



**City of Birmingham Design Review Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**March 22, 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, Scott Burnett, Richard Mauk, Brian Wolfe, Ben Wieseman

Members Absent: Ivan Holloway, Creig Hoskins, Willie Oliver, Chris Swain

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

Others Present: Richard Swartz, Gabby Black, Beck Reed, Mick Britton, Jared Bussey, Wayne Hester, Roger Morse, Jeff Thomas, Andrew Hicks,

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. by Chairman Mauk. He stated that the minutes from the 3/22/23 meeting were ready. Wolfe made a motion to approve the minutes. Barnes seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Maulk had to leave due to a doctor's appointment. Maulk turned over the chair to Wolfe. Wolfe was acting chairman and calls for the first case.

- I. Name:** Mr. Richard Swartz  
**Site Address:** 2173 W. Highlands Ave.  
**District:** Five Points South District  
**Requesting approval for:** Master Signage Plan Revision (this was last heard on 12//14/23

**Statements:** Mr. Swartz stated they are looking to put a set of chandlers, individually lit letters on the side of the building facing the freeway to increase the exposure for the building just a simple logo and community name. Wolfe asked if these were reversed lit?

Mr. Shwartz responded by saying that these were face lit so the face will light up they



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will be raceway mounted. Wolfe asked is the raceway painted? Mr. Shwartz replied that will be painted the same color as the brick as best as they can. Wolfe asked if anyone on the committee had any questions. Wieseman asked staff does this meet their square footage requirements? Havard replied yes.

**Motion:** Burnett to approve as submitted

**Motion seconded by:** Wieseman

**Discussion:** none

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

- 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.

**Motion:**

**Motion seconded by:**

**Discussion:**

**Vote:**

- III.**     **Name:** Ms. Gabby Black  
**Site Address:** 4105 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. S  
**District:** 41<sup>st</sup> Street District  
**Requesting approval for:** Exterior Renovations

**Statements:** Ms. Black described that they want to propose a renovation to an existing building on 41<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue in the 41<sup>st</sup> District, and they are adding an extension here a back building for storage and a canopy above which is a gold wood under tone. We are trying to keep the materials the same and switch them a little bit. There is currently Black up top and switch it the bottom the theme is to make look like an old garage which is the theme of pure contemporary all the restaurants are after with "Pure "gas stations. So, we are proposing this addition, the canopy, some landscaping, and we have some signage, this they're logo which will be on the face of the building in two places, at the entries. The purple one on end with the medallion sign attached to the building and it's one of the old vintage of the signs. Wolfe asked that it's attached to the building. Ms.



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Black replied that it is, it's up against the building. Wolfe asked about the rendering at the bottom left, isn't that accurate. Ms. Black replied that it is at the corner of the building. Burnett asked that the pole is coming down the face of the building that it's touching the ground. Ms. Black replied correct. Burnett said that it's a hybrid and Wolfe said that he's trying to understand how it works. Wieseman said that he doesn't know if the committee can allow a pole sign. The committee discussed about the pole sign. Wieseman stated that the medallion of the logo. Wolfe asked staff if 41 street are on the standard guidelines. Havard replied that they are. Wieseman stated that the committee can't allow a pole sign. Burnett stated that you can bracket. Wieseman agreed. Wolfe asked Ms. Black if they've gone to engineering for the parking change. Ms. Black responded they are going to zoning in the next two weeks or so. Wieseman said that the committee can't allow pole signs. The committee discussed about the pole sign again. Burnett asked was that existing. Barnes said no. Wieseman and Barnes responded they're new.\

Wolfe asked about the doors is that for an outdoor service. Ms. Black responded that's a bar and counter. Ms. Black explained that two of the doors are existing, two on the addition are new but one of doors will be operable but the one to the side will be and they have straps underneath and that's their access door. Wolfe asked is their store front a mil finish. Burnett said it's like a brush or clear finish. Ms. Black replied yes.

Wolfe asked is this their sign package they wanted. A gentleman with Ms. Black responded they have to move the sign in the middle of the building. But Ms. Black said that this their main one the logo for the restaurant. Wolfe asked if any of this lit. Ms. Black responded yes, the canopy. Burnett asked if the signage was lit. Ms. Black responded they have a signage plan. Ms. Black stated that they will have a light on this pole. Burnett said external.

