



## City of Birmingham Design Review Committee Meeting Minutes September 22, 2021

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

**Meeting Location: Webex Video & Teleconference**

(Video Link: <https://birmingham.webex.com/birmingham/j.php?MTID=mcea2a8df4cdf965980561cccfaa303f7>)

Phone Number: 1/415-655-0002 or 1/312-5358110; Meeting Access Code: 2493 534 7216; Meeting Password: XXuX7mH4cM5)

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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, Scott Burnett, Ivan Holloway, Richard Mauk, Shelia Montgomery-Mills, Chris Swain, Ben Wieseman, Brian Wolfe

Members Absent: Creig Hoskins, Lea Ann Macknally, Willie Oliver

Staff Present: Karla Calvert, Onesimus Collins, Lauren Havard, Paige Ishmael, Pamela Perry, John Sims

Others Present: Stephen Allen, David Brandt, Carolyn Buck, Kariba Bush, Robert Callighan, Cindy Coyle, Scott Fujino, Katherine Glenn, Hannah Job, Anthony Mangano, Timothy Ness, Mai Nguyen, Collin Orcutt, Alex Pattillo, Philip with Scott Services, Frank Reese, Gary Robinson, Jeff S., Andy V.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. by Chairman Mauk. He stated that the minutes from the 9/8/21 meeting were ready. Wolfe made a motion to approve the minutes. Swain seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**I. Name:** Ms. Carolyn Buck

**Site Address:** 42<sup>nd</sup> Street South and 2<sup>nd</sup> Alley South

**District:** 41<sup>st</sup> Street

**Requesting approval for:** Resting and wayfinding architectural feature for the new Continental Gin Connector recreational and commuting trail



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**Statements:** Ms. Buck presented her plan for a new trail connecting Jones Valley Trail to 41<sup>st</sup> Street. She stated that she wanted to add an architectural feature along the trail at the intersection of 42<sup>nd</sup> Street South and 2<sup>nd</sup> Alley. She stated that the feature would provide wayfinding, and provide seating, and signal a dog-leg in the trail. Mauk asked what would prevent people from sleeping on these benches. Ms. Buck said they didn't have anything in place that would prevent them from sleeping there. Wolfe asked what the composite board would be made of. Ms. Glenn stated that they would be a natural wood tone, but be a composite material to last longer. She stated that the specific composite product hasn't been identified yet. Wolfe stated that more information is needed, including materials, finish and colors, and signage. Burnett stated that site furniture needed to be specified, as well. Mauk asked how many of these structures there would be. Ms. Buck stated that there would only be one.

**Motion:** Burnett made a motion to approve this proposal conceptually. Materials, colors, furniture and signage would need to return.

**Motion seconded by:** Wolfe

**Discussion:** none

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

**II. Name:** Ms. Cindy Coyle (Architecture Works)

**Site Address:** 4400 Clairmont Avenue

**District:** Forest Park Local Historic District

**Requesting approval for:** Removing pre-fabricated metal canopy roof and arbor on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue side of house and replacing with new sunporch with windows, doors, and wood trim; Adding window at rear gable

**Statements:** Mauk asked Perry if there was a report from the LHAC. Perry stated that this project was approved as presented by the Forest Park LHAC. She also stated that this is a contributing structure.

On 9/15/21 the LHAC of the Forest Park Local Historic District heard the DRC case for the property located at 4400 Clairmont Avenue, and the Committee took the following action: Approve.

The LHAC approved the project for the following reasons: Project is in keeping with the architectural integrity of the Forest Park neighborhood and historical neighborhood design review guidelines.



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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.

Ms. Coyle stated that she wanted to remove an existing porch with arbor/canopy structure and replace it with a new enclosed sun porch. She stated that the canopy was made of aluminum, and that it sits behind the arbor, and that both will be removed. She stated that she would also be adding a window on the second floor. She stated that the window would be dark bronze with a simulated divided light. She also stated that the window would be aluminum clad wood. Ms. Coyle stated that the roof material would be a standing seam, dark bronze metal roof. Wolfe asked if the color scheme would match the existing house. Ms. Coyle said yes.

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

**Motion seconded by:** Burnett

**Discussion:** none

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

### III.

**Name:** Mr. Kariba Bush

**Site Address:** 301 Reverend Abraham Woods Jr. Boulevard

**District:** 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue North

**Requesting approval for:** Renovation

**Statements:** Mr. Bush presented his plan to renovate an existing building. He stated that he wanted to keep the same look of the building, and that it will become a lounge. He stated that he wanted to add new glass garage doors and add new storefront to the



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front of the building. He also stated that he wanted to re-stucco the rear of the building, remove the windows, and install an egress door. On the east façade, he stated that he wanted to replace the windows. Wieseman asked if the striping pattern would change, or if just the color would change. Mr. Kariba stated that he just wanted to change the stripes from red to black. Mr. Kariba also presented his color palette. The building will be white with black stripes. Wolfe stated that a landscaping plan would be required for this site. Wolfe asked why the stucco color was different than the other white paint. Mr. Bush stated that was the stucco company's version of the white color that will be used on the remainder of the building. Mauk stated that more detail would be required. Burnett suggested that in the areas where the windows were being removed, Mr. Bush could create a way to show that the windows were once there, showing architectural relief/interest. Sims stated that signage would need to return. Wieseman advised Mr. Bush to work with the City Engineer on his parking.

**Motion:** Wolfe made a motion to approve this proposal with the site plan, landscaping, signage, window infill details, and outdoor dining and parking details to return.

