



City of Birmingham Design Review Committee Meeting Minutes April 26, 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: Ivan Holloway, Creig Hoskins, Richard Mauk, Brian Wolfe, Ben Wieseman

Members Absent: Willie Oliver, Chris Swain, Abra Barnes, Scott Burnett

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

Others Present: Sharon Bradshaw, Mick Britton, Jeremy Cutts, Jeff Ezell, Eric Hendon, Corey Masuga, Pete Pritchard, Llevelyn Rhone

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. by Chairman Mauk. He stated that the draft minutes are not ready at this time.

- I. Name:** Mr. Corey Masuga
Site Address: 1604 and 1608 15th Avenue South
District: Anderson Place Local Historic District
Requesting approval for: New wooden fence, paint, and shutters

Statements: Chairman Mauk asked if there was a report on this case. Garmon said it was approved by the local committee, and the buildings are contributing structures.

On April 18, 2023, the Neighborhood Association for the Anderson Place Local Historic District heard the DRC case for the property located at 4304 Clairmont Avenue and the Committee took the following action: Approve with No Conditions.

The recommendation of the Five Points South Neighborhood Association was to Approve.



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The Neighborhood Association noted that the request is in compliance with all relevant instructions in Anderson Place Historic Guidelines

The recommendation of the Five Points South Neighborhood Association was based on the following sections of the local historic district's design guidelines:

Section E, Section L, Section P.

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

The homeowner, Mr. Masuga, said he installed the fence this past year, and that he needs the permits for this house and the home 1604 15th Ave. S on the left. The wood stairs had rotted out. So, he replaced them and painted them a Robins Egg Blue color. Masuga stated that there was 12 to 0 neighborhood vote this past Tuesday. Chairman Mauk asked how tall the fence is. Masuga replied 3 ft. 10 in. Chairman Mauk asked if that is within the guidelines. Masuga replied that he believes it's 4 ft. over the guidelines.

Motion: Wolfe moved for approval as submitted

Motion seconded by: Hoskins

Discussion: none

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

II. Name: Ms. Sharon Bradshaw (Reliable Signs)

Site Address: 1520 7th Avenue North

District: Downtown NW

Requesting approval for: Signage

Statements: Bradshaw said she's seeking approval for a master sign plan. Two companies are in this building. They are 50/50 owners and they're sharing space. So, she stated that they need a master sign plan request for approval for different signs on the building. The top space is for Block Local, and the bottom space on the first floor will be for Dillard Willis. Hoskins said that the DRC looked at this about a year or so



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ago. Chairman Mauk asked staff if the signage is within the guidelines. Havard said yes. Chairman Mauk asked if it's non-illuminated. Bradshaw said it's halo lit. Chairman Mauk said okay. Wolfe asked whether there were windows, stickers, or anything. Bradshaw replied that's correct. The committee discussed the sign location. Chairman Mauk said Dental Wellness is on the bottom. Bradshaw said yes.

Motion: Wieseman moved for approval as submitted

Motion seconded by: Hoskins

Discussion: none

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

- III. Name:** Mr. Mick Britton (Kingfisher Signs)
Site Address: 1210 20th Street South
District: Five Points South
Requesting approval for: Signage

Statements: Britton said he wants to put up channel electric signs and that currently there is a banner that they did not put up. Wieseman asked if this is in keeping with the master sign plan. Britton replied he believes so. Wolfe asked staff if this is in keeping. Calvert responded that staff couldn't find a past master signage plan for this area. Wieseman said it's multi-tenant building. Chairman Mauk said we have to be consistent it's a multi-tenant building with a pleather of signage on it. Chairman Mauk stated that the committee needed to carry this over.

Motion: Wieseman moved to carry this over so that the owner could bring back a master sign plan for the building. Chairman Mauk advised the applicant that staff could provide a master signage plan to go by. Britton said okay.

Motion seconded by: Holloway

Discussion: Chairman Mauk said, "So it's been moved that we carry this over we're not approving the signage right now. We're going to carry it over to the next docket to allow you to get a master signage plan and follow up with us to approve." Britton asked if that's something the owner of the building has to do. Chairman Mauk responded yes. Wieseman said, "And once you have master signage plan from an owner's standpoint they substitute out tenants as needed." Chairman Mauk said, "And you don't have to come back here."

