



## **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

April 2023

### **Baldwin Public Library**

#### **Library Board**

The Library Board met on April 17, 2023 for its regular meeting. After receiving the bids for the Phase 3 construction project, the Library Board voted to set a not to exceed price for the project of \$3,688,000. The project cost came in slightly over budget and the library plans to supplement the budget with funds from the Trust. More details will be shared at the April 29 budget hearing.

#### **Library Tour**

If you'd like to learn even more about the library, join Library Director Rebekah Craft for a Behind the Scenes Tour. You'll visit staff areas, learn how items are added to the collection, and hear about new programs and services. The next tour will meet in the Library's vestibule on Wednesday, May 17 at 4:00 p.m.

#### **Kanopy Streaming**

With your Baldwin Library card, you can stream award winning documentaries and independent films online with Kanopy Streaming. Each cardholder receives 10 play credits per month. You can stream these films on your computer, tablet, mobile device, or Smart TV. Visit [baldwinlib.org/movies](https://baldwinlib.org/movies) to get started.

#### **Used Book Sale**

The Friends of the Baldwin Public Library are hosting a used book sale from May 6-8. A special preview night for Friends members will be held on Friday, May 5 from 6-8pm. All proceeds benefit programs and services at the library and most items are priced at \$2 or less. This sale will be held in the lower level of the library.

Register for these upcoming programs and more at [baldwinlib.org/calendar](https://baldwinlib.org/calendar).

#### **Free Comic Book Day!**

Saturday, May 6 — All Day

It's Free Comic Book Day at BPL and local comic shops. Swing by the library, pick up a comic and vote for your favorite comic book character. We'll have comics for kids, teens, and adults on a first come, first served basis. One comic book per person, please.

#### **Genealogy Series: Studying the Census**

Thursday, May 11 — 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The release of the 1950 U.S. Census has been a gamechanger for many genealogists. This session will take an in-depth look at census records and why they are such a valuable tool in building your family tree.

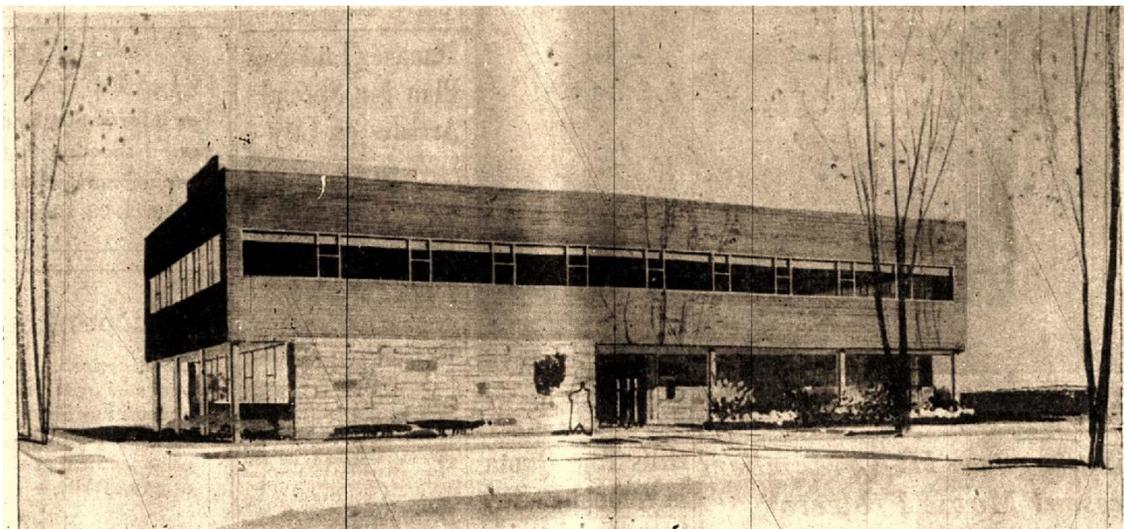
## **The Birmingham Museum**

### **Allen House Temporary Closure for Construction**

The Allen House at the Birmingham Museum will close to the public May 1 due to lead abatement for the planned restoration of the building's historic windows. The Hunter House will remain open and staff will be available to conduct guided tours there and to assist with questions and research. We anticipate reopening the Allen House to the public on June 15.

### **Famous Roots of Birmingham's AT&T Building**

In 1948, AT&T (then Michigan Bell) commissioned the up-and-coming Japanese American architect, Minoru Yamasaki (later architect of New York's Twin Towers) to design its new building in Birmingham. Yamasaki's design for the structure had a simple but elegant approach to the functional utility needs of the building, located across from the Municipal Building. The original building design also included a substantial foundation to support a future third floor and heavy equipment that AT&T anticipated needing to add. Unfortunately, when this completely utilitarian third floor was built, it significantly altered the appearance of Yamasaki's Mid-century Modern design. With the original rendering at hand, however, one can still see the architect's stamp on the existing AT&T Building, which is the only known Yamasaki design in Birmingham.



