



CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

March 2023

Baldwin Public Library

Library Board

The Library Board met on March 20, 2023 for its regular meeting and annual budget hearing for the FY 2023-2024 budget. The Board approved an updated Hours of Service policy.

Phase 3 Construction

The Phase 3 expansion and renovation project is progressing on track. PCI Dailey, the construction management firm, is collecting bids for each trade involved in the project. A project walk through was held at the library on March 21 and all bids will be due on March 28. We expect to have the guaranteed maximum price for the project available by mid-April.

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 Thursday, April 13 at 10:00 a.m.

Did you know that Baldwin has a Seed Library?

You can learn more about this service and select seeds to grow at your home by visiting www.baldwinlib.org/seedlibrary. A seed library is a collection of seeds available for lending to the community. Users "borrow" (or take) seeds from the library to grow food and flowers. After harvesting mature seeds, people may "return" (or donate) seeds back to the seed library. Seed libraries facilitate a connection to the Earth and to the past – humans have been saving and sharing seeds for over 10,000 years! – and help to raise awareness about the importance of genetic diversity, regional adaptability, and seed stories. BPL's seed library hopes to aid the conservation of local and heirloom varieties while encouraging patrons to grow their own food, be outside, share with the community, and have fun.

Register for the following upcoming programs and more at baldwinlib.org/calendar.

Read to Seed

Monday, April 10, from 4:30 to 5:30pm

Did you know seeds love being read to? It is true! At this program, participants will plant their own special seed to take home. At home, seeds will need water, sunlight, and reading to help

them grow. Read to your seed every day until it sprouts. Registration required. For students in grades 1 to 3.

College Info Series: Myth-Busting, College Admissions Edition

Wednesday, April 12 at 7:00pm

There is a lot of information in the media about college admissions—some of it is fact, some of it is fiction, and a lot of it is exaggeration. Hear from a college-admissions-counselor-turned-college-counselor about some of the top myths about the college admissions process, as well as tips to be the best applicant you can be. Teens and parents are welcome. You may attend these sessions in-person or on Zoom. Registration required.

Guardians of Michigan

Monday, April 24 at 7:00pm

Historian and photographer Jeff Morrison will present a sixty-minute program with more than 250 spectacular pictures of interesting architectural sculptures found on buildings throughout Michigan, from Ann Arbor to Ontonagon and all points in between, including Birmingham. You will learn about the symbolism behind the sculpture and hear some of the untold stories of the artists, artisans, and architects involved in the creation of these wonderful structures and the unique art that adorns them. Morrison is the author of two books, the multi-award-winning *Guardians of Detroit: Architectural Sculpture in the Motor City* and the just-released 2023 Michigan Notable Book *Guardians of Michigan: Architectural Sculpture of the Pleasant Peninsulas*. There will be time for questions and answers, and both books will be available for sale after the presentation.

The Birmingham Museum

2nd Grade School Resources and Tours

The Birmingham Museum has been invited by school staff to develop updated content to aid 2nd grade teachers in their Birmingham-focused local history curriculum. A special focus will be the diverse community, the changing environment, and family life over the past 200 years in Birmingham. Teacher resources will include primary source material such as historic photos, documents, and objects from the museum's collection.

In addition, the museum has updated its on-site 2nd grade Hunter House tours to enhance and personalize each student's experience. Twenty-seven classrooms and nearly 500 students are expected this spring. Annual school tours were suspended during the pandemic, but will return in May as part of the museum's regular programming.

Birmingham Shopping District (BSD)

Strategic Planning

Preliminary review of the BSD's Strategic Plan has been held by the Board and they will be holding a special meeting on April 4 at 8 a.m. at Hazel's to finalize the plan.

April Board Meeting Rescheduled Due to Holiday Observance

The BSD Board meeting for April has been rescheduled for April 19, 2023, at 8 a.m. due to the observance of Passover.

Spring Stroll

Spring Stroll is planned for April 15, 2023, from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. where families, couples and friends will be encouraged to explore the businesses downtown and shop local while taking advantage of the retail promotions and free giveaways.

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. Children in grades K-8 participated in the Farmers Market Tote Bag design contest. The winning design will be featured on the 2023 reusable tote bags distributed at the market this season.

Restaurant Promotion

The Special Events Committee will be presenting its recommendation to the Board in April for its planned restaurant promotion that will replace Restaurant Week. Also notable, Madam at the Daxton Hotel is HOUR Detroit Magazine's Restaurant of the Year, and Tallulah Wine Bar and Bistro is the Detroit Free Press' Restaurant of the Year.

Bylaws

Draft bylaws for the BSD have been presented to the Board for review, and they will consider it for approval at its April meeting.

2023/24 Holiday Lighting Plