

**HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF JUNE 3, 2020**  
Held Remotely Via Zoom And Telephone Access

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Minutes of the regular meeting of the Historic District Commission ("HDC") held Wednesday, June 3, 2020. Chairman John Henke called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**1) ROLLCALL**

**Present:** Chairman John Henke; Vice-Chairman Keith Deyer; Board Members Gigi Debbrecht, Natalia Dukas, Patricia Lang, Michael Willoughby

**Absent:** Board Member Doug Burley; Alternate Member Kevin Filthaut

**Administration:** Nicholas Dupuis, City Planner  
Laura Eichenhorn, Transcriptionist

Chairman Henke thanked everyone for joining the virtual meeting and reviewed protocol for virtual meetings.

**06-36-20**

**2) Approval Of Minutes**

**Motion by Ms. Dukas**

**Seconded by Ms. Debbrecht to approve the HDC Minutes of April 15, 2020 and May 20, 2020 as submitted.**

**Motion carried, 6-0.**

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: Dukas, Debbrecht, Deyer, Henke, Lang, Willoughby

Nays: None

**06-37-20**

**3) Courtesy Review**

None.

**06-38-20**

**4) Historic Design Review**

None.

**06-39-20**

**5) Sign Review**

None.

**06-40-20**

## **6) Study Session**

### **A. The Birmingham Plan (2040)**

City Planner Dupuis told the HDC members to email him any additional comments they wanted forwarded to the master planning team. He also provided in the evening's agenda the memorandum sent to the master planning team summarizing the HDC's master planning comments thus far.

### **B. Historic District Commissioner Trainings**

City Planner Dupuis reviewed the item.

The HDC said it could be useful to invite the City Commission and other City board members to attend the trainings as well.

City Planner Dupuis concurred and said he would share the potential training dates with other Birmingham board members and residents. He said he would schedule the August 2020 training before scheduling the following two trainings in order to see what adjustments or accommodations may need to be made in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.

**06-41-20**

## **7) Miscellaneous Business and Communication**

### **A. Pre-Application Discussions**

### **B. Staff Reports**

City Planner Dupuis showed the HDC members Brooklyn Pizza's proposed sign update and requested their feedback on the sign.

The HDC concurred that the three menu taglines at the bottom of the sign should be removed, and that Brooklyn Pizza owner Sam Abdelfatah and his team could work with City Planner Dupuis to determine the redesign of the rest of the sign.

City Planner Dupuis also confirmed for Mr. Abdelfatah that the other three signs for Brooklyn Pizza without the menu taglines were already approved and could be fabricated. He said he would work with the Brooklyn Pizza team to determine whether those three signs should be permitted separately from the to-be-redesigned fourth sign or whether all four should be permitted together.

City Planner Dupuis told the HDC that the Michigan Historic Network Preservation Conference was rescheduled to September 20-22, 2020. He said the HDC could feel free to contact him with any questions regarding the conference.

**1. Administrative Sign Approvals**

**2. Administrative Approvals**

City Planner Dupuis asked the HDC if they would like to review a potential material upgrade for the home located at 612 S. Bates. He asked if they generally prefer to review material upgrades or whether they preferred those be handled administratively.

Mr. Willoughby said that if the proposed replacement material is hardy plank it should come before the HDC, and if it is wood it could be administratively approved.

Mr. Deyer said these kinds of upgrades also raise questions about what happens to window framings, eaves, and other potentially historic features of the part of the home that is to be upgraded. He said it would probably be more appropriate to bring these cases before the Committee for review.

Mr. Willoughby said he largely agreed with Mr. Dryer. Mr. Willoughby said one exception would be if an owner said they would be doing the updates entirely in wood with the same trim and same four-inch historic lap exposure also in wood. He said in that case the updates could likely be administratively approved.

City Planner Dupuis said that given the feedback he would prefer to just bring material updates like these before the HDC in order to make sure all potential issues are addressed.

Ms. Debbrecht said bringing these kinds of updates before the HDC would also be positive because it would reinforce the importance of historic designation.

**3. March Demolitions**

**4. Action List - 2020**

City Planner Dupuis told the Committee that Birmingham did not receive the CLG Community Partnership Grants for which the City applied. He reminded the HDC that the projects proposed for the Grants were a review of the Little San Francisco neighborhood and design standards. He said that when the HDC next reviews its action list those types of projects might be something to add.

**5. Historical Preservation Collaboration Matrix**

**06-42-20**

**Adjournment**

**Motion by Mr. Willoughby**

**Seconded by Ms. Debbrecht to adjourn the HDC meeting of June 3, 2020 at 7:42 p.m.**

**Motion carried, 6-0.**

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: Willoughby, Debbrecht, Dukas, Deyer, Henke, Lang

Nays: None

Nicholas Dupuis  
City Planner

APPROVED