Minoru Yamasaki's original design for Birmingham's Michigan Bell Building, (1948)  
Birmingham Eccentric, 1 Apr 1948, 1 (*Birmingham Museum collection*).



The Michigan Bell/AT&T Building, c2010 (*Birmingham Museum collection*).

## **Birmingham Shopping District (BSD)**

### **Strategic Planning**

The BSD Board held a second work session on April 4 for its Strategic Plan and a final draft plan will be presented to the Board at its April 19, 2023, Board meeting for approval.

### **April Board Meeting Rescheduled Due to Holiday Observance & Action Items**

The BSD Board meeting for April has been rescheduled for April 19, 2023, at 8 a.m. due to the observance of Passover. At this meeting, the BSD will be approving its 2024-26 budget, its strategic plan, holiday lighting plan for 2023/24 and new BSD bylaws. The Board will also recognize two significant business anniversaries at its meeting, including Tiffany Florist for 50 years and Birmingham Village Players for 100 years.

### **Holiday Impact Report**

A significant part of the BSD's annual promotional efforts are concentrated on the holidays. To show the return on investment, [attached is a holiday impact report](#) indicating the programming provided, number of visitors throughout the season and impressions made through the BSD's marketing efforts. This report will be provided to partners, supporters and businesses within the district to help showcase the value of the BSD and their involvement in the programming offered.

### **Spring Stroll**

Spring Stroll was held this past Saturday and was very well attended with over 800 visitors enjoying specials and incentives at 29 participating businesses.

### **Farmers Market Opening Day**

The Birmingham Farmers Market opens May 7, 2023, and will run through October 29, 2023, every Sunday from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. in Lot 6 located along North Old Woodward. Twenty-five children in grades K-8 participated in an art contest for the Farmers Market tote bag, with one design picked for the bag

which will be handed out on opening day and as supplies last through the season. The top 10 other art submissions will be on display as well. Over 46 vendors are confirmed for the market thus far, and an average of 40 vendors weekly will be at the market this season.

### **Michigan Retail Interface Conference**

The BSD Executive Director served on a panel discussion regarding the current economy and future of retail and restaurants at the Michigan Retail Interface Conference held at the Townsend Hotel this week with over 150 realtors and developers in attendance. The BSD was a sponsor of the event and provided an opportunity to build relationships with potential new business concepts, as well as the real estate development community. General recruitment materials have now been updated and are available through the BSD office.

### **New Businesses**

The most recent new business to welcome to downtown Birmingham this month is:

- Massage Rain, 640 N. Old Woodward, Suite 101 - health & fitness

### **2023 Dashboard Metrics**

Retail Occupancy Rate - 96% (out of 1.5 million sq.ft.)

Office Occupancy - 89% (out of 2 million sq.ft.)

9 New Business Openings in 2023 (7 more in process)

Commercial, Mixed-Use & Residential Development Projects In Construction/Planning - 12 projects totaling 827,727 sq. ft.

## **Building Department**

### **Office Update**

The Building Department and 2<sup>nd</sup> floor recently reopened to the public. We still offer several options for accessing our services such as the drop box and our online portal, and continue to encourage the public to call in advance to schedule an appointment for anything that requires in-person assistance.

### **Board of Zoning Appeals**

Effective April 1, all Board of Zoning Appeals submissions are through our online permitting portal, BS&A Online. All member packets are now delivered electronically and we have discontinued the distribution of hard copy paper meeting packets.

### **Monthly Report**

The [Building Department's monthly report](#) provides an update on the following construction activity: building permits issued, building inspections conducted, trades permits issued and trades inspections conducted. In March, we processed 372 online permit applications for a total of 893 in 2023.

## **City Clerk's Office**

### **Celebrate Birmingham Parade and Party in Shain Park**

**Sunday, May 21, 2023 parade at 1:00 p.m. and party to follow in Shain Park, ending at 4:00 p.m.**

Mark your calendars for the annual Celebrate Birmingham Parade and Party in Shain Park! The parade will kick off at 1 p.m., and it will be a vibrant display of hometown pride. The parade route will begin on Old Woodward Avenue by Booth Park and will proceed through the downtown area before ending at

Shain Park. Attendees can expect to see various community groups, businesses and organizations showcasing their creativity and spirit in the parade.

At the end of the parade, the fun begins at the party in Shain Park with activities for all ages. This community celebration offers a great opportunity to connect with friends, family and neighbors and enjoy beautiful Shain Park. For kids, there will be a bounce house, games, face painting and crafts. Food trucks will be on site offering a range of delicious treats, including sweet and savory options, and a photo booth available to capture memories of the event with friends and family. Don't miss this beloved Birmingham tradition! For the latest information, go to [www.bhamgov.org/parade](http://www.bhamgov.org/parade). We look forward to seeing you there!

