** Final updated mural; Elevation change

**Statements:** Mr. Gibson presented the plan for a mural at the Spiffy Warehouse. Wieseman verified that the size, location, and content of the mural were the same as they were previously approved. Mr. Gibson said yes. He stated that the mural would actually be a little smaller. Hoskins asked what the “so so” on the mural meant. Mr. Gibson stated that the business’ tag line is “so so spiffy,” and it refers to that. He also stated that there would not be any advertising on the mural itself.

**Motion:** Wieseman made a motion to approve the mural.

**Motion seconded by:** Hoskins

**Discussion:** none

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

**Statements:** Mr. Gibson also presented his changes to the south façade. He stated that the signage would shift to the right, and a tagline would be added.

**Motion:** Montgomery-Mills made a motion to approve this proposal as presented.

**Motion seconded by:** Hoskins

**Discussion:** none

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

**VII.**

**Name:** Mr. Mike Gibson

**Site Address:** 2320 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North (Frothy Monkey)

**District:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North

**Requesting approval for:** Conceptual renovation

**Statements:** Mr. Gibson presented his conceptual proposal for the Frothy Monkey. He stated that it would be a restaurant space. Mr. Gibson stated that the main renovation would be a new rear outdoor eating area. Mauk asked if the outdoor eating area would be enclosed. Mr. Gibson said no, but that they did want to cover the area. Hoskins asked if the site would be secured. Mr. Gibson said yes, that there would be a perimeter fence. Montgomery-Mills asked if the cooler would have fencing around it. Mr. Gibson said yes. Hoskins suggested that Mr. Gibson check to make sure that the awning wasn’t too low. Mr. Gibson stated that for the signage, he wanted to simply replace the signage panel from the previous tenant.





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**Motion:** Hoskins made a motion to approve the conceptual design for the Frothy Monkey.

**Motion seconded by:** Montgomery-Mills

**Discussion:** none

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

**VIII. Name:** Mr. Gary Wyatt  
**Site Address:** 900 17<sup>th</sup> Street North  
**District:** Cultural District  
**Requesting approval for:** Signage

**Statements:** The applicant was not present; therefore, the case was not heard.

Montgomery-Mills made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Oliver seconded. The motion carried. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 a.m.