

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING WORKSHOP AGENDA
BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY - 300 W. MERRILL - ROTARY ROOM
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2022
7:00 P.M.**

WORKSHOP SESSION

This will be considered a workshop session of the City Commission. No formal actions will be taken. The purpose of this workshop is to participate in a discussion regarding the strategic plan.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Therese Longe, Mayor

II. ROLL CALL

Alexandria Bingham, City Clerk

III. PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION

- A. Introduction – Dr. Lew Bender, Strategic Planning Facilitator
- B. City Commission Questions, Discussion and Comment

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

V. ADJOURN

This meeting is open to the public and the public is welcome to attend.

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](tel:248-530-1880) por lo menos el día antes de la reunión pública. (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964).



MEMORANDUM

City Manager's Office

DATE: October 6, 2022

TO: Thomas M. Markus, City Manager

FROM: Melissa Fairbairn, Assistant to the City Manager

SUBJECT: Third Strategic Planning Session Materials

Dr. Lew Bender facilitated public strategic planning meetings for the City on Wednesday, August 24 and Wednesday, September 14, 2022. During the meetings, participants shared their thoughts about the City's areas of strength, concern, and potential 3-5 year goals. Additionally, staff posted similar questions to Engage Birmingham for residents to provide their feedback for the strategic plan.

Following the August and September strategic planning meetings, Dr. Bender prepared a list of potential goal areas and a draft of mission and values statements for review at the Tuesday, October 11, 2022 meeting.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Engage Birmingham Strategic Planning Survey Report
- Potential Goal Areas
- Mission and Values Draft

Strategic Planning Survey

SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT

29 April 2021 - 02 October 2022

PROJECT NAME:
Strategic Planning



SURVEY QUESTIONS

Q1 | What are the City of Birmingham's strengths?

8/17/2022 12:20 PM many parks, good landscaping and care of same, vibrant downtown, safety

8/17/2022 12:26 PM What is left of our historical footprint

8/18/2022 08:04 AM commissioner review; discard this response

8/18/2022 08:44 AM Walkability, mature unique neighborhoods, downtown shopping district with restaurants and shops.

8/18/2022 09:28 AM We are a walkable community. We have a nice downtown and some beautiful green spaces and lots of trees.

8/18/2022 10:35 AM Public safety, city services, walkability, schools...

8/18/2022 02:53 PM 1.) Appealing neighborhoods with mature trees and parks. 2.) Convenient, walkable business district. 3.) Diverse shopping and dining choices, plus movie theaters and in-town hotels for visitors. 4.) Strong commercial tax base. 5.) High level of reliable public services (seasonal plantings at gateways and main thoroughfares, park maintenance, trash hauling, snow removal, street maintenance, holiday lights, berm tree trimming)

8/18/2022 05:02 PM The parks are great.

8/18/2022 07:30 PM Strong tax base. Families that prioritize education and maintain their property well. Low crime in general. Decent shopping and very good restaurant options.

8/18/2022 07:54 PM A sense of community

8/19/2022 04:54 AM Good schools, stable and safe neighborhoods, viable downtown area

8/19/2022 05:18 AM Character, educated population, walkability

8/19/2022 06:57 AM It's quaint, a nice variety of local shops, good restaurants and bars and a fair amount of green space

8/20/2022 03:54 PM clean, kept up

8/23/2022 04:23 PM Peaceful quiet neighborhood

8/24/2022 06:49 AM Clean, safe, fun, great schools.

8/31/2022 11:10 AM Walkability Parks Friendly communication Safety

9/01/2022 07:52 AM The centrally located downtown area is a great community center, and all the surrounding parks are amazing. From a family with children, the schools are too a very important strength.

9/04/2022 04:26 PM Walkable city. Safe city. Vibrant city with activities for a wide age range population.

9/10/2022 08:55 PM Walkability, friendly neighbors, plenty of shopping, parks and entertainment.

9/12/2022 07:32 AM The potential for its parks and recreation facilities to bring people together. We have so many resources in our parks!

9/12/2022 06:26 PM Community pride. Spaces for adults and the older adult communities.

9/14/2022 06:50 AM Vibrant city with many attractions

9/27/2022 10:37 AM

High quality downtown, homes, parks, schools. The city has a strong downtown core and neighborhoods.

Optional question (24 response(s), 2 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Q2 What challenges does the City of Birmingham face?

8/17/2022 12:20 PM

too much building crowding out open space; lack of parking downtown will soon occur

8/17/2022 12:26 PM

Too much building, overcrowding every single square inch , making it very difficult to navigate or enjoy anymore .

8/18/2022 08:04 AM

commissioner review; discard this response

8/18/2022 08:44 AM

aging infrastructure, making downtown pedestrian friendly in a metro area that is very car dependent, the ageing of neighborhoods and how to handle the trade off of replacing older homes with new homes vs preserving older homes and repairing/remodeling them.