### **Open Call: Parade and Party Participants, Groups, Sponsors & Food Vendors**

**Sunday, May 21, 2023 parade at 1:00 p.m. and party to follow in Shain Park, ending at 4:00 p.m.**

Community groups, local businesses, dance teams, scout troops, children and adults of all ages are encouraged to march in this year's parade. It's a great opportunity to spotlight your group! Visit [www.bhamgov.org/parade](http://www.bhamgov.org/parade) to register before May 12, 2023.

Sponsors are invited to join in the 2023 festivities! Being a sponsor is another way for a business, group, organization or individual to be recognized as part of this family-friendly event which reflects the hometown feel of Birmingham. The Hometown Parade is televised by Bloomfield Community Television and covered by traditional print and social media, giving sponsors a fantastic PR opportunity. Visit [www.bhamgov.org/parade](http://www.bhamgov.org/parade) for registration forms and sponsorship packages. Register before April 28, 2023.

Interested in being a food vendor or join in the celebration? Contact Christina Woods at [cwoods@bhamgov.org](mailto:cwoods@bhamgov.org) or (248) 530-1803.

### **Special thanks to our sponsors:**

- Parade Presenting Sponsor: [Bank of Ann Arbor - Birmingham](#)
- Party in Shain Park Presenting Sponsor: [Bloom Pediatrics](#)

### **General Election on November 7, 2023**

Birmingham will hold a general election on Tuesday, November 7, 2023. At this time, the ballot will include four Birmingham Commissioner seats and three Birmingham Library Board positions, all for four-year terms. Filing deadline for petitions and candidates is 4:00 p.m. on July 25, 2023.

### **City Commission and Library Board Candidate and Petition Information**

City Commission and Library Board candidates must be registered voters and residents for at least one year before the November 7, 2023 election. Petition packets containing all the information needed to run for these positions are available at the City Clerk's Office during regular business hours. Candidates must complete the required paperwork in the petition packet and collect more than 25 but not more than 50 signatures from Birmingham registered voters. Signers must print their names with their current address and date. A signer may only sign one petition for each available seat; in this election that means a single voter can sign no more than four City Commission petitions and three Library Board petitions. The Clerk's Office must receive all candidates' paperwork no later than July 25, 2023 at 4:00 p.m., after which the Clerk's Office will review to ensure all petition requirements are met. The clerk cannot extend the filing deadline for any reason. For more information regarding petition and candidate filing please visit [www.bhamgov.org/elections](http://www.bhamgov.org/elections).

## **Ethics Board**

The Board of Ethics met on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at 1 p.m. to continue reviewing the city's current Ethics Ordinance and to review a draft ethics opinion regarding Commissioner Brad Host requested by City Manager Tom Markus.

## **Board Appointments**

The following City of Birmingham boards and commissions have vacant positions or members with terms expiring soon. Applications are due before noon the Wednesday prior to the commission interview/ appointment date:

<b>Board</b>	<b>Openings</b>	<b>Application Due by Noon</b>	<b>Interview/ Appointment at City Commission meeting 7:30 pm</b>
Advisory Parking Committee	1 resident shopper term ending 9/1/2025 1 large retail member term ending 9/1/2025	Until Filled	
Architectural Review Committee	1 regular member term ending 4/11/2026 1 regular member term ending 4/11/2025	Until Filled	
Birmingham Shopping District	1 business representative term ending 11/16/2026	Until Filled	
Birmingham Area Cable Board	1 regular members terms ending 3/30/2026 1 regular member term ending 3/30/2024 1 alternate member term ending 3/30/2025	Until Filled	
Board of Building Trades Appeals	2 regular member term ending 5/23/25 2 regular members term ending 5/23/2026	4/19/23	4/24/23
Board of Review	2 alternate members term ending 12/31/2025	Until Filled	

Board of Zoning Appeals	1 alternate members term ending 2/18/2026	Until Filled	
Brownfield Redevelopment Authority	2 regular members term ending 5/23/2026 1 regular member term ending 5/23/2024	5/3/23	5/8/23
Housing Board of Appeals	3 regular members terms ending 5/4/2026	4/29/23	4/24/23
Martha Baldwin Park Board	1 regular member term ending 5/1/24 2 regular members terms ending 5/1/2027	5/31/23	6/5/23
Parks & Rec Board	1 alternate member term ending 3/13/2025	5/3/23	5/8/23
Public Arts Board	1 alternate member term ending 1/28/2025	Until Filled	
Stormwater Utility Appeals Board	3 regular member term ending 1/31/2026 2 alternate members term ending 1/31/2025	Until Filled	
Triangle District Corridor Improvement Authority	1 regular business owner term ending 12/15/2026	Until Filled	

**City Manager's Office**

**Community Foundation Objection: Asked and Answered**

On Monday, April 3, 2023, the City Commission discussed whether the City should consider creating and administering a community foundation or charity to fundraise and manage special events, physical improvements to City property or other community improvement programs. At this meeting, the City Commission voted unanimously to resolve that for the foreseeable future the City has no intention of creating a community foundation. City staff went on to advise that the involvement of one or more City Commissioners with such a foundation could be a potential conflict of interest between the foundation and their work as a City Commissioner, and advice should be sought to identify any potential Ethics Ordinance violations as well.