Barnes said it's the external. Wolfe said that he see's the up light on the pole and the sign above the door, and the sign in the corner are both lit too. Ms. Black replied those will be lit. Wolfe said they're just lit; they're not internally lit. Ms. Black responded no. Wolfe then asked if anybody has anything else.

Wieseman said that they have a great box there right now. Burnett said a bar is low. Barnes laughed. Wieseman said there's color, and awnings, and outdoor space. Burnett mentioned the landscaping. Wieseman asked what does the landscaping look like around the building is. Ms. Black responds Pure has a look, beachy appearance with variety of palms and other plants, and an egg rock but currently this is parking, they would be introducing this type of landscape.

Burnett asked what is a pigmy day palm. Wieseman replied they don't do to well here. Then Burnett and Wieseman discussed about different types of plants survive here.



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Wieseman stated that he was concerned about that yukka day palm and stated that it's not a good varietal for us. Burnet said we currently have them in Atlanta. Wieseman stated although it's all showing green it's all ripple rock. Ms. Black agreed saying yes. The committee then quickly discussed about the traffic.

Wieseman asked where is the pine fencing. Ms. Black responded so that follows where this green patch is and keeps out everyone out and neighbors out. Wolfe stated that a chain linked fence wouldn't work. Wieseman asked if there was an existing fence there now, correct. Ms. Black responded correct, but it looks kind of rough. So, they're going to replace it with something nice. Wieseman asked were they removing the razor wire and adding new fencing, that's going to mimic what's there. Ms. Black said correct. Wolfe asked are they keep natural or paint it.

Ms. Black responded they haven't gotten that far yet, but they can do something. Wieseman said they can pressure treat it for the weather. Burnett agreed saying yes.

**Motion:** Wieseman to approve with the proposed "Pure" logo being attached to the building and not on a pole. Ms. Black asked if it can be above a parapet. Wieseman responded it can be on a parapet, it can sit on there, but it can't be on a pole. Burnett asked can it be on a pole that's attached to the building but it doesn't touch the ground because that's what their logic is. Ms. Black asked can be on a little pole. Some of the committee members laughed. Wieseman stated he would attach it on the side of the building on that corner. Burnett states the minute they put it on the building they want to see it on the building and make sure that it's compatible. Wieseman stated that they're approving the final sign, package with that modification, material and finish as a final, landscaping, exterior relations and signage with the attentive to go to zoning for parking. Burnett asked does staff have to review the sign. Wieseman responded staff can review that.

**Motion seconded by:** Burnett

**Discussion:** none

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

**IV.**

**Name:** Ms. Beck Reed

**Site Address:** 2201 Bessemer Road (McDonald's)

**District:** 5 Points District

**Requesting approval for:** Façade and Site Plans Renovations

**Statements:** Wieseman asked if the committee approved signage two weeks ago. Burnett said I think so, yeah. Wolfe asked could they walk them through what they're proposing. Ms. Reed stated that they will be bringing the sign to ADA compliance. Ms.



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Reed asked if they're doing the architecture first. Wolfe responded it's whatever you want to do. Ms. Reed stated that they will be bringing the signage into full ADA compliance, that's including the sidewalk, some parking, also be adding pull forward for customers' waiting for their food and that will make the drive throughs the circulation a little better, also replacing the trash receptacles to meet code. Wolfe asked if they had an approval from traffic engineering for their curb cuts. Ms. Reed said yes. Burnett said they did. Wolfe responded, ok.

Wieseman stated they asked for the curb cuts to be closed years ago. Burnett said traffic said it was ok. Wolfe said go ahead. Ms. Reed said for architecture they're planning on removing the old roof and squaring up the building and match the existing steel with major reconstruction. This their typical McDonald's, so we have some aluminum batons, it's like a wood look on the corners, they're going to be painting the existing brick, and replacing the brick as necessary, they do have these metal revel panels on the side their building, for the front, and non-traffic side they have ethos or stucco they can use either as an accent material.

