



City of Birmingham Design Review Committee
Meeting Minutes
December 15, 2021

Meeting Time: 7:30 a.m.

Meeting Location: City Council Chambers, 3rd Floor, City Hall

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, Creig Hoskins, Richard Mauk, Ben Wieseman, Brian Wolfe

Members Absent: Scott Burnett, Ivan Holloway, Lea Ann Macknally, Shelia Montgomery-Mills, Willie Oliver, Chris Swain

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

Others Present: Bill Arant, Laura Bartlett, Lamar Blankenship, Callan Childs, Elijah Davis, Aminah Marika, Carry Mclain, Clay Ousley, Jonathan Perry, Mark Pledger, Gip Plott, Tom Saab

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. by Chairman Mauk. He stated that the minutes from the 11/17/21 meeting were ready. Hoskins made a motion to approve the minutes. Wieseman seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

- I. Name:** Mr. Tom Saab
Site Address: 218 20th Street North
District: Birmingham Green
Requesting approval for: Awning and Painting (Last Seen 10/13/21)

Statements: Mr. Saab presented his plan to do a façade improvement for Bistro 218. He stated that he wanted to make the whole façade one color. He stated that there would be no lanterns and no patio railing. He stated that the awning would be added. It would be red. He also stated that the business logo will be added to the awning. Wieseman stated that the applicant has taken care of all issues addressed at the previous meeting.

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



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Motion seconded by: Wolfe

Discussion: none

Vote: The motion carried. Wieseman recused himself.

II.

Name: Ms. Patrice Blankenship

Site Address: 1725 3rd Avenue North

District: 19th Street North

Requesting approval for: Signage / New Windows

Statements: Mr. Blankenship requested adding a blade sign to “Jazzi’s”. He stated that it would fit in to the theater district. Mauk asked how thick the sign would be. Sims stated that the sign would be 8” or less. Hoskins asked if the sign was steel or aluminum. Mr. Blankenship stated that it would be aluminum. Hoskins asked if the sign was internally illuminated. Mr. Blankenship said yes. Hoskins asked if he would need a ROW use agreement. Sims said yes.

Sims stated that the applicant was requesting to replace the windows on the second floor. Wolfe asked if the applicant was going back with the same light pattern. Sims said yes. Hoskins asked if the windows would match the existing. Sims said yes. Hoskins stated that the color sample for the windows would need to be submitted to City staff.

Motion: Hoskins made a motion to approve this proposal as submitted, on the condition that the sign gets a ROW use agreement, and that the window color is submitted to City Staff.

Motion seconded by: Wieseman

Discussion: none

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

III.

Name: Ms. Christina Argo

Site Address: Varies

District: Commercial and Historic Districts (Shared Space) Outdoor Café

Requesting approval for: No Vote (Shared Information Only)

Statements: Ms. Argo presented her plan for a new “Shared Space” permit. She stated that the enforcement of this permit will lie with BDOT, instead of the Engineering Department. She also stated that the permit would need to be renewed annually. She stated that the ABC Board no longer requires for outdoor areas that serve alcohol to be enclosed. Ms. Argo stated that this permit did not just apply to restaurants, but also to any business that plans to use the right-of-way adjacent to its building. Ms. Argo presented her design guidelines for the Shared Spaces. Hoskins asked if applicants



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would need to go before DRC for approval in CRDs. Ms. Argo said no. Hoskins asked who would move non-conforming outdoor furniture and decorations. Ms. Argo stated that Public Works or BDOT would remove it. Barnes asked if BDOT would do a site visit before the permit is issued to insure compliance. Ms. Argo said yes. Hoskins stated that he is very concerned that compliance will be an issue. Wieseman suggested that the ABC permit be contingent upon the Shared Space permit for approval, to insure compliance. Wieseman agreed to compile DRC input for the permit language to submit to Ms. Argo.

Motion: For information only, no vote taken.

- IV. Name:** Mr. Ira Coleman (Homeowner)
Site Address: 3438 Norwood Boulevard
District: Norwood Local Historic District
Requesting approval for: Home remodel: Replacing roof, and windows; painting exterior and resurfacing concrete

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

- V. Name:** ~~Mr. Mark Martin (Contractor)~~
Site Address: ~~1222 29th Street North~~
District: ~~Norwood Local Historic District~~
Requesting approval for: ~~Replacing and repairing windows; replacing siding over the entire home; adding rear dormers for the bedrooms; replacing roof and painting the exterior~~

Statements: This item was removed from the agenda.

- VI. Name:** ~~Mr. Anthony Haydon (Contractor)~~
Site Address: ~~1445 Milner Street South~~
District: ~~Highland Local Historic District~~
Requesting approval for: ~~Replacing windows~~

Statements: This item was removed from the agenda.

- VII. Name:** Mr. Anthony Haydon (Contractor)
Site Address: 1484 Milner Crescent



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~~**District:** Highland Local Historic District~~
~~**Requesting approval for:** Replacing windows~~

Statements: This item was removed from the agenda.

