

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COMMISSION
& PLANNING BOARD
JOINT MEETING AGENDA
OCTOBER 23, 2023
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES
851 S. ETON
7:30 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Therese Longe, Mayor

II. ROLL CALL

Alexandria Bingham, City Clerk

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

The City of Birmingham welcomes public comment limited at the Mayor's discretion to allow for an efficient meeting. The Commission will not participate in a question and answer session and will take no action on any item not appearing on the posted agenda. The public can also speak to agenda items as they occur when the presiding officer opens the floor to the public. When recognized by the presiding officer, state your name for the record, and direct all comments or questions to the presiding officer.

IV. DISCUSSION TOPICS

- A. Short-term Zoning Ordinance Modifications and Next Steps
- B. Sustainability

V. COMMUNICATIONS

VI. ADJOURN

Should you wish to participate in this meeting, you are invited to attend the meeting in person or virtually through ZOOM: <https://zoom.us/j/655079760> Meeting ID: 655 079 760
You may also present your written statement to the City Commission, City of Birmingham, 151 Martin Street, P.O. Box 3001, Birmingham, Michigan 48012-3001 prior to the hearing.

*NOTICE: Individuals requiring accommodations, such as mobility, visual, hearing, interpreter or other assistance, for effective participation in this meeting should contact the City Clerk's Office at (248) 530-1880 (voice), or (248) 644-5115 (TDD) at least one day in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.
Las personas que requieren alojamiento, tales como servicios de interpretación, la participación efectiva en esta reunión deben ponerse en contacto con la Oficina del Secretario Municipal al (248) 530-1880 por lo menos el día antes de la reunión pública. (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964).*



MEMORANDUM

Planning Division

DATE: October 18, 2023

TO: Jana L. Ecker, City Manager

FROM: Nicholas Dupuis, Planning Director

SUBJECT: Planning Board & City Commission Joint Meeting

1. Short-Term Ordinance Amendments

Over the last year or so, the Planning Division has brought (and will continue to bring) several Zoning Ordinance amendments to the City Commission. In that period, the City Commission also adopted in its entirety the City's new comprehensive master plan – The Birmingham Plan 2040 (the "2040 Plan"). Within the 2040 Plan are several suggestions for ordinance amendments which are prioritized on the Summary of Key Actions table within the document.

Due to the complexity of the 2040 Plan and its recommendations, the Planning Board is planning several meetings over the next few months to discuss the prioritization of goals and major recommendations, and will construct an Action List for 2024 that will be presented to the City Commission in March of 2024.

Although zoning ordinance updates will be undertaken as a part of the implementation of the 2040 Plan, it remains that the Planning Board, City Staff, and City Commission are constantly looking for ways to improve the ordinances that we are currently working under to ensure that development within the City promotes the health, safety and welfare of the public.

In the meantime, the Planning Board will continue to improve the City's current Zoning Ordinance. Listed below are improvement areas that the Planning Board is currently working on, or will be working on next:

- Screening requirements for waste receptacles
- Bonus height provisions in the Triangle District
- Setback and coverage standards for swimming pools
- Residential lighting standards

- Defining impervious surfaces (artificial turf, crushed stone)

Questions:

- Are there any other short-term improvements that the Planning Board could consider?

2. Sustainability

On November 14, 2022 ([Agenda](#) – [Minutes](#)), the City Commission adopted its [Strategic Goals](#). Included in these Strategic Goals is a focus on sustainability:

“The City of Birmingham positions itself for a changing future by instituting policies and practices that protect the natural environment and reduce extreme weather impacts on the community.”

As the City Commission continues to implement its strategic goals, the Planning Board will play a major role in protecting the natural environment and reducing extreme weather impacts on the Community through its role in development and use of the Zoning Ordinance. Topics with a sustainability focus that have recently been addressed at the Commission level include biodiversity, two-stroke leaf blowers, and general sustainability policies.

When it comes to the Planning Board, there are several long-standing strategies that have been used to provide for more sustainable development when the Zoning Ordinance allows for it. For example, the Planning board has been enforcing the landscaping standards and challenging developers to improve their plans to include native species and maximize natural spaces. We have also been utilizing the provisions of Special Land Use Permits to address the environmental impacts of certain developments. There have also been consistent efforts to promote multimodality and pedestrian comfort, require high quality building materials, include sustainability in ordinance amendments, and emphasize sustainability in master plans.

