



City of Birmingham Design Review Committee Meeting Minutes February 22, 2023

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

Members Absent: Scott Burnett, Shelia Montgomery-Mills, Willie Oliver, Chris Swain

Staff Present: Charles Bradley, Karla Calvert, Hannah Garmon, Lauren Havard

Others Present: Rebecca Dobrinski, Meighan Ellis, Rebecca Sharp, Jeff Thomas

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. by Chairman Mauk. He stated that the minutes from the 2/8/23 meeting were ready. Wieseman made a motion to approve the minutes. Holloway seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

- I. Name:** Ms. Rebecca Sharp
Site Address: 1301 1st Avenue South
District: Midtown
Requesting approval for: Electric Charging Stations

Statements: Ms. Sharp presented her plan to install electric charging stations. She stated that eleven spaces would be converted into six electric charging station spaces. She stated that to the west of the site is where the transformer would be located. Wolfe asked how the terminals would operate. Ms. Sharp stated that there would be an app that the user could access, or there would be a touch screen on the terminal where the user could pay. Wolfe asked if any of the landscaping would change. Ms. Sharp stated that one crape myrtle would be removed and replaced. Wieseman asked how tall the terminals would be. Ms. Sharp stated that they would be 4-5' tall. Wolfe asked if the



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cord would be retractable. Ms. Sharp said yes. Wieseman asked what color the dispensers would be. Ms. Sharp stated that they would be white, green and blue metal panels. Wolfe verified that each individual terminal would have its own LED light. Wieseman stated that he was concerned that each of the terminals might become signage for the power system. Wieseman asked if BDOT had reviewed these plans. Ms. Sharp stated that they hadn't, but that the transformer sits back far enough into the lot that it won't cause any site line issues. Wieseman verified that the transformers would be behind the landscaping at the corner.

Motion: Wieseman made a motion to approve this proposal because, in this situation, the alley is used as a pedestrian path.

Motion seconded by: Wolfe

Discussion: Hoskins asked if the design team had ever considered putting the terminals in the parking lot islands. Ms. Sharp stated that they hadn't. She stated that they were trying to get the transformer close to the power source.

Vote: The motion carried. Hoskins voted against.

- II. Name:** Mr. Todd Thompson
Site Address: 2125 Highland Avenue
District: Five Points South
Requesting approval for: ~~Demolition and Concept Plan~~

Statements: This item was removed from the agenda.

- III. Name:** Mr. Eric Hutzler (Read's Uniform)
Site Address: 608 23rd Street South
District: Midtown
Requesting approval for: Painting the building, adding aluminum awning, and signage

Statements: Mr. Jeff Thomas presented his case to paint the Read's uniform building and add new signage. Mr. Thomas stated that he wanted to paint this building because it was leaking, had a lot of settlement, and had patchy work on the mortar (patched in a mismatched way). He wanted to make the building appear more cohesive. Mr. Thomas stated that he was also seeking signage approval. Havard stated that the "Birmingham" sign would need to be shrunk, or a variance would need to be applied for. Hoskins asked if this was a mural or a sign. Havard stated that the City sees it as a sign.

Motion: Wieseman made a motion to approve the proposal as presented with the "Birmingham" sign being shrunk to meet the size requirements of the Zoning Ordinance.



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Motion seconded by: Hoskins

Discussion: none

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

- IV. ~~Name:~~ Ms. Gabby Black
~~Site Address:~~ 4105 4th Avenue South (Pure Tacqueria)
~~District:~~ 41st Street
~~Requesting approval for:~~ Exterior renovations**

Statements: This item was removed from the agenda.

- V. ~~Name:~~ Ms. Beck Reed
~~Site Address:~~ 2201 Bessemer Road (McDonald's)
~~District:~~ 5 Points West
~~Requesting approval for:~~ Façade Renovations**

Statements: This item was removed from the agenda.

- VI. Name:** Ms. Meighan Ellis (Advance Sign & Lighting)
Site Address: 1104 3rd Avenue North
District: Downtown West
Requesting approval for: Signage installation

Statements: Ms. Ellis presented her signage plans for a new tenant in an existing building. She stated that the building had a new owner who wanted to add signage. Ms. Ellis stated that the building had two tenants, one of which already had signage. Wieseman stated that a master signage plan was needed for this building. Ms. Ellis also stated that the blue canopy on the building would be removed.

Ms. Ellis stated that the second part of her proposal was a pole sign with an electronic message center on it. Wieseman stated that electronic reader boards weren't allowed in this district. Hoskins advised the applicant to return with their proposal for the pole sign. Barnes asked if the sign would still be off-center even though the canopy would be removed. Hoskins stated that the applicant would need to return for approval when he decides to develop the corner lot. Calvert stated that the applicant has already applied for a variance for the pole sign and for the building wall signage.

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



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Motion seconded by: Hoskins

Discussion: none

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, Holloway made a motion to adjourn. Hoskins seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 a.m.