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

- IV. Name:** Mr. Justin Williams (BL Harbert International, LLC)
Site Address: 1000 18th Street North



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District: Cultural

Requesting approval for: Two new prefabricated aluminum canopies; Minor concrete curb work; and asphalt patching

Statements. Eric Hendon said corporate realty manages the building for FBI. They're looking to install two canopy structures. One is past the back side. It's an open plaza area. They currently take some breaks out there and they want to install an aluminum canopy cover. That's the one on the inside corner of the building. It touches the building. There's a parking deck under that, and they have some water proofing issues with water getting in the parking deck below. So, the canopy will both provide cover for the picnic area, as well as help with water intrusion, and the smaller canopy that's out in the parking lot is a cover for some specialty vehicles that the FBI has. They're larger trucks and they just need to be under a cover. There will be a couple of electrical plugs under there. They'll be charging different electrical equipment that stays on those vehicles. So, those are the two canopies pre-finished aluminum 10 C Valey metals atop of the canopy. Hoskins asked if they have been designed. Hendon responded yes they have. Wieseman asked if the colors are going to match the building colors. Hendon responded, "We rendered them in white." The building is a pre-caste concrete panel. Wolfe asked, "Are there fans." Hendon responded that there are a couple of fans, and there's a few lights under the canopy. Right now, that plaza area is lit by a couple of wall pack building lights. Wieseman asked if the drainage off the canopy was just a sheet drain. Hendon responded that it's sheet drain and it drains inside the columns. Hoskins asked if there is a section for those aluminum numbers. Hendon responded yes that they're 6x6, The canopy gets spillage. There are lots of columns that supports them and then they're going to build small planters at the base of them up underneath.

Motion: Hoskins moved to approve as submitted

Motion seconded by: Wieseman

Discussion: none

Vote: The motion carried

- V. **Name:** Mr. Malcolm Shepherd and Mr. Irvin Henderson (Ensley District Developers, LLC)
Site Address: 508 19th Street Ensley
District: Ensley



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Requesting approval for: Construction of a new 5-story commercial office building (final design proposal; demolition and conceptual plans were presented at the 8/12/2020 DRC meeting)

Statements: Jermey Cutts said he's the architect for Ensley District Developers, LLC. This building proposal is located in downtown Ensley at the intersection of Avenue E and 19th Street where the old Ramsey McCormack building used to stand. It was a 10-story office building with retail on the bottom floor, and over the years it fell in disrepair so, it was demolished. So, the idea was to go back with a respectable replacement for that building, and that replacement is a 5-story office building with retail on the bottom floor, pretty much sited exactly where the old building used to be. He stated that they already went through design review for the demolition of the old building, and also worked with fire and traffic to make sure that there is proper fire access. Cutts said the replacement is the 5-story office, and the ground floor is retail space, and the entry lobby. Chairman Mauk asked, "It says aluminum store front windows. What color are those?" Cutts responded dark brown, and the glasses are clear insulated glaze. Chairman Mauk asked if the first story was going to be clear windows. Cutts responded yes, that there may be graphics, and they would come back with a master signage plan. Chairman Mauk asked, "Is that in front of us today?" Cutts responded, "We'll come back." Hoskins asked, "What are you looking for today?" Cutts responded, "Approval for the overall project." Weiseman asked if they needed a final approval on materials and the site plan. Cutts responded yes. Weiseman asked if there was any deviation from the conceptual that the committee had approved, regarding the call outs that were seen before.