8/18/2022 09:28 AM

Very high rent downtown that many store owners can not afford.. Older and historic homes being torn down and replaced with homes that take up most of the lot.

8/18/2022 10:35 AM

Avoiding the poison pill of over development. An increased population does not increase the quality of life for existing residents. There is no reason our small (by square miles) city should have a population density any greater than it is currently. Neighboring cities have plenty of developable land.

8/18/2022 02:53 PM

1.) Maintaining neighborhoods' appeal and balance with CBD. 2.) Safer pedestrian and bike crossings on Woodward Avenue and Maple Road. More signage, traffic calming, blinking caution lights above, alongside or in-pavement at active routes for walkers and cyclists. 3.) Visibly identifying, connecting and unifying the Rail District and Triangle District with the CBD.

8/18/2022 05:02 PM We need a pediatrician light in Southfield rd and Worthington road!!

8/18/2022 07:30 PM Public schools that have lost 650+ students in two years with many leaving each year, falling test scores, falling rankings, budget mismanagement and on top of that they are implementing a polarizing set of policies rich in identity politics. Recent crime wave of thefts.

8/18/2022 07:54 PM A loss of the neighborhoods as more large housing units are added.

8/19/2022 04:54 AM loud muffler altered cars making ridiculous loud noise on the roads

8/19/2022 05:18 AM Lack of diversity in age and race, lack of ample housing of different residential typologies

8/19/2022 06:57 AM Parking. There is also a bad element of people who are infiltrating the family friendly town.

8/20/2022 03:54 PM The town and shops are niche/destination. Will be terribly affected by a recession. Very few essentials in town that would draw traffic.

8/23/2022 04:23 PM Streets need work

8/24/2022 06:49 AM No moderately priced homes, shrinking base of families and children, a general lack of planning for young families to thrive (aka most projects are geared towards 50+ or very high income individuals).

8/31/2022 11:10 AM Brining the right stores to downtown- would like to see Less furniture stores + real estate businesses More casual restaurants and bars and shopping

9/01/2022 07:52 AM I believe finding effective and efficient means to update our roads and infrastructure .Parking in downtown and the rail district too.

Traffic congestion downtown. Very few outdated, old parks.

9/04/2022 04:26 PM

Size of homes is increasing. Not enough street level parking. Traffic congestion and noise from construction vehicles.

9/10/2022 08:55 PM

Recruiting new young families

9/12/2022 07:32 AM

9/12/2022 06:26
PM

Engaging and supporting younger families coming into or growing with the city. Providing more spaces for children and families, not just in downtown. A lot of times as a Birminghamite, it feels like you are expected to give to Birmingham more than it seems you are expected to receive.

9/14/2022 06:50 AM

The streets need to be better maintained. Many are in very poor condition and need to be repaired. THE CITY SHOULD PUBLISH THE SCHEDULE FOR EVERY STREET THAT WILL BE REPAIRED IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

9/27/2022 10:37 AM

I believe the biggest challenge right now is the mix of visitors in the downtown core. You hear it often that residents don't feel welcome downtown. We need to ensure the downtown is lively and fun, while being very welcoming to the average Birmingham resident.

Optional question (24 response(s), 2 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Q3 | What should the City of Birmingham prioritize in the next 5 years?

maintaining neighborhoods, maintaining safety

8/17/2022 12:20 PM

8/17/2022 12:26
PM

Try to return to what made Birmingham a great City to live it, it's quaint friendly atmosphere and stop building of every piece of green space that we have left.

commissioner review; discard this response

8/18/2022 08:04 AM

Focus on maintaining/improving the walkability of downtown,

8/18/2022 08:44 AM

improving the infrastructure to handle climate change: improved sewer system to handle large rain events, more trees for shade from the sun, encourage the electrification of transportation (charging stations etc.), improved mass transit.

8/18/2022 09:28 AM

Keeping the downtown beautiful and quaint. Making sure new businesses can come in and fill our storefronts. Not trying to grow the city's shopping district to a new level, but focusing on making what we have vibrant and healthy. Keep working on our parks, trails and green spaces. They are great!

8/18/2022 10:35 AM

Fire everyone on the multimodal board and find some people that don't have their heads up their a**es. The maple and old Woodward redevelopment are completely ridiculous. Where are delivery driver supposed to stop? Ooppsss. F***** that one up. Bikes, f*** bikes. Right!

8/18/2022 02:53 PM

1.) Residential neighborhood amenities and traffic enforcement. 2.) Budget stability. 3.) Sustainable, strategically managed growth.

8/18/2022 05:02 PM

Sidewalks in my neighborhood- Worthington Rd Pediatrician light connecting Worthington Rd to Southlawn. On southfield Rd. We go to crestview park and the tennis courts daily the cars never stop for us.

8/18/2022 07:30 PM

Public schools that can compete with private schools. Outdoor dining. Events that bring our various neighborhoods together within each and across the city. Do NOT prioritize identity politics, equity or so-called Green policies that impose these morals on the residents. We are not Ann Arbor or Royal Oak and we very much do not want to be.