**Motion seconded by:** Wieseman

**Discussion:** none

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

**IV. Name:** Mr. David Brandt (Fravert Services)

**Site Address:** 1300 3rd Avenue South (Alight Birmingham; Formerly University House)

**District:** Midtown (Parkside)

**Requesting approval for:** Signage

**Statements:** Mr. Brandt presented his signage plan for University House. He stated that he would be doing a 1-for-1 signage swap. The new building would be called *Alight Birmingham*. He stated that the main signage would be raceway mounted channel letters that would be white during the day and light up white at night. Mauk asked if the whole building would be painted. Mr. Brandt stated that only the six window sections would be painted. Mr. Brandt stated that this section of building would be painted a blue-purple color, as part of the company's branding. Montgomery-Mills stated that this building was already painted. She also stated that painting only the one small section didn't make sense.

**Motion:** Burnett made a motion to approve the signage proposal, but deny the painting



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of the building.

**Motion seconded by:** Wolfe

**Discussion:** Mr. Brandt's client stated that the painting of the brick around the leasing office was a national branding element. He asked if the painting around the leasing office might be allowed.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

V. **Name:** Mr. David Brandt (Fravert Services)

**Site Address:** 200 16th Street South (Ion at the Ballpark; Formerly The Venue)

**District:** Midtown (Parkside)

**Requesting approval for:** Signage

**Statements:** Mr. Brandt presented his 1-for-1 signage change for the Venue at the Ballpark. The new building would be called *Ion at the Ballpark*. Mr. Brandt stated that the leasing office signage would be mounted to the existing canopy. Mr. Brandt stated that this sign would be a brushed silver vinyl overlay, and would light up a light gray. Wolfe asked if the holes from the previous signage would be repaired. Mr. Brandt said yes.

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

**Motion seconded by:** Wieseman

**Discussion:** none

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

VI. **Name:** Mr. Scott Fujino

**Site Address:** 15 20<sup>th</sup> Street South

**District:** Midtown

**Requesting approval for:** Signage

**Statements:** Mr. Fujino presented his plan for a 1-for-1 signage replacement. The building will go from BBVA to PNC. He stated that the new signage would take up less square footage than the existing, and that there would be no structural replacements and no additions.

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

**Motion seconded by:** Burnett

**Discussion:** none



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**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

- VII. Name:** Mr. Greg Allen  
**Site Address:** 4640 Avenue West (T-Mobile)  
**District:** 5 Points West  
**Requesting approval for:** Signage and Awning change

**Statements:** The applicant presented his like-for-like signage change for the T-Mobile. He also stated that the awning would be changed out. The awning would go from black to magenta.

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

**Motion seconded by:** Holloway

**Discussion:** none

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

- VIII. Name:** Ms. Cassie Burchell  
**Site Address:** 2808 7<sup>th</sup> Ave S (Steele Gastro Pub)  
**District:** Lakeview  
**Requesting approval for:** Signage

**Statements:** The applicant was not present. Sims presented on her behalf. Sims stated that the previous blade sign had been approved, and this new wall mounted flat sign would replace it. Sims stated that the sign would be steel, and the letters would be cut out. Wieseman pointed out that the proposed sign is much simpler than the previous sign. Mauk asked if this building had a master signage package. Havard said yes, but that this particular sign didn't fit within the signage plan, so it needed DRC approval. Wolfe stated that the steel grid would need to be repainted before the sign is installed.

**Motion:** Montgomery-Mills made a motion to approve this proposal as presented on the condition that the metal framework is repainted.

**Motion seconded by:** Wolfe

**Discussion:** none

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

- IX. Name:** Mr. Michael Bailey  
**Site Address:** 10 13<sup>th</sup> Street South (Foundry Yards Co-Working Plaza)



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**District:** Midtown (Parkside)

**Requesting approval for:** Creation of a new outdoor co-working plaza

**Statements:** In the place of Mr. Michael Bailey, Mr. Frank Reese and Ms. Hannah Job presented a plan to install an outdoor co-working space near the Foundry development where a cell tower had recently been removed. She stated that most of the building materials were reclaimed from the site and would be reused. She stated that there would be a low retaining wall at the site, made of the reclaimed bricks. Mr. Reese stated that there would no longer be a fence at the top of the retaining wall. She also stated that the other materials would be concrete pavers and artificial turf. She stated that the total space would be about 2,000 square feet. Mauk asked how tall the retaining wall would be. Ms. Job stated that the retaining wall would be about 18" tall. Mr. Reese stated that the site would have festoon lighting and a security camera. Ms. Job stated that she planned to use a pre-approved plant palette at this site. She also stated that she intended to match the landscaping that is already on site. Wieseman stated that the landscaping looked good, and that it matched well with the landscaping that was already on the site.

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

**Motion seconded by:** Wolfe

**Discussion:** none

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

**X.**

**Name:** Mr. Stephen Allen

**Site Address:** 15 12<sup>th</sup> Street South (Foundry Yards)

**District:** Midtown (Parkside)

**Requesting approval for:** Renovation including site work, streetscape, landscaping and exterior renovation

**Statements:** Mr. Allen presented his plan to renovate the Foundry Yards building, and create retail and office space. She stated that new entries would be created, previously painted brick would be repainted, and site improvements would be added. He also stated that previously unpainted brick would remain unpainted. He stated that new landscaping would be added and parking would be redesigned. Mr. Allen stated that the Parkside guidelines would be followed for the streetscape. Wieseman verified that the street trees would be continued from farther down the street and comply with the Parkside Guidelines. Wolfe verified that the applicant would return with signage. Wieseman



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verified that the City Engineering had approved the cross section.

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

**Motion seconded by:** Burnett

**Discussion:** Wieseman advised that some of the soft scape at the corners may need to be removed due to wear and tear and replaced with brick and concrete in the future.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

Burnett made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Wolfe seconded. The motion carried. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 a.m.