Wieseman told Ms. Reed that they have to tell the committee what you want to do, the committee doesn't do options. Ms. Reed responded by saying ethos. Wieseman said OK. Ms. Reed said that they will be using ethos, aluminum batons, the brick, and the metal revel panels. The drive through side they'll be improving it with their third window that will help with the traffic flow for the to go orders. Ms. Reed that's all the updates on the exterior, in terms of the ground grade they do have other options. Wieseman said for the committee's record all the existing brick out there is currently painted. Ms. Reed replied, yes. It's all a beige color. Wieseman said yes.

**Motion:** Burnett moved for approval as submitted

**Motion seconded by:** Wieseman

**Discussion:** none

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

- V. **Name:** Ms. Angelique LeDoux  
**Site Address:** 920 19<sup>th</sup> Street North (DCI Building)  
**District:** Cultural District  
**Requesting approval for:** This item was removed from the agenda.  
**Statements:**
- Motion:**  
**Motion seconded by:**  
**Discussion:**  
**Vote:**



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**VI. Name:** Mr. Mick Britton (Kingfisher Signs & Graphics)

**Site Address:** 112 14<sup>th</sup> Street North

**District:** Downtown West

**Requesting approval for:** Replacement of existing ACM panel signs new ACM panels with revised printed vinyl graphics

**Statements:** Jeff Laury said that he's one of the managers, and they couldn't be here, so he's representing Mr. Mick Britton (Kingfisher Signs & Graphics). Jeff explained that they are replacing the existing ACM panel signs with new ACM panels, and with better graphics on there. Mr. Laury stated that the only difference is the size the round sign as you can see on the left is about an inch smaller in diameter the what the existing sign just for production they had to bring down that far just to have it done, and on the other side of building where it says "Community on the rise" those are smaller they're still ACM panels it's just that they are smaller than the existing ones' that are there, the one on the far side that says "Church of the Reconciler" with the blue the graphics are the same size as the ones that there now. Mr. Laury added other than that there's no real change the same mounting and same material. Wolfe asked if there were any questions. Wieseman stated new signs and they all got smaller.

**Motion:** Burnett moves for approval as submitted

**Motion seconded by:** Wieseman

**Discussion:** none

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

**VII. Name:** Mr. Jared Bussey (Architectural Cooperative)

**Site Address:** 3921 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue South

**District:** Avondale Park Local Historic District

**Requesting approval for:** Additions on existing home

**Statements:** Wolfe asked if there was a report from the LHAC. Calvert stated that the proposal for Additions on existing home was approved.

On March 13, 2023, the Local Historic Advisory Committee (LHAC) for the Avondale



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Park Local Historic District heard the DRC case for the property located at 3921 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, and the Committee took the following action: Approve with No Conditions. Wolfe asked no conditions. Calvert responded no conditions.

The recommendation of the Avondale Park Local Historic Advisory Committee was to Approve.

Applicant's Plan is approved / recommended as presented.

The recommendation of the Avondale Park Local Historic Advisory Committee was to Approve with Conditions the design review request for the following reasons:

Applicant's Plan is approved / recommended as presented

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

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.

Wolfe greeted Mr. Bussey and asked him what does want to do. Mr. Bussey responded that they're doing a lateral addition to an existing house this has been in the family for two generations and they want to fix it up and improve a few things, but they want to keep the existing character of the house you can see from the pictures of the existing the face of the house facing 7<sup>th</sup> avenue south, and 39<sup>th</sup> street south are remaining in tact the porch is going to stay the way the roof is articulated, the churb rock will stay, they will pull off the aluminum siding put some new siding on or fix what's underneath it but the purpose of the addition is to give them more space but if it to look like its part of the original house in keeping with the character and really kind of secondary to all the nice things that's happening with it.