8/18/2022 07:54 PM

Maintaining single family homes and controlling structural space on small lots.

8/19/2022 04:54 AM

work with the State of Michigan to outlaw loud decibel vehicles

8/19/2022 05:18 AM

Attracting people of all ages to the city through diverse housing options, amenities and programs

Keeping it quaint and parking. The structure entry and exit system is

8/19/2022 06:57 AM

horrible. The credit card access causes complete back ups for long periods of time. There needs to be a simpler system implemented. Whenever anyone recommends a store in birmingham, the first thing said is, "ugh, I hate the parking!" Just a recommendation, do the opposite of anything Royal Oak has done. The businesses are suffering due to their poor planning. Another thing that needs to be addressed are the bike lanes put in on Eton. They need to be removed. They are a hazard and unsightly.

8/20/2022 03:54 PM

Manage the flooding in the suburbs.

8/23/2022 04:23 PM

Connecting both sides of Woodward safely, road diet and slowing traffic. More ways to safely cross

8/24/2022 06:49

AM

Young families, moderately priced homes, limiting builders' ability to rip down small homes and build McMansions, limiting tax breaks and unnecessary public debt for large corporations (aka the famed RH deal)..

8/31/2022 11:10

AM

Shared Public pool

9/01/2022 07:52 AM

Parking; and from a community perspective, they should prioritize a plan to promote our history & heritage.

9/04/2022 04:26 PM

More parks. Update parks with new equipment if needed . Decongest traffic downtown.

9/10/2022 08:55 PM

Stop removing street level parking and provide an updated facility for senior center.

9/12/2022 07:32 AM

Parks ought to be prioritized. We have had enough prioritizing downtown Birmingham, it's time to do what we need to do to recruit the young families to energize our tax base. Our town is lacking a lot of parks and recreation program and facilities that nearby towns have (for example, a splash pad). Focusing on our city's growth means focusing on recruiting new, young residents.

Continuing the "walk ability" of Birmingham with walking bridges over

9/12/2022 06:26 PM

busy intersections (Maple and Eaton) and more bike lanes. Spaces for young children, such as a splash pad.

Street repairs

9/14/2022 06:50 AM

Ensuring the downtown is welcoming for all Birmingham residents.

9/27/2022 10:37 AM

Optional question (24 response(s), 2 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

POTENTIAL GOAL AREAS FOR THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM

The following potential goal areas are based on the initial City Commission discussion and input from staff and Birmingham Board Chairs.

POTENTIAL GOAL AREAS AND KEY OBJECTIVES:

I. CONNECTED COMMUNITY

- East-West walkable-connected. Complete Woodward Diet downtown completed without large gaps.
- High quality desirable housing stock.
- The continued evolution of the neighborhoods.
- Transparency-Citizens Trust Issues. (Board Chairs)

II. COMMUNITY LIFE

- More Cultural Events
- A plan for the Senior Center in conjunction with neighboring communities.
- Plans for Bates/NOW-Public access to the riverfront.
- Pickleball Courts and completion of the Parks Bond Project.
- Incentivized good behavior of developers and builders
- Protect what we have.
- Family supporting programs (Residents)

III. STAFF AND ORGANIZATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

- Good shape with staffing in terms of experience and culture.
- Reasonable-sustainable workloads for staff (staff)
- Continued use of Commission-Managed Chain of Command (staff)
- Efficient use of staff time. Reduction of small distractions diverting staff from priorities.(staff)
- Stronger communication-trust between Commission and staff. (staff)
- Staff training programs. (staff)
- Evaluate staff benefits and pay and number of full-time/part-time positions.

IV. INFRASTRUCTURE

- Improve streets, water and sewer
- Tighter land use ordinances.
- Climate Resiliency-Electric Vehicle charging stations (Board Chairs)
- Balanced Zoning-managed Growth and Redevelopment (Residents)
- Present-Future Parking needs Assessment (Residents)
- Traffic Control-Woodward (Residents)
- Safety for pedestrians and Cyclists (Residents)

Mission:

The mission of the City Birmingham, Michigan is to deliver fiscally responsible, highly dependable, equitable and sustainable municipal services with an emphasis on public safety, community livability, responsible planning for infrastructure improvements, and the environment. In pursuit of this mission, we use data to make decisions and measure progress based on economic, social, and environmental factors.

Values:

- Customer Service Focus – We engage citizens with a focus on listening, equity and supporting their needs, anticipating and delivering high quality service.
- Integrity – We conduct ourselves in a manner that is ethical, legal, and professional.
- Innovation – We look for and embrace new and effective ways to do things.
- Accountability – We promote openness and transparency in our operations ensuring that we are always accountable.
- Stewardship – We serve as stewards of the public’s financial, environmental, social and physical resources seeking to responsibly utilize, conserve and sustain for current and future generations.