On Tuesday, April 4, 2023, the day after this very issue was discussed, [Commissioner Baller sent an email](#) requesting that the City become "a first-string partner who helps lead the effort" to form a foundation. Commissioner Baller stated that he was cognizant of management's desire "that the city not produce more events, but rather facilitate them". His email went on to state that he has formed a group of community minded citizens to create a foundation to raise money for cultural events and parks, and to suggest events and parks improvements. However, the email further suggests that the contributing organizations "and possibly the city, would run the events, and the city would be responsible for parks improvements". Further, Commissioner Baller goes on to suggest that the City consider hiring an events coordinator to join City staff.

In addition, Commissioner Baller posed the following questions:

**1. Other cities do this. Traverse City and others come to mind. Can they provide some insight?**

There is a non-profit community foundation based in Traverse City that covers a four county area that is separate and distinct from the City. Local businesspeople and community minded residents started the foundation and serve on the Board of Directors. Individuals or groups can apply for funding through the foundation for events, programming and other related activities or purchases that will improve the lives of people living within the four county areas. All events, activities or improvements are managed by the grant applicants, often local non-profit or charitable organizations, and are not managed by the City.

Troy also has a community foundation that is run as a non-profit, also started by local businesspeople and community minded residents, that is separate and distinct from the City. Individuals or groups can apply for funding through the foundation for events, programming and other related activities or purchases that will improve the lives of people living within the City of Troy. All events, activities or improvements are managed by the grant applicant, often local non-profit or charitable organizations, and are not managed by the City.

**2. To what extent does an events coordinator and the events produced foster greater community? What is the qualitative value, if any?**

City staff has not conducted any research to determine the qualitative or quantifiable value of local festivals or events.

**3. Is there anyone on staff that can fill the role?**

There is no one on staff that has the available time and expertise to plan, organize and implement special events or cultural activities. There are two part time BSD employees that assist with the special events run by the BSD.

**4. How much would an FTE cost?**

One full time employee would likely cost \$100,000 - \$120,000, including salary and benefits. In addition, if an events coordinator was hired to plan, manage and implement special events, the City would also have to assume the costs of liability insurance for all events, pay both police and fire staff to assist and monitor the event area, pay DPS staff to set up and clean up after events, and the City would be responsible for purchasing all supplies, equipment, and entertainment, and to solicit and supervise volunteers. Currently, private groups running special events bear the burden of these costs. Should the City start organizing special events, the costs would certainly include all of these just listed in addition to the salary of an events coordinator.

## **5. How are Concerts in the Park managed and by whom?**

Concerts in the Park were managed for many years by a volunteer sub-committee of the Parks and Recreation Board, lead by volunteer June MacGregor, and since 2017 have been managed by Connie Folk in the Parks Department, who is responsible for the daily operation and maintenance of the Birmingham Ice Arena, including learn to skate programs, ice and room rentals, ice shows, and the issuance of recreation and dog park passes. Ms. Folk estimates that she spends approximately 32 hours to research and schedule bands for the 13 summer concerts, as well as additional time to prepare contracts and send these out for execution by all parties. On each concert date, Ms. Folk estimates that she spends 2 hours of her regular day and 4 hours of overtime, and that 2 DPS staff members each spend approximately 4 hours for set up prior to the concert, and clean up after the concerts. DPS staff also work overtime if large equipment is needed to block off streets during the concert. Police staff bag off parking meters as needed and walk through the park during concerts. While the City does budget for in the park concerts, the City also solicits sponsorships for each concert, which generally cover only 25% of costs.

## **6. Is there an opportunity to share resources with the BSD?**

As noted above, there are two part time BSD employees that assist with special events that run throughout the year that are sponsored by the BSD. These two part time positions struggle to keep up with the existing BSD event organization and implementation.

## **7. Could some events be ticketed? How could that be accomplished in Birmingham? What other revenue sources are possible?**

If a non profit or charitable organization wished to organize and manage a ticketed special event, this would be subject to the approval of the City Commission. Significant investment in physical barriers and security would be required, if the City Commission even wished to limit the use of public property for paid guests only. As stated above, the City solicits sponsors as revenue sources for the existing concerts in the park, and despite best efforts, only manages to cover approximately 25% of costs.

## **8. Does it make sense to set something up on a trial, or part-time basis?**

The unanimous motion of the City Commission on April 3, 2023 clearly shows that the City Commission has no interest at this time in establishing a community foundation to fund events or park improvements, even on a trial or part time basis.

## **9. How much is the commission willing to budget for a coordinator and for event expenses? What is it worth to enhance our cultural offerings?**

The City Commission has not discussed this specific budgetary request, nor has an event coordinator position been proposed in the upcoming budget.