Wolfe said it looks fairly the same. Chairman Mauk said, "We have to look at those colors." Hoskins said, "So you're looking for site plan, plant schedule approval, building material." Wolfe said, "Everything except signs. Cutts responded yes. Weiseman said he didn't have a problem with the plant schedule, but the only issue he had was that the street tree is a Holley, which is a small upright Evergreen Tree at this point, not a true kind of street tree." Weiseman asked, "If there a reason for that selection do you know?" Cutts responded that on 19th Street it was more trying to keep the scale down a little bit, and there is also an existing basement in the building that extended under the right-of-way and that's not infilled, so they can revisit that but at the time they weren't sure if that was going to be infilled. Wolfe asked, "Are you going to use that or is it going to be infilled?" Cutts responded that it's been infilled. Wolfe said that a street tree could be planted there. Weiseman said he would rather see a street tree there only because one of the samples of this planting we have is on Morris Ave. and if one thinks about Morris, those Evergreens are there, but they never really provided anything.



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Chairman Mauk said they've provided nothing. Wolfe said that there are two street trees currently on their plant schedule. They're using an Elm and Hawthorne, and they could go back with either of those. Chairman Mauk asked if that was okay. Cutts responded that he thought that'll will be fine, and that he'll go back to their landscape architect. Wolfe said, "Full bodied, an actual canopy." Chairman Mauk said that those Indian Hawthornes are getting subject to a lot of fungus, and that he was seeing a lot of Indian Hawthornes around other commercial areas that were dead. Wolfe asked, "Are all these on the city's schedule?" Cutts responded yes. Hoskins asked, "What color is your Eathus?" Cutts responded, "The lighter color is Winter White, and then a tan color is Buckskin." Chairman Mauk asked, "With that texture as well?" Cutts responded yes. Wolfe asked, "How's your heating and cooling system working? Is it a chiller system?" Cutts responded, "Is not; it's a VRF system. I didn't mention that before." Wolfe said, "The reason why I asked is because this roof top equipment. How is that being shielded?" Cutts responded, "Mostly due to the height of the building." Wolfe asked about the parapet height above the roof. Cutts responded, "It's 5 feet." Weiseman said, "If you go to page 2 on the elevations, at the lowest point it's 2 feet. You'll see the parapet is called out."

Motion: Wieseman moved for approval, with the street tree to be revisited along 19th Street.

Motion seconded by: Hoskins

Discussion: none

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

VI. Name: Mr. Jeff Ezell (Fast Signs)

Site Address: 4017 2nd Avenue South

District: 41st Street

Requesting approval for: Replace existing sign faces with new sign faces for rebranding

Statements: Ezell said, "This is Y Cab. They used to be called Ram Tools." Wolfe asked, "So you're replacing all the existing signs with new signs with a new company.?" Ezell responded, "Same materials, same location, parking signs, building signs." Wolfe said, "Just a new logo." Chairman Mauk asked, "So Y Cap, that's going to be the name of it?" Ezell responded yes and that he knows in Montgomery they did the same thing with their Ram Tools so it's more than just local. Wolfe asked if this was for both locations. Ezell responded, "Three locations with different addresses." Chairman Mauk asked if that was for cases numbers 6, 7, and 8. Wolfe asked if the awning goes from a



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red to a black. Ezell responded, “Yes.” Wolfe asked if the skin was just a canvas.” Ezell responded yes, and that they were not adding any additional signs.

Motion: Wieseman moved for approval of the three cases in front of them—case numbers 6, 7, and 8. case numbers.

Motion seconded by: Hoskins

Discussion: none

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

VII. Name: Mr. Jeff Ezell (Fast Signs)

Site Address: 4017 2nd Avenue South

District: 41st Street

Requesting approval for: Replace existing sign faces with new sign faces for rebranding

Statements: Ezell said, “This is Y Cab. They used to be called Ram Tools.” Wolfe asked, “So you’re replacing all the existing signs with new signs with a new company.?” Ezell responded, “Same materials, same location, parking signs, building signs.” Wolfe said, “Just a new logo.” Chairman Mauk asked, “So Y Cap, that’s going to be the name of it?” Ezell responded yes and that he knows in Montgomery they did the same thing with their Ram Tools so it’s more than just local. Wolfe asked if this was for both locations. Ezell responded, “Three locations with different addresses.” Chairman Mauk asked if that was for cases numbers 6, 7, and 8. Wolfe asked if the awning goes from a red to a black. Ezell responded, “Yes.” Wolfe asked if the skin was just a canvas.” Ezell responded yes, and that they were not adding any additional signs.