Wolfe asked is there existing lap siding underneath the aluminum siding. Mr. Bussey responded they think there is. Wolfe asked are you going to redo that, or you have hardy plank. Mr. Bussey responded that they have hardy shown as king of a worse case, there's probably pine siding underneath that if it's in good shape then they're going to try to



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keep it, the neighborhood board was fine either way. Wolfe said OK, colors. Mr. Bussey responded it's a dark grey green will be the new color and then an off-white trim. Wieseman asked does he have the colors in his presentation. Mr. Bussey responded should be. Wolfe asked anyone has a motion

**Motion:** Barnes moves for approval as submitted

**Motion seconded by:** Wieseman

**Discussion:** none

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

### VIII.

**Name:** Mr. Wayne Hester - Architect

**Site Address:** 2835 Highland Avenue

**District:** Highland Park Local Historic District

**Requesting approval for:** Removal of existing entry and replacement with an entrance to match the storefront two bays down

**Statements:** Wolfe asked if there was a report from the LHAC. Calvert stated that the proposal for Removal of existing entry and replacement with an entrance to match the storefront two bays down. Calvert responds that the proposal was approved with conditions, and you should have a copy of the report on your desk.

On March 15, 2023, the Local Historic Advisory Committee (LHAC) for the Rhodes Park Local Historic District heard the DRC case for the property located at 2835 Highland Avenue, and the Committee took the following action: Approve with Conditions.

The recommendation of the Highland Park Local Historic Advisory Committee was to Approve with Conditions the design review request for the following reasons:

The request with conditions will be consistent with the original architecture of the commercial property and with the character of the historic properties in the area.

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

That the trim on the new window be set to match the trim on the old window 2827 Highland Avenue and the profile of the side and the top of the window also closely match the original profiles of the windows of 2827 Highland Avenue, in addition the sill should also match the step sill of 2827 Highland Avenue and interior that has the appearance of wood. The applicant has agreed with the condition, and he provided a revised elevation drawing at your desk, and that shows they comply with the conditions





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of the committee. The photograph shows the property at 2827 Highland Avenue that the committee was referencing, as far as the sill, trim, and design.

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.

Wolfe said, ok. Wolfe asked Mr. Hester is he ok with that. Mr. Hester said, he was fine with that. Wolfe said, ok, do you want to take the committee through anything else. Mr. Hester responded that's basically it. Wolfe asked what is the color. Mr. Hester said it's white. Wolfe asked is there a paint color number. Wieseman said, swatcher. Mr. Hester replied it's to match the white that's there. Wolfe asked it's going to be custom. Mr. Hester stated the storefront will be a white color it'll be matching what was there as possible, and it's pretty generic white. Wolfe said, I gotcha, do I hear a motion

**Motion:** Burnett moves for approval as submitted

**Motion seconded by:** Wieseman

**Discussion:** None, Wolfe asked there's no signage in this. Mr. Hester replied, no.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

**IX.**

**Name:** Mr. Roger Morse (B.L. Harbert International)

**Site Address:** 2509 Lanark Road

**District:** Red Mountain Suburbs Local Historic District

**Requesting approval for:** Installation of retractable bollards (in lieu of gate) at entrance driveway

**Statements:** Wolfe asked if there was a report from the LHAC. Calvert stated that the proposal for Installation of retractable bollards (in lieu of gate) at entrance driveway. Calvert responds that the proposal was approved with conditions.

On March 14, 2023, the Local Historic Advisory Committee (LHAC) for the Red



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Mountain Suburbs Local Historic District heard the DRC case for the property located at 2509 Lanark Road, and the Committee took the following action: Approve with conditions.

The recommendation of the Red Mountain Suburbs Local Historic Advisory Committee was to Approve with Conditions the design review request for the following reasons:

20 feet from off the street, that LED lights be included and with dimers, Greenery shrubs be located on the outside on the grassy area.

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

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.

Wolfe said, ok, asked Mr. Morse if they agreed to that. Mr. Morse replied, yes, we have. Wolfe asked, any questions on landscape or anything. Wieseman asked can you pull their landscaping app with their proposal. Mr. Morse replied, we don't have that in just yet, but we have looked at a Box Wood. Wieseman said, ok, Box Wood will be great that meets the character and feel of this. Wolfe asked for any motion

**Motion:** Wieseman moves for approval that Box Woods going back as the shrub of choice.

**Motion seconded by:** Barnes

**Discussion:** none

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.