VIII. Name: Ms. Aminah Marika
Site Address: 312 20th Street North
District: Birmingham Green
Requesting approval for: Planters and Handrails

Statements: Ms. Marika presented her plan to add planters and handrails to the steps of the FedEx store, to make it safer. Wieseman asked if the stairs would be removed. The applicant said no, that she would just be adding planters onto the stairs. Wieseman asked if they would be anchored to the steps. The applicant said yes. Mauk asked how the planters would be built. Ms. Marika said that they would be pre-fabricated fiberglass planters. Wieseman asked if the stair tread was a full 10". The applicant said yes. Wolfe asked if the planters would be irrigated. Ms. Marika said yes. Wieseman asked if the planters would be painted. Ms. Marika said no, that they will match the color of the concrete of the building.

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

Motion seconded by: Hoskins

Discussion: none

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

IX. Name: Mr. Elijah E. Davis / Ms. Erica L. Chisolm (Urban Impact)
Site Address: 4th Avenue North District
District: 4th Avenue North
Requesting approval for: Murals

Statements: Mr. Davis presented his plan for new murals in the 4th Avenue N District. He also stated that there were a series of street murals at the corner of 4th Avenue and 17th Street. Mr. Davis stated that several of the murals were painted on canvases, and that all of the murals were made to be temporary. He stated that he was asking for forgiveness for the previously installed murals. Wieseman suggested a master mural plan to identify all existing mural locations, and spaces for all future mural locations. That way, they wouldn't have to come back to DRC for approval for each temporary mural in the future.

Motion: Wieseman made a motion to approve this proposal on the condition that Urban



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Impact develop a Master Mural Plan for the 4th Avenue District.

Motion seconded by: Barnes

Discussion: none

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

- X. Name:** Mr. Collins Ngure
Site Address: 312 20th Street South
District: Midtown
Requesting approval for: Signage

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

- XI. Name:** Mr. Jonathan Perry (Live Design Group)
Site Address: 1625 3rd Avenue South (Red Mountain Theater)
District: Midtown
Requesting approval for: Phase II

Statements: Mr. Perry presented his plan for Phase II of the Red Mountain Theater renovation. He stated that he wanted to demolish the “Sullivan’s” building, to create a courtyard. He stated that he would return later for landscape approval of the courtyard. He stated that he wanted to vacate the alley, to add some additional dressing room/rehearsal space. He also stated that he would be adding a restaurant tenant to the block as well. He stated that he wanted to paint the existing brick on the building beside Sullivan’s based on the different brick conditions and colors. He wanted to present a unified, finished façade. Mr. Perry stated that the colors for the new buildings would match Phase I colors, with the new restaurant tenant having a new, different color. Mr. Perry also stated that the restaurant would be getting all new windows as well. Mr. Perry also stated that the renovations would comply with the existing master signage plan.

Motion: Wieseman made a motion to approve this proposal as submitted conceptually, to allow for demolition. He stated that landscaping, final colors, window details, awning details, and master signage plan updates needed to return for approval.

Motion seconded by: Hoskins

Discussion: Wieseman suggested that the applicant revisit the location of the entry/exit for the courtyard, as it appears to create a pinch-point.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

- XII. Name:** Mr. William J. Arant



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Site Address: 2008 1st Avenue North

District: Birmingham Green

Requesting approval for: Renovation

Statements: Mr. Arant presented his plan to replace the windows in the Brown-Marx building. He presented a sample of the windows that he plans to use. Wieseman verified that only window replacement was being approved today. Mr. Arant said yes.

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

Motion seconded by: Barnes

Discussion: none

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

XIII.

~~**Name:** Ms. Cori Austell~~

~~**Site Address:** 3020 12th Ave N~~

~~**District:** 12th Avenue North~~

~~**Requesting approval for:** New Gas Station~~

Statements: This item was removed from the agenda.

XIV.

Name: Ms. Callan Childs

Site Address: 2921 2nd Avenue South

District: Lakeview

Requesting approval for: Signage Master Plan Update

Statements: Ms. Childs presented her updates for the Pepper Place master signage plan. He stated that the updates were for the building adjacent to the Martin Biscuit Building. She presented the locations and sizes for the new signage on the building. Wieseman asked if the signage fit within the Guidelines. Sims said yes.

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

Motion seconded by: Wieseman

Discussion: none

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

XV.

Name: Mr. Gip Plott (Contractor)

Site Address: 2540 Aberdeen Road

District: Red Mountain Suburbs Local Historic District

Requesting approval for: Modifying the existing room on the southwest corner, which consists of new windows and doors (to match existing) and new roof slope design to



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match existing roof slopes; replacing roof and repairing roof deck; replacing windows and doors with new windows and doors to match the existing ones; and painting the exterior

Statements: Mauk asked Perry if there was a report from the LHAC. Perry stated that this project was approved with conditions by the Red Mountain Suburbs Local Historic District Advisory Committee.