**As noted above, the City Commission's direction on April 3, 2023 was very clear: the City has no interest or intention to establish a community foundation to fundraise and manage special events, physical improvements to City property or other community improvement programs for the foreseeable future.**

Despite voting with the entire Commission not to move forward with establishing a community foundation, Commissioner Baller's email the morning after the April 3, 2023 City Commission meeting stated that he has "been pursuing the idea of creating a foundation with two arms", and is willing to personally fund the cost of establishing such a foundation. Not only did the City Commission expressly vote not to establish a community foundation at the April 3, 2023 meeting, the City Attorney and myself clearly stated that the involvement of one or more City Commissioners with a community foundation was likely a conflict of interest between the foundation and their work as a City Commissioner. Commissioner Baller's April 4, 2023 email has now clarified his intention to be one of the founders of such a foundation and to provide financial support for the foundation, thus signally the potential for an elected official to serve on the foundation board. **This is clearly a conflict, and Commissioner Baller should seek an advisory opinion from the Ethics Board prior to any such involvement in a community foundation to identify potential Ethics Ordinance violations that may occur as a result.**

Finally, Commissioner Baller's April 4, 2023 email includes a request that the City become "a first string partner who helps lead the effort" to form a foundation, and join with other organizations to run cultural events in the City, despite the fact that he is cognizant of management's desire "that the City not produce more events, but rather facilitate them".

Allow me to state once again that the City is not interested in being a first string partner, nor leading or funding the effort to establish a foundation or to organize numerous cultural and special events. City staff is currently stretched very thin with their existing workload, and continues to have difficulty recruiting and maintaining qualified personnel due to a tough labor market, and now the City Commission has directed the creation and addition of two new citizen committees. Both the Environmental Sustainability Committee and the Ad Hoc Aging in Place Committee will require staff liaisons to prepare agendas, reports, research, presentations and attend each of these new committee meetings. The scope of work proposed for both new committees is very broad and will significantly increase the workload of an already strained workforce. Further, the City Commission recently completed a Strategic Plan, and while a sustainability board and sustainability goals were prioritized in the Strategic Plan, along with the creation of a task force to address the needs of our aging population, the organizing and management of cultural or civic events were not included within the listed priorities identified in the Strategic Plan. To take on cultural or special events that could be run by other groups would jeopardize the quantity and quality of City services currently provided that Birmingham residents have come to expect.

## **Communications**

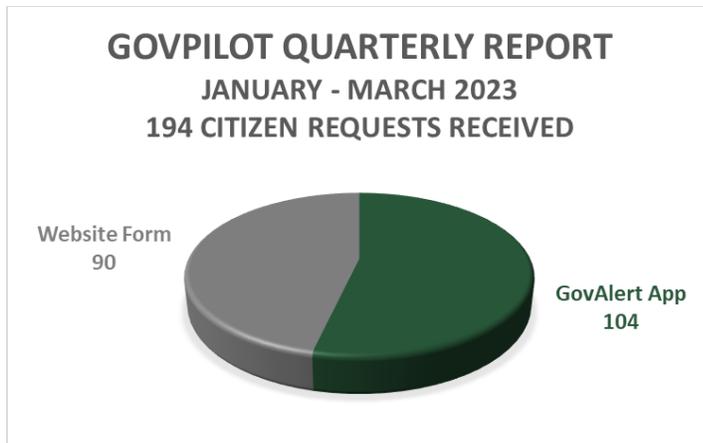
### **Around Town e-Newsletter**

The communications team is working on the May edition of the Around Town e-Newsletter, which will include information about the Department of Public Services Open House event, Memorial Day Ceremony, new businesses and more. Follow [this link to view the April edition](#) of the Around Town e-Newsletter.



## GovPilot Quarterly Report

The city continues to receive positive feedback regarding GovPilot. During the first quarter of 2023, we received a total of 194 citizen requests via the GovPilot system, 104 of which were received via the GovAlert app, and 90 via our website form at [www.bhamgov.org/citizenrequests](http://www.bhamgov.org/citizenrequests). Learn how to use the app by watching a short video at [www.bhamgov.org/govalert](http://www.bhamgov.org/govalert).



## Human Resources

Assistant City Manager Melissa Fairbairn continues to oversee Human Resources, and Mark Clemence has returned from retirement to assist in HR. The city is recruiting for the Human Resources Manager and Human Resources Generalist positions, and will fill both roles as soon as possible.