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- X. Name:** Mr. Jeff Thomas  
**Site Address:** 3017 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue S  
**District:** Lakeview  
**Requesting approval for:** Repainting the building, updating the front facade

**Statements:** Mr. Thomas is out of town, Emily and Andrew will be representing Mr. Thomas. Andrew said, they're sprucing up the exterior of the building and try to get it rented. So, they're going to paint, replace that storefront. Wolfe asked is it already painted right now. Andrew replied it's already painted, instead of doing the storefront all the way across. We contacted an interior designer, and she came up with this. So, we going to use smooth hardy board in between, and then have a steel look window. Steel is kind of hard to get, it's expensive so we're going to use aluminum storefront dark bronze and then we have the paint colors they should be on there.

Wolfe replied yeah, they are on there. Emily said that's the paint bar and this is the blue in real life. Burnett asked to go back to the exterior elevation. The mutttons that are shown in the windows. What is the design proposed for those. Andrew replied that they're not individual pane but they're not going to be. Burnett interjected the options you have are going to be outside or inside. Andrew responded they're outside. Burnett said so they're an outside to only mutton. Do you have a profile. Andrew replied he don't have with him, but he can get one. Emily said it won't be between glass. Wolfe asked is it a square profile.

Andrew replied it's an OG profile, a square. Wolfe said a square, yeah, would you happen to know which one of those. Andrew said he took the design from a place in Cahaba Heights the wall they just put it up. So, I have a picture but I don't have specifics. Wolfe asked what materials. Andrew responded they're aluminum. Wolfe said OK, so you're just applying aluminum, ok. Wieseman asked is that the only sign location you're proposing. Andrew responded it is. Wolfe asked it this one tenant in here. Andrew replied that would be hypothetical, we don't have a tenant for it yet. Andrew stated we're in the process. Wolfe asked is the committee only approving just the architecture today.

Havard said yes, they'll have to come back. Wolfe asked you got your light fixtures caught up in here. Burnett asked can you go back to the original photo. Wolfe asked what do you plan on putting your planner boxes. Emily said again it'll be tenants that'll their responsibility for maintenance. Burnett said the committee should exclude landscape from their approval because there is landscape depicted in the illustration. Andrew said they going to wave the pointers but Emily said take everything out.



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Andrew said probably just an annual. Wolfe said OK, anyone has a motion.

**Motion:** Burnett moved to approve with the landscaping and signage later

**Motion seconded by:** Wieseman

**Discussion:** none

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

- XI. Name:** Mr. Andrew Hicks (Architecture Works)  
**Site Address:** 1911 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North  
**District:** 19<sup>th</sup> Street North  
**Requesting approval for:** Façade improvements

**Statements:** Hicks said his client bought this and is redeveloping it into retail and third next three floors up and apartments above, it's got state and federal tax credits, it's been through SHIPO, NPS twice. Wolfe asked so you're done on that side. Burnett asked your comments are satisfied. Hicks responded yes, they're good with them we actually had to come down for this. So, basically, we're doing the kind of things that they want you to do, re-point brick, we are restoring the locks, and we actually found when they tore off the 60s work because we're going to back a period of significance 1917ish. Wieseman said you got a fold.

Hicks replied yes, an old cast iron. Burnett said with the moldings. Wolfe said that's great. Hicks said so they're putting that all back together again, and their mimicking that utilizing, re-painting, there is a picture at the bottom of kind of what it was, there's 30s, bottom right and then. I think it was 1911ish with that other picture. Wolfe asked they're taking you back, back they want the two individual storefronts versus that 1960s. Hicks said originally, I think this was like 30s era kind of refreshed of that. Wieseman stated that he's kind of sad they going to lose that Art – Deco piece on the bottom. Burnett said it was fun corky.

Wieseman said that's SHIPO, not the committee. Wolfe asked about colors. Hicks said there should be a rendering so we got this bronze will be the storefront framing on the ground level we're matching all the cast iron and steel elements that we're put in there to that and then all the white is ivory lace. Burnett asked the first will be the bronze. Hicks replied that's correct and that's getting kind of a re-store look. Wolfe asked are those colors included in your submittal to staff. Hicks responded that I'm not 100% sure. Wolfe said yall will do that just for the record. Wolfe asked anyone has a motion



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**Motion:** Burnett moved to approve that it's fantastic

**Motion seconded by:** Barnes

**Discussion:** none

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

Wolfe said there being no further business, made a motion to adjourn. Burnett seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 a.m.