



City of Birmingham Design Review Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2022

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, Scott Burnett, Ivan Holloway, Richard Mauk, Willie Oliver, Ben Wieseman, Brian Wolfe

Members Absent: Creig Hoskins, Shelia Montgomery-Mills, Chris Swain

Staff Present: Charles Bradley, Karla Calvert, Lauren Havard, John Sims

Others Present: Graham Boettcher, Joi Brown, Carol Clarke, Rebecca Dobrinski, Peter Drake, Mike Gibson, Brandon Grant Sr., Michael Hermez, Anthony Oliver, Gray Plosser, Patrick Ritchey, Dalton Smith, Hollie White

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. by Chairman Mauk. He stated that the minutes from the 10/26/22 meeting were ready. Wolfe made a motion to approve the minutes. Oliver seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

- I. Name:** Mr. B.A. Grant, Sr. (A Home Sweet Home Design)
Site Address: 1501 14th Street South
District: Phelan Park Local Historic District
Requesting approval for: Connecting existing garage to existing home and constructing an addition

Statements: Chairman Mauk asked if there was a report from the neighborhood. Calvert stated that the proposal was recommended for approval.

The Five Points South Neighborhood Association provided the following comments:

“This will confirm the Five Points South Neighborhood Association . . . voted 16-0 in



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favor, O Noes, in favor of the Mr./Mrs. White's accessory building addition and renovation of a garage with a 1.2-foot side yard setback instead of the required 3-foot side yard setback.

The Neighbors favored the proposal because [of the following reasons]: The property has had this non-conforming setback before the Whites purchased it. Their internal renovation will not change the setback or cause harm to the adjoining neighbor who attended and testified he has no objection. The associated addition to adjoin the renovated garage will be further away from the setback area, will be of similar material and design to the existing house. It won't be visible from the 2 adjoining streets (it is a corner lot) and it is believed there won't be any adverse impact to the neighborhood.

The neighbors recommend that the Design Review Board approve the design, no additional requirements are being requested by us.”

Mr. Grant stated that he wanted to connect the detached garage to the home as an addition. He stated that the roof line would stay the same. The home style will remain the same. Mauk asked if the color of the home would stay the same. Mr. Grant stated that they would match the color as close as possible, and the siding would remain the same.

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

Motion seconded by: Burnett

Discussion: none

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

II. Name: Mr. Peter Drake (Ripcord, LLC)

Site Address: 1400 33rd Street South

District: Highland Park Local Historic District

Requesting approval for: Rebuilding portion of building that has collapsed and renovate portion of building that is remaining

Statements: Chairman Mauk asked if there was a report from the LHAC. Calvert stated that the proposal was recommended for approval with conditions.

On 11/7/2022 the Local Historic Advisory Committee (LHAC) for the Country Club [Highland Park] Local Historic District heard the DRC case for the property located at 1400 33rd St South, and the Committee took the following action: Approve with Conditions.



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The recommendation of the Local Historic Advisory Committee was to Approve with Conditions the design review request for the following reasons: The building is a non-contributing structure of the historic district, and the project will return the building to an appearance similar in style to its original construction in the late 1970s.

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

- 1) That the window specifications be changed to match the proposed elevation drawing;
- 2) That there be no grids or muntins on windows or on windows in doors;
- 3) That exterior trim and sills (no picture frame trim) be constructed on all windows;
- 4) That if and when gutters are installed that they be of an architectural style appropriate to the building;
- 5) That ground gutters be constructed to handle roof runoff and splashing as no gutters are currently proposed.

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.

Mauk asked if the applicant agreed with the conditions set forth by the LHAC. Mr. Drake said yes. He stated that all the changes have been made to the plans.

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

Motion seconded by: Wieseman

Discussion: none

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.



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- III. Name:** Mr. Jameel Todd
Site Address: 2601 18th Avenue North
District: Norwood Local Historic District
Requesting approval for: ~~Removing awnings and removing rear metal carport~~

Statements: This item was removed from the agenda.

- IV. Name:** Ms. Jane Ross (GMC)
Site Address: 20th Street North and Park Place (Linn Park)
District: Cultural
Requesting approval for: Linn Park Redesign (conceptual)

Statements: Ms. Brown presented a history of why a memorial would be needed for this site. She stated that Jefferson County needed a memorial for the victims of lynching. Ms. Ross stated that this memorial would only be a small portion of Linn Park, and has been planned to fit in with Linn Park Revisited. She also stated that the memorial would be close to the Jefferson County Courthouse, as a gesture to address it. Ms. Ross stated that the installation would memorialize 34 victims of lynching in Jefferson County. Wieseman asked how long it would take for the applicants to return with their final design. Ms. Ross stated that she thought they would be back to present their final design within 6 months. Ms. Ross stated that the Linn Park Board has already approved the location of the memorial and the concept of it. Mauk asked if any trees would be cut down. Ms. Ross stated that the no trees would be removed, and some would even be added. Ms. Ross stated that a main material of the monument would be cor-ten. Ms. Ross went on to describe what the memorial would look like as you walk through it.