At this time, it is clear that the City Commission would like the Planning Board to provide a greater focus on sustainability as it moves forward with its implementation of the 2040 Plan and review of development projects in the City.

Questions:

- Does the City Commission want the Planning Board to address sustainability directly, and to what level?
- How can the City Commission and Planning Board work together to achieve the City Commissions strategic goals?



JOINT MEETING

**PLANNING BOARD &
CITYCOMMISSION**

OCTOBER 23, 2023

THEME #1

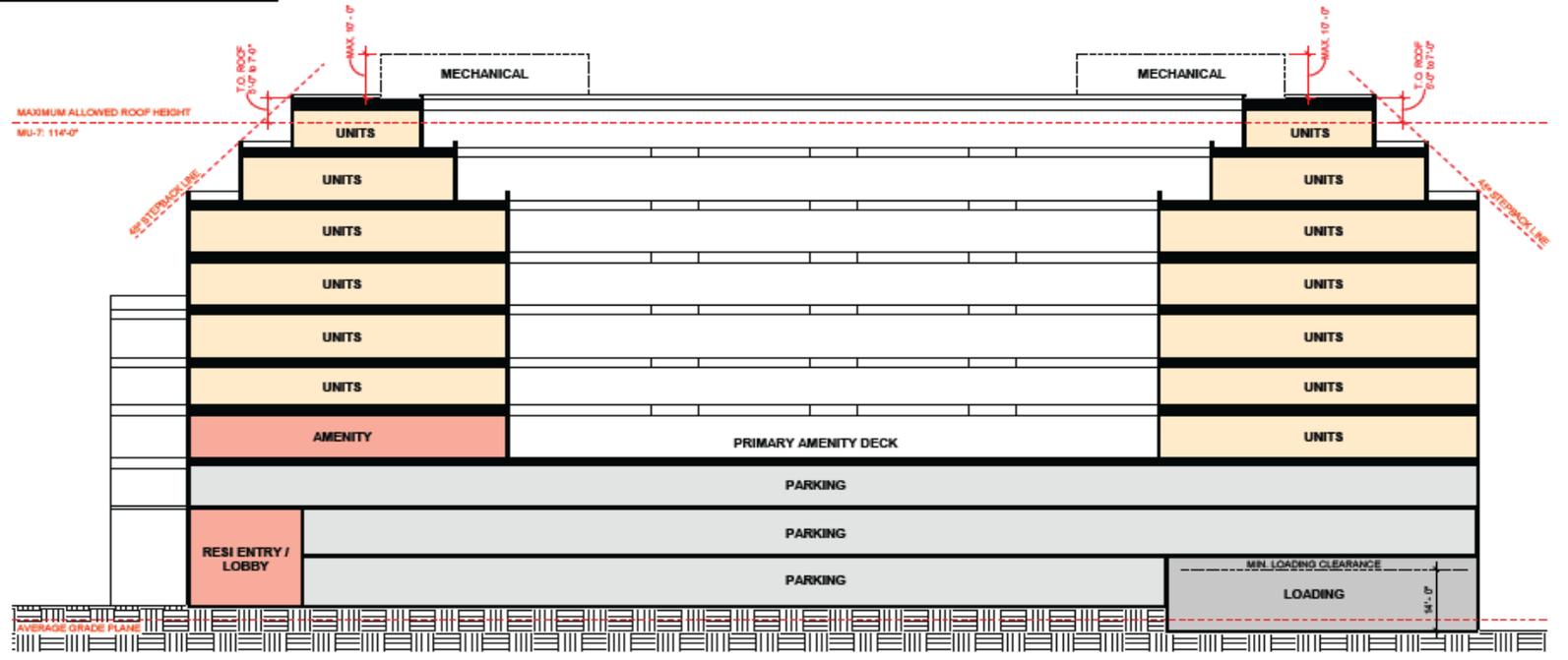
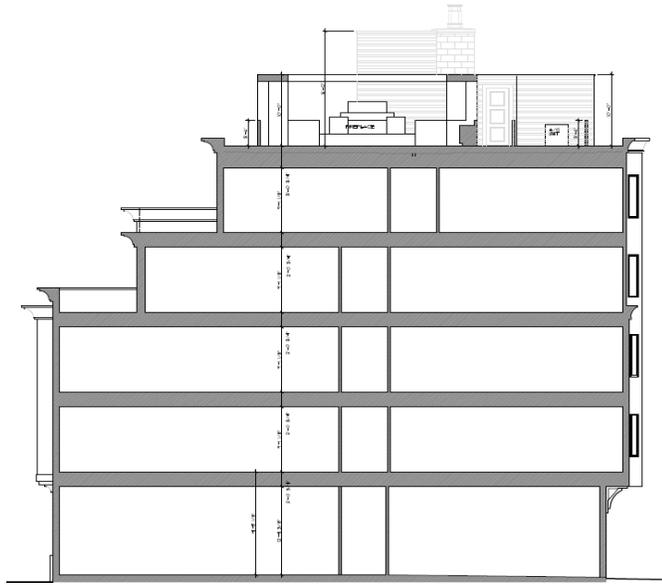
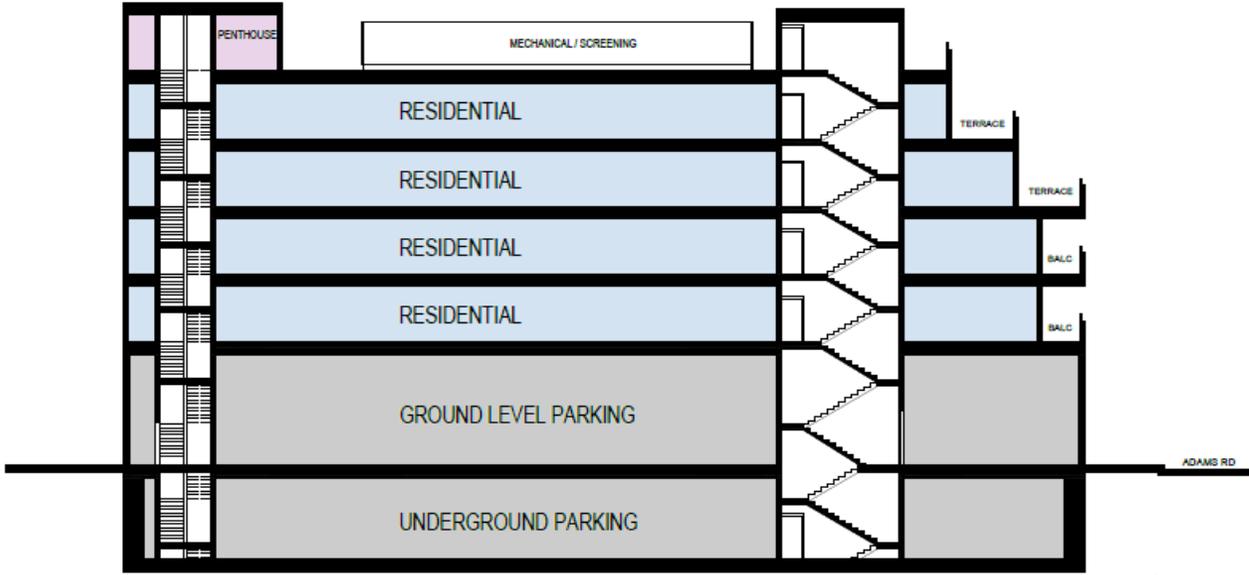
The Planning Board is maintaining a high quality Zoning Ordinance in this transitory stage between master plans