## BIRMINGHAM CITY COMMISSION - UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS

### Topics brought up by the Commission

Meeting	Topic	Commissioner	Staff Follow Up	Dates Addressed	Status (resolved/ongoing)
<b>In Progress</b>					
2/27	Bench and Little Library for Pat Andrews	Host	DPS & Staff	3/13 - Commission to discuss further. Staff members are working on this.	In progress
1/9/23	Ad Hoc Senior Services Committee	M: Baller S: Longe	CM	2/13 Commission to discuss further - no action at this time, 3/13 Commission gave direction via resolution to discuss establishing an AHSSC 4/3 - Vote to formulate ad hoc board specs and bring back at next reasonable meeting	In progress

12/5/22	Becoming Mayor	McLain	McLain	12/19 - Motion to make a workshop Workshop to be held May 8, 2023	In progress
11/14/22	Renters Rights	M: Host	Mary	11/28 CC Discussion Scheduled - Voted to make a formal agenda item at the next available meeting 1/23/23 Tabled, will be brought back 4/24/23.	In progress
1/10/22	Commissioner Conduct	No vote	Mary Kucharek	2/14/22 - Workshop 2/28/22 Directed CM to prepare Code of Conduct for future agenda 7/11/22 - Initial presentation to Commission by CA 2/13/23 - City Commission reviewed draft Code and will provide feedback to CM for future workshop.	In progress
<b>Resolved</b>					
4/11/22	BBCC - Mental Health Workshop - More time to talk	M: Baller S: Haig	Marianne Gamboa	4/25/22 - clarify commissioners intent 5/9/22 - added time on the agenda to discuss  Tom directed staff to add mental health info in city publications	Resolved
5/9/22	Pickleball	Baller, no vote	DPS	Agenda item 5/23/22	Installed on 6-3-22
1/24/22	Social Districts	M: Schafer S: Boutros	Nick Dupuis/Jana Ecker	2/14/22 - make formal item 3/9/22 - Workshop 3/14/22 - Informally brought up by Host 6/20/22 Commission and Planning Board Discussed	No formal action taken by the Commission

5/23/22	Commission Meeting Start Time	Baller	Mary Kucharek	On agenda for 6/27/22 - Mary to draft generic ordinance language and discuss in july On agenda for 7/11/22 - Commission decided not to proceed	No changes for now
8/15/22	Birmingham Country Club	M: Host S: Haig	Fairbairn, Dupuis, Clerk's Office	8/29 - CC Discussion Possibly plan to write a letter, invite bham cc and twp to meeting to collaborate *Draft a letter	Resolved, letter sent
8/15/22	Speed Bumps	M: Haig S: Host	Grewe/Brooks	8/29 - Staff report *Further study by MMTB *Report/Resolved in March Mgr Report 2023	Resolved
9/12/22	Banner	M: Baller S: Host	TBD	11/14 CC discussion scheduled	Completed
12/5/22	Lighting to sustainability board	Haig	Nick Dupuis	12/19 - Direction for staff to prepare list for Sustainability Board	To be explored by Sustainability Board
6/13/22	Sustainability Board	M: Schafer S: Host	Nick Dupuis	On agenda for 6/27/22 - direction for staff to draft requirements to establish board, coming back at next available meeting 10/3/22 Workshop - staff given direction to return with recommendation 1/23/23 - ad hoc board established	Resolved
1/10/22	Leaf Blowers	M: Baller S: Host	Nick Dupuis	1/24/22 - make formal item 10/3/22 Workshop - staff given direction to return with recommendation 4/3 Baller brought up issue again, commission consensus that it is a topic for sustainability board	Item sent to sustainability board

1/10/22	Food Trucks	M: Host S: Schafer	Nick Dupuis/Jana Ecker	1/24/22 - CC req. more info 3/9/22 - Workshop 3/14/22 - Informally brought up by Host 6/20/22 Commission and Planning Board Discussed 6/27/22 - City Manager Directed to encourage food trucks at all city sponsored events, BSD events, and direct the BSD to organize a rotation of food truck events	Staff monitoring
4/25/22	Improvements in Information Provision and Methodology	M: Haig S: Baller	TBD	1/9/23 M: Haig, S: Host To continue discussion -Addressed in Jan 2023 CM report	Resolved
3/13	Community foundation (review former letter from Kucharek)	Baller	CM/Atty	4/3 - See prior advice from Attorney. Commission voted not to pursue.	Resolved
3/28/22	City Manager Selection Process	M: Host S: Boutros	Managers Office & HR	4/25/22 - direct to formal agenda item 5/9/22 - New Business Item 5/23/22 CM report 10/3/22 - motion for CM to conduct formal recruitment 10/25/22 - CM recruitment portfolio posted 1/9/23 - Scheduling Interviews 2/8&2/9 First round interviews 2/15 Meet & Greet March - Final Interviews & Direction from CC, contract negotiation March 13 - Ecker Appointed March 27 - Commission approved Ecker's contract.	Resolved

## Topics Failed

4/25/22	On Street Parking Study	M:Haig S: Host
4/11/22	Downtown Parking	M: Host S: Haig
3/28/22	Parking Matters	M: Host S: Haig
6/13/22	479 SOW (Doraid) PAD	M: Boutros

## Topics With No Vote - Resolved

1/10/22	Unimproved Streets	Discussed during the Long Range Planning meeting.
2/28/22	Solidarity with Ukraine	City Manager arranged for exterior lighting at City Hall.