Motion: Barnes made a motion to approve this proposal as presented, with the final proposal to return.

Motion seconded by: Wieseman

Discussion: Burnett suggested that the boundaries needed to be stronger to maintain the feeling that the memorial is a sacred space, apart from the rest of the park.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

- V. Name:** Mr. Mike Gibson
Site Address: 300 18th Street South
District: Midtown



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Requesting approval for: Master Signage Plan

Statements: Mr. Gibson presented his proposal for signage for The Citizen. Mr. Gibson stated that most of his signage would be vinyl on windows and doors at the street level. Mauk asked if the signage met the Guidelines. Sims stated that the signage fit within the Design Review Guidelines. Mauk asked if the armadillo was a logo or artwork. Mr. Gibson stated that he would consider the armadillo an icon, and not a logo. Wieseman asked how the armadillo would be applied to the building. Mr. Gibson stated that the armadillo was painted laser-cut aluminum and could be removed.

Motion: Wieseman made a motion to approve this proposal, on the condition that any future murals come before the DRC for approval. He stated that he considered the armadillo a mural and not signage.

Motion seconded by: Wolfe

Discussion: Sims reminded Mr. Gibson that he would need to get approval from Zoning for his mural/signage. Sims stated that Zoning might require the applicant to get a variance.

Vote: The motion carried. Burnett recused himself.

- VI. Name:** Mr. Anthony Oliver
Site Address: 2401 Crossplex Boulevard
District: Five Points West
Requesting approval for: New ATM

Statements: Mr. Oliver presented his plan to add a new freestanding ATM in the parking lot at the CrossPlex. He stated that it would have a prototypical canopy for the remote ATM. Wolfe verified that the signage fit within the existing signage master plan.

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

Motion seconded by: Wolfe

Discussion: Wieseman stated that it was interesting that the retail spaces are now facing the interior of the Crossplex development, instead of facing the highway.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

- VII. Name:** Mr. Dalton Smith
Site Address: 1416 4th Avenue South
District: Midtown
Requesting approval for: Dumpster Enclosure (last seen on 12/13/17)



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Statements: Sims stated that the Transportation Department (BDOT) hasn't approved the final design of this proposal.

Motion: Wolfe made a motion to table this proposal, so that the applicant could consult with the Birmingham Department of Transportation.

Motion seconded by: Burnett

Discussion: none

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

VIII. Name: Mr. Andrew Olds (KPS Group, Inc.)

Site Address: 39 Hanover Circle

District: Highland Park Local Historic District

Requesting approval for: Renovations and additions to existing senior living facility

Statements: Chairman Mauk asked if there was a report from the LHAC. Calvert stated that the proposal was recommended for approval with conditions.

On 11/7/2022 the Local Historic Advisory Committee (LHAC) for the Hanover Place [Highland Park] Local Historic District heard the DRC case for the property located at 39 Hanover Circle 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:
This is a non-contributing structure to the historic district and the proposal is consistent with the standards for the district.

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

That all windows have simulated divided lights including between the panes of glass. as opposed to just applied exterior and interior grids.

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. Olds presented his proposal to renovate a rehabilitation facility in Highland Park. Mr. Olds stated that he was willing to comply with the conditions set forth by the LHAC. He also stated that the building sits more than 40' back from the street, and the full divided lights that the neighborhood is requiring likely won't be able to be seen from the street. Mr. Olds stated that there were two small additions to the building as well. Wieseman verified that the applicant wanted approval without any conditions.

Motion: Wieseman made a motion to approve this proposal without the conditions of the LHAC because of the building's setback and the nature of its use and because of the other renovations taking place at this facility. Wieseman also stated that he approved the painting of the brick because of the existing condition of the brick and the fact that there have been past renovations and painting the brick will unify the exterior of the building.

Motion seconded by: Holloway

Discussion: none

Vote: The motion carried unanimously. Burnett recused himself and left the room for the presentation.

IX. Name: Mr. Jake Threatt (Air Construction)

Site Address: 4340 6th Avenue South

District: ~~Avondale Park Local Historic District~~

Requesting approval for: ~~Installation of new front door; replacement of metal handrail with wooden handrail; and replacement of aluminum window with a vinyl window~~

Statements: This item was removed from the agenda.

X. Name: Mr. David Brandt

Site Address: 1301 1st Avenue North (EBSCO building)

District: Downtown West

Requesting approval for: Signage (last seen on 10/26/22)

Statements: Mr. Brandt presented his plan for signage for EBSCO Industries. He stated that the address numbers would be non-lit. Mr. Brandt showed that he moved the logo beside the sign, rather than above it, so that it would fit better within the façade of



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the building. Mr. Brandt stated that this design was the result of a working session.

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

Motion seconded by: Wolfe

Discussion: none

Vote: The motion carried. Burnett recused himself and left the room for the presentation.

There being no further business, Holloway made a motion to adjourn. Burnett seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 a.m.