



**City of Birmingham Design Review Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**January 25, 2023**

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

**Meeting Location: City Council Chambers, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, City Hall**

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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, Richard Mauk, Shelia Montgomery-Mills, Ben Wieseman, Brian Wolfe

Members Absent: Scott Burnett, Willie Oliver, Chris Swain

Staff Present: Charles Bradley, Karla Calvert, Lauren Havard

Others Present: Mick Britton, Rebecca Dobrinski, Don Hawes, Derek Simpson, Latasha Simpson

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. by Chairman Mauk. He stated that the minutes from the 1/11/23 meeting were ready. Holloway made a motion to approve the minutes. Hoskins seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

- I.**     ~~**Name:** Michael Taylor Sims (Contractor)  
**Site Address:** 2520 Arlington Crescent  
**District:** Highland Park  
**Requesting approval for:** Removal of a street-facing window and replacing it with an entry door.~~

**Statements:** This item was removed from the agenda.

- II.**     **Name:** Mr. Mick Britton (King Fisher Signs)  
**Site Address:** 2803 Highland Avenue South (Unity Church)  
**District:** Highland Park Local Historic District  
**Requesting approval for:** New Monument Sign



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**Statements:** Chairman Mauk asked if there was a report from the LHAC. Havard stated that the proposal was approved with conditions.

On January 12, 2023, the Local Historic Advisory Committee (LHAC) for the Rhodes Park Local Historic District heard the DRC case for the property located at 2803 Highland Ave 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 revised request is compatible with the building and does not detract from the standards of the Historic District.

The Local Historic Advisory Committee also voted to request that the following conditions be placed upon this request:  
Approve the revised design sent to the Committee on the condition that the existing monument sign be removed.

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. Britton stated that he would be removing the existing monument sign and replacing it with a new monument sign. He stated that the sign would be constructed of brick and painted to match the building. He stated that the lettering would be cut aluminum and painted. He stated that the white lettering is acrylic. Wieseman asked how much space is between the sign and the wall of the church. Wieseman suggested landscaping behind the sign for safety.

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



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applicant plant foundation plantings between the sign and the building for safety.

**Motion seconded by:** Holloway

**Discussion:** none

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

- III. ~~Name: Mr. Corey Masuga~~  
~~Site Address: 1604 and 1608 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue South~~  
~~District: Anderson Place Local Historic District~~  
~~Requesting approval for: New wooden fence~~**

**Statements:** This item was removed from the agenda.

- IV. ~~Name: Mr. Aaron Smith~~  
~~Site Address: 1237 33<sup>rd</sup> Street North~~  
~~District: Norwood Local Historic District~~  
~~Requesting approval for: Paint color, front door replacement, replacing 5 windows, and closing in 5 windows~~**

**Statements:** This item was removed from the agenda.

- V. ~~Name: Mr. Jim Luton~~  
~~Site Address: 27 Norwood Circle~~  
~~District: Norwood Local Historic District~~  
~~Requesting approval for: Replacing the front door and 24 windows~~**

**Statements:** This item was removed from the agenda.

- VI. ~~Name: Ms. BJ Waller~~  
~~Site Address: 7321 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North~~  
~~District: East Lake~~  
~~Requesting approval for: Demolition~~**

**Statements:** This item was removed from the agenda.

- VII. Name: Ms. Latasha Simpson**  
**Site Address: 1713 4th Avenue North**  
**District: 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue North**  
**Requesting approval for: Renovation**

**Statements:** Ms. Simpson presented her plan to renovate the façade of her building.



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Mauk asked if the applicant planned to keep the arch. Ms. Simpson said yes. Mauk asked if the applicant planned to paint the brick. Ms. Simpson said yes. Wolfe asked what type of material was in the ceiling of the barrel. The applicant stated that it was stucco. Mauk asked if the brick would be removed. Ms. Simpson stated that it would not be removed. Wieseman asked about the material used for the black band around the windows. The applicant stated that it was paint. Wieseman verified that “The Alcove” would be the only sign on the building. The applicant stated that the sign would be steel and would be backlit. Mauk asked if there would be tables and chairs out in front of the building. Ms. Simpson said no. Wieseman stated that the brick in the historic photo was painted.

**Motion:** Wieseman made a motion to approve the façade changes and the signage since the historic photo was being referenced and the brick had been previously painted.

**Motion seconded by:** Montgomery-Mills

**Discussion:** none

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

**VIII. Name:** Mr. Eric Hutzler (Read’s Uniform)

**Site Address:** 608 23<sup>rd</sup> Street South

**District:** Midtown

**Requesting approval for:** ~~Painting the building, adding aluminum awning, and signage~~

**Statements:** This item was removed from the agenda.

**IX. Name:** Mr. Don Hawes

**Site Address:** 1531 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North

**District:** 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue North

**Requesting approval for:** Mural/Signage

**Statements:** Mr. Hawes presented his plan to paint the name on the side of the building. He stated that he wanted to paint “Nextec” on the side of the building, to identify it. Mr. Hawes explained that Nextec was the name of the building, not a tenant in the building. Wieseman stated that he thought that the building signage was appropriate but needed to be part of the building master signage plan. Wolfe stated that the building needed a master signage plan. Hoskins asked if the white paint would be stripped from the building so that the sign could be painted on. Mr. Hawes stated that the white portion would be painted over, to a color to match the brick.

**Motion:** Wieseman made a motion to carry this case over pending a master signage plan



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and colors.

**Motion seconded by:** Wolfe

**Discussion:** none

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

- X.      ~~Name: Mr. Hardy Kimbrough (Hoar Construction)~~  
~~Site Address: 3209 Ensley Avenue~~  
~~District: 5 Points West~~  
~~Requesting approval for: Exterior painting~~**

**Statements:** This item was removed from the agenda.

- XI.     Discussion of whether Electric Vehicle Charging Stations in existing parking lots need to be reviewed by DRC**

**Statements:** Havard asked if new electric vehicle charging stations in existing parking lots needed to come before the DRC for approval, or if they could be approved administratively.

**Motion:** Wolfe made a motion that they did need to come before DRC.

**Motion seconded by:** Hoskins

**Discussion:** none

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, Wieseman made a motion to adjourn. Wolfe seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 a.m.