## Topics With No Vote

5/9/22	-PAD ordinance/cleanup	Baller, no vote	No vote
5/9/22	-Policy for granting public space ODD/Valet	Baller, no vote	No vote

## Department of Public Services

### **Arbor Day Celebration**

Please join us for our annual Arbor Day Celebration this month on Arbor Day, Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM at the Derby Water Tank property, just east of Derby Middle school. We will celebrate our 45<sup>th</sup> year as a Tree City USA and Derby Middle School students will participate in a short program and plant a new tree, a Swamp White Oak, native to Michigan. All are welcome to attend. Parking is available at Derby Middle School for this event only.

### **Spring Tree Purchase and Plant Project**

The DPS is currently requesting proposals from qualified contractors to plant 144 trees along various street right of ways and in parks. We anticipate this project to be awarded in early May.

### **Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update**

We are currently requesting proposals from qualified consultants to prepare an update to the City's five (5) year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The update will include dynamic public engagement as part of this planning process. Bids are due April 27, 2023. The top candidates will be invited to interview and present their proposal to the Parks and Recreation Board at their May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## Engineering Department

### **Construction Update**

The following construction projects are currently underway:

- Westwood, Oak, and Raynale Project
- Parking Lot No. 5 Slope Repair
- Lincoln Hills Golf Course Tee No. 1 Tee-Box and cart Path Improvements
- 2022-2023 Cape Seal Program
- 2022-2023 Trip Hazard Elimination Program
- Water Tower Maintenance and Coating

The following construction projects are tentatively scheduled to start in May:

- Cranbrook Road Non-Motorized Pathway Improvement Program
- 2021 Asphalt Resurfacing Program – Parking Lot No. 5
- Punchlist items for S. Old Woodward Project

Affected property owners will receive information about these projects. For more information regarding these projects, please contact the Engineering Department at 248-530-1840.

### **Water Service Verification Program**

As a reminder, the “In-Home/Business” water service line material needs to be determined as part of this program and included in the City’s reporting for the State of Michigan. Property owners can schedule an inspection by an authorized City Representative at 248-303-2292 or determine the in-home/business material themselves with the steps provided in the property owner letter.

### **Fire Department**

#### **Emergency-Plugs**

The Fire Department recently purchased two (2) Emergency-Plugs. These devices get plugged into any electrical vehicle (EV) charging port to automatically place the vehicle into park rendering the vehicle safer for the occupants and emergency responders.

During an accident, vehicles are often still in drive when first responders arrive on scene. This makes for a dangerous situation for both the occupant, pedestrians, and first responders.



Commissioner Haig had previously shared this one-of-a-kind product with the department after hearing about its use in Europe. The units have been placed on Squad 1 and Engine 2. The department will continue to learn and adapt to new technologies to make sure emergency response is appropriate.

### **Planning Department**

#### **Master Plan 2040**

On March 8, 2023, the Planning Board completed its review of the Birmingham Plan 2040 (“2040 Plan”) and provided a recommendation to the City Commission at a public hearing to adopt and approve in its entirety the Birmingham Plan 2040, inclusive of all maps, plans, charts, and other related matter, figures and the Future Land Use Map. On April 3, 2023, the City Commission moved to set a public hearing date of May 22, 2023 for final review and approval of the 2040 Plan per the requirements of the Michigan Planning Enabling Act. The remaining schedule of review should closely resemble the following:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting Type</b>	<b>Action Needed</b>
May 22, 2023	City Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Present the final Plan and hold a public hearing.</li><li>• When prepared to do so, the City Commission may adopt the Plan by resolution.</li></ul>

All of the documents related to the 2040 Plan remain available on [www.thebirminghamplan.com](http://www.thebirminghamplan.com). You can also watch a recording of past meetings on the City of Birmingham website. As a reminder, you can still submit comments directly to the consultant team through the aforementioned 2040 Plan website, and can submit comments directly to the Planning Division to be placed in the packet for the public hearing at the City Commission.

## **Planning Board**

A tentative Planning Board list of scheduled items is provided below:

1. 34952 Woodward & 690 E. Maple – Community Impact Study & Preliminary Site Plan Review (5/10/23 – Postponed from 4/17/23)
2. 221 Hamilton Row – Greek Islands – Final Site Plan & Design Review (5/10/23)
3. B1 Zoning District Commercial Permitted Uses – Study Session (5/10/23)
4. 380 S. Bates- Community House – Community Impact Study & Preliminary Site Plan Review (5/24/23)

## **Multi-Modal Transportation Board**

The second open house for the S. Eton Road resurfacing project was held on Tuesday, April 18, 2023 from 6pm to 8pm at the DPS conference room. The public reviewed and commented on various concepts being considered for the S. Eton Road resurfacing design. The Multi-Modal Transportation Board will review comments from the public and begin to finalize a recommendation for S. Eton Road at their May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting.

## **Public Arts Board**

The Public Arts Board is beginning to consider concepts for a mural on the N. Old Woodward Parking Deck. The Board is also in the process of planning for a piano in the park and a downtown art walk in the fall.