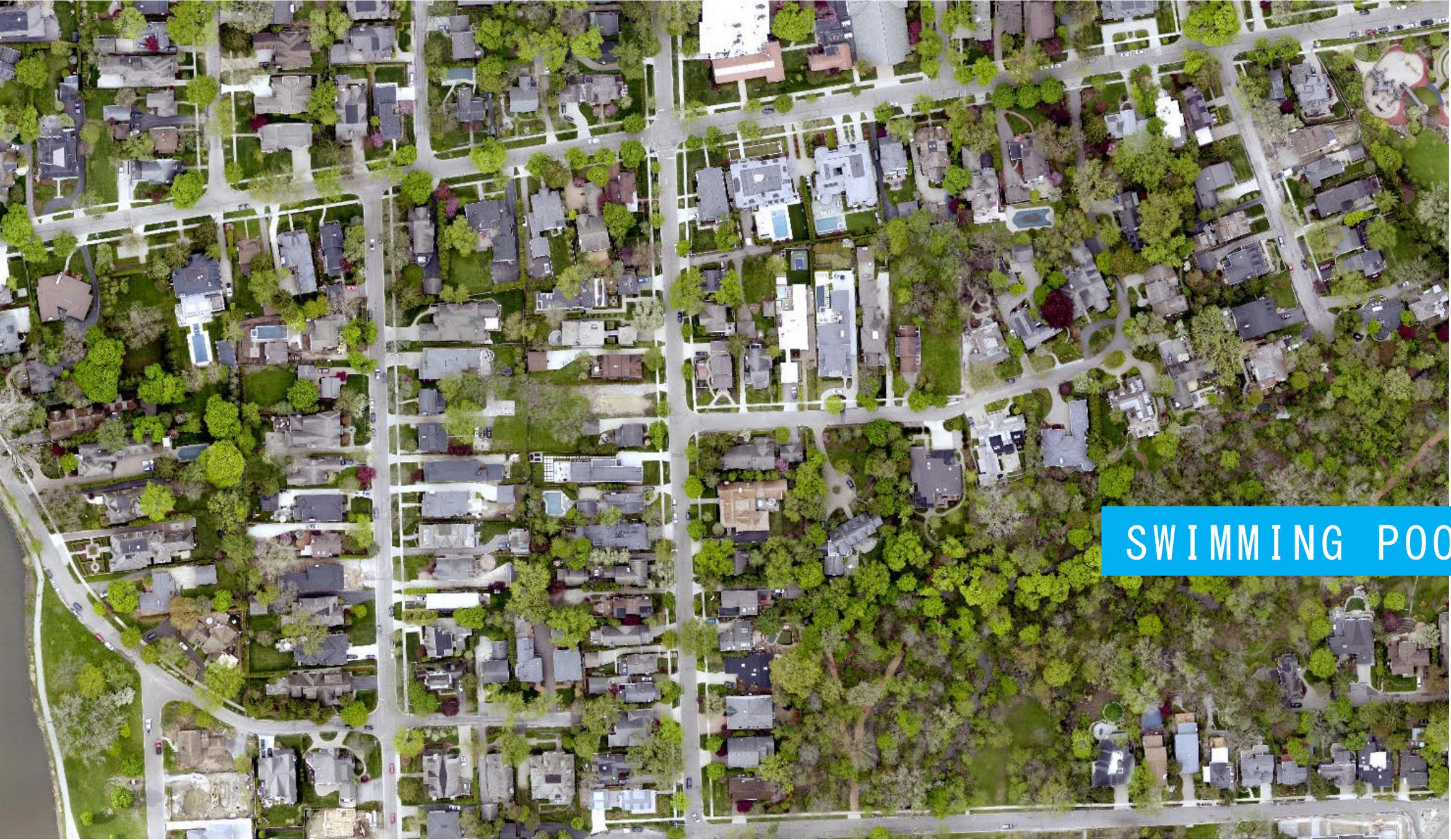


DUMPSTER SCREENING



TRIANGLE DISTRICT MIXED-USE STANDARDS





SWIMMING POOLS



THEME #2

The City Commission and Planning Board should align their sustainability goals and set clear expectations.

DEVELOPMENT

During development reviews, the Planning Board often emphasizes sustainable design.





SPECIAL LAND USES

Special Land Use Permit reviews are perfect opportunities to add additional requirements in regards to sustainability.

A photograph of a landscaped area featuring a stone-lined drainage ditch. The ditch is filled with smooth, rounded stones in various shades of grey, tan, and blue. The ditch is flanked by lush green vegetation, including tall grasses and various shrubs. In the background, a tall, modern building is visible under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. A street sign and a pedestrian crossing sign are also visible on the left side of the image.

QUESTIONS?