Motion: Wieseman moved for approval of the three cases in front of them—case numbers 6, 7, and 8. case numbers.

Motion seconded by: Hoskins

Discussion: none

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

VIII. Name: Mr. Jeff Ezell (Fast Signs)

Site Address: 4017 2nd Avenue South

District: 41st Street

Requesting approval for: Replace existing sign faces with new sign faces for rebranding

Statements: Ezell said, “This is Y Cab. They used to be called Ram Tools.” Wolfe asked, “So you’re replacing all the existing signs with new signs with a new company.?”



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Ezell responded, “Same materials, same location, parking signs, building signs.” Wolfe said, “Just a new logo.” Chairman Mauk asked, “So Y Cap, that’s going to be the name of it?” Ezell responded yes and that he knows in Montgomery they did the same thing with their Ram Tools so it’s more than just local. Wolfe asked if this was for both locations. Ezell responded, “Three locations with different addresses.” Chairman Mauk asked if that was for cases numbers 6, 7, and 8. Wolfe asked if the awning goes from a red to a black. Ezell responded, “Yes.” Wolfe asked if the skin was just a canvas.” Ezell responded yes, and that they were not adding any additional signs.

Motion: Wieseman moved for approval of the three cases in front of them—case numbers 6, 7, and 8. case numbers.

Motion seconded by: Hoskins

Discussion: none

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

IX.

Name: Mr. Pete Pritchard (Architect)

Site Address: 3400 Altamont Way

District: Forest Park Local Historic District

Requesting approval for: Screen porch addition over existing basement level carport

Statements: Chairman Mauk said we have a report in front of us.

On April 24, 2023, the Local Historic Advisory Committee (LHAC) for the Forest Park Local Historic District heard the DRC case for the property located 3400 Altamont Way 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:

Applicant’s plan is in keeping with the architectural integrity of the neighborhood.

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

Use anodized bronze metal roofing material instead of white membrane roofing.

The LHAC also made the following findings:

1. The proposed change, erection, or demolition: Conforms to the design standards established.



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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 stated, "Apparently, it's approved with conditions. They want you to use anodized bronze metal roofing material instead of white membrane roofing." Chairman Mauk asked, "Are you okay with that?" Pritchard responded, "Yes. We're proposing to add a screen porch to the right of the existing structure." The one story screen porch would sit on top of an existing subterranean carport. Wieseman asked if materials would match the house. Pritchard responded, "Yes, you can see that the framing for the porch is cedar timbers with louver panel in front to create some privacy, and the colors will match the existing." Hoskins asked, "Is that a live fireplace?" Pritchard responded yes. Chairman Mauk asked, "Not gas but real wood?" Pritchard responded, "Wood burn, might have a gas log starter." Hoskins asked, "Can you go to the site plan?" Chairman Mauk asked, "Are you building over an old cellar?" Pritchard responded, "It's a carport, and I have a photo." Chairman Mauk said, "Let's look at the photo." Wolfe asked, "Will the carport still function?" Pritchard responded yes. Chairman Mauk asked, "So you're going to keep the carport?" Pritchard responded, "Yes, it'll be the foundation of the new porch." Chairman Mauk said, "That's a big carport." Pritchard responded, "Well it's two bays, and we're just building over the top of the first bay." Chairman Mauk asked, "Is this the one that sits on the little curb?" Pritchard responded, "It's hair pen turn, yes." Hoskins said, "So that's where you wanted to put that membrane roofing, that anodized roofing." Pritchard said, "Well it's going to be on top of the porch." Chairman Mauk asked, "Where is the anodized roofing?" Pritchard responded, "There's going to be a low slope."

Motion: Holloway moved for approval

Motion seconded by: Hoskins

Discussion: none

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.



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- X.** ~~Name: Mr. Bill Moss (Owner)~~
~~Site Address: 2706 Caldwell Avenue~~
~~District: Highland Park Local Historic District~~
~~Requesting approval for: Add a fenced in stoop area to single apartment unit at ground level~~

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