## **Sustainability**

The Planning Division has provided the newly seated Environmental Sustainability Committee (ESC) with welcome packets and has begun the process of scheduling the first meeting. At the first meeting, the Planning Division will be focusing heavily on setting expectations and defining the role of the ESC, as well as meeting each member to better understand their experience and goals. In the meantime, the Planning Division continues to take opportunities to get connected and stay involved in the robust sustainability community in Michigan. Most recently, the Planning Division attended the MI Healthy Climate Conference, which featured panel discussions and a high-caliber speaker lineup that included Governor Gretchen Whitmer. The Planning Division also took the opportunity to join its peers in the Catalyst Leadership Circle (supported through EGLE's Michigan Green Communities program) at a preconference workshop that focused on the influx of Inflation Reduction Act funding that will be hitting Michigan within the next 2 years.



## **Police Department**

### **Regional Youth Academy**

This year we have decided to collaborate with the Auburn Hills Police Department to help out with a Regional Youth Academy. The City of Rochester and Bloomfield Township Police Departments are also co-sponsoring with a majority of the training being hosted at Bloomfield Township. Residents of our four jurisdictions or students who attend schools in our cities are able to apply if they are ages 14 to 18 years old. There is an application process that includes a very brief background check in order to be accepted into our program. Students will learn about many aspects of law enforcement including police tactics, investigations, criminal law and procedure, basic first aid and CPR certification, firearms safety and scenario based training. The academy will take place from June 26-June 30, 2023 and space is limited. Download the [Regional Youth Academy flyer](#) for more information.

### **Message from Police Chief Scott Grewe: Police Department Efforts to Address Woodward Cruise Activity and Vehicle Noise**

Similar to previous years, we have assigned additional officers to target Woodward cruise traffic. Now that we are entering the warmer months, we have been monitoring the weather to determine the assignment of extra patrols for the weekends as the higher volumes are observed on Friday and Saturday evenings. You may recall, in the fall of 2022, the police department with the assistance of the City Attorney provided a suggested change in state law to our state representatives giving the police an enforcement tool to address the issue of noise from vehicle exhaust. On March 14, 2023, I had a meeting with Emily Collins, the new Chief of Staff for Sen. McMorrow, regarding the status of this request. During this meeting, I asked for the senator's support in attempting to make changes to the state law and provided her with a copy of the previously submitted request. The Chief of Royal Oak and the Chief of Ferndale were also present and supported my request and expressed their desire for legislative action to help address this matter. Additionally, on Monday, February 13, 2023, I met with Sheriff Bouchard and requested additional patrols along the Woodward corridor and elicited the support of his Director of Government Affairs in supporting our request for changes in the State Law. In addition, Capt. Kearney is scheduled to meet with surrounding police agencies; Bloomfield

Twp, Bloomfield Hills, Auburn Hills, Oakland County Sheriff's Office, and Oakland County commissioners on April 19, 2023, regarding reckless driving along the Woodward corridor. We have also applied for grant funding through the Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) to provide additional funding for Woodward enforcement patrols.

We have been planning ahead to address these continued issues within state law. We will continue to monitor the traffic volumes and deploy additional officers to provide strict enforcement of all state and local laws. Just this past weekend—Friday and Saturday alone (4/15 –4/16), officers wrote 67 tickets and arrested an intoxicated driver. The additional Woodward traffic detail officers worked from 5 PM - 11 PM and 12 AM respectively.

## **Parking Systems Update**

### **Equipment:**

Installation of the new TIBA parking equipment is complete! The last location to have the new equipment installed at was completed on March 24<sup>th</sup>.

City staff is now exploring a "scan to pay" option that allows guests to scan a QR code that takes them to a check out screen to pay for their parking. This will give guests another way to pay for parking before getting in line to exit the garage, helping to prevent backups.

### **Construction:**

Repairs are expected to resume at the N. Old Woodard Garage starting in May. Included in the repairs will be continued concrete restoration, repairs to the handrails, painting of ceilings, walls, and stairwell walls, and the installation of LED lights.

The entrance lane, exit lane, and island to the Woodward side of the N. Old Woodward Garage is scheduled to be removed and replaced. The current concrete has deteriorated, causing issues with safety and resulting in significant pot holes. The new island will improve the customer experience significantly along with the installation of an overhead LED to make the alley area much brighter.

The Engineering Department plans to repave all of Parking Lot 5 once the current slope repair project concludes. When all updates are complete, Lot 5 will look and feel like a new lot.

### **Occupancy:**

MARCH AVG CAPACITY	
Chester Garage (880)	60.69%
Old Woodward (745)	46.21%
Park Garage (811)	33.86%
Peabody Garage (437)	86.41%
Pierce Garage (706)	75.90%

### **Future Agenda Items**

Download a summary of [future agenda items](#).

### **Future Workshop Items**

Download a summary of [future workshop items](#).