On 12/ 10/2021, the Local Historic Advisory Committee (LHAC) for the Red Mountain Neighborhood Local Historic District heard the DRC case for the property located at 2540 Aberdeen Road, 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 proposed alterations are in keeping with the property and the neighborhood.

The recommendation of the Local Historic Advisory Committee was based on the following sections of the local historic district's design guidelines: III. General Guidelines:

8. Alterations and additions to existing properties shall not destroy, significant historical architectural or cultural material, and their design is should be compatible with the size, scale, color, material, and character of the property, neighborhood, or environment.

9. Wherever practical new additions or alterations to a structure shall be done in such a manner that if such additions or alterations were to be removed in the future the essential form and integrity of the structure would be unimpaired.

IV. Specific Element Guidelines:

N. All guidelines included in this document shall apply to any additions to existing houses.

Any additions shall be in keeping with the original materials and original house design, massing, and setbacks shall be consistent with those of the immediate surrounding properties. Site plans for additions shall be sensitive to and compatible with adjacent properties and structures and minimize changes to natural site topography.

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

1. That the new trim color would match the new clad window color Cotton White



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2. That the applicant return to the committee upon confirmation of roofing material for the front porch and room at left and side.

3. That new gutters located as required will be 6" half round.

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. Plott stated that he wanted to replace all the windows and doors on the home, to be more energy efficient. Wieseman asked if he planned to comply with the conditions placed by the LHAC, with regard to the trim color. Mr. Plott also stated that he would be replacing the roof on the left of the house along with the skylights. He stated that he wanted to reroof the house with like slate tiles. Mr. Plott stated that if he isn't able to find the same tiles on the existing house, then he would come back before the LHAC with a different material. Wolfe asked if all windows would be replaced with windows of the exact same configuration. Mr. Plott said yes. Wieseman stated that the window spec was called out on the drawing.

Motion: Wolfe 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.

XVI. Name: Mrs. Laura Bartlett (Architect)

Site Address: 2624 Aberdeen Road

District: Red Mountain Suburbs Local Historic District

Requesting approval for: Replacing windows and doors; patching and repairing damaged stucco at new door and window flashing; new landscaping in the rear; new limestone terrace in front and back; relocating air conditioning units; new fountain and



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dry stacked stone retaining wall; new stone walkway; demolishing existing wall and providing new header for new closet addition

Statements: Mauk asked Perry if there was a report from the LHAC. Perry stated that this project was approved by the Red Mountain Suburbs Local Historic District Advisory Committee.

On 12/10/2021, the Local Historic Advisory Committee (LHAC) for the Red Mountain Neighborhood Local Historic District heard the DRC case for the property located at 2624 Aberdeen Road, 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 proposed alterations are in keeping with the character of the house and the neighborhood.

The recommendation of the Local Historic Advisory Committee was based on the following sections of the local historic district's design guidelines: III. General Guidelines:

8. Alterations and additions to existing properties shall not destroy, significant historical architectural or cultural material, and their design should be compatible with the size, scale, color, material, and character of the property, neighborhood, or environment.

9. Wherever practical new additions or alterations to a structure shall be done in such a manner that if such additions or alterations were to be removed in the future the essential form and integrity of the structure would be unimpaired.

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.



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Ms. Bartlett presented her plan to replace some of the windows and adding two doors to the home. She also stated that this house is located on a steep hill, and probably isn't visible from the street. Hoskins asked why the windows needed to be replaced. Ms. Bartlett stated that the windows were leaking. She also stated that the stucco would be redone. She stated that all the colors and details would match existing.

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

Motion seconded by: Hoskins

Discussion: none

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

XVII. Name: Mr. Mark Pledger (Architect)

Site Address: 760 Linwood Road

District: Forest Park Local Historic District

Requesting approval for: Removing & replacing an existing deck (Not original to house) and will be replaced by a two-car partially enclosed carport at basement level that will become a conditioned breakfast room and a screened porch with fireplace; Converting a second floor into a bathroom; Enclosing backyard with a fence; modifying driveway to access the new carport; and replacing garage door with French doors

Statements: Mauk asked Perry if there was a report from the LHAC. Perry stated that this project was approved by the Forest Park Local Historic District.

On 12/13/2021, the Local Historic Advisory Committee (LHAC) for the Forest Park

Local Historic District heard the DRC case for the property located at 760 Linwood Rd, 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:

Approve plans as presented due to historical appropriateness of improvements.

Project is in keeping with the architectural integrity of the Forest Park neighborhood and historical neighborhood design review guidelines.

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. Pledger stated that he wanted to replace the non-historic deck, and add a two-car carport. He also stated that he would be enclosing a second floor balcony, to add a bathroom. Mauk verified that all the work would be taking place at the rear of the building. He also stated that he would be matching all existing materials. Mr. Pledger stated that he would also be fencing in the backyard with wood post and wire mesh. He also stated that he would be reconfiguring the driveway to access the new carport.

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 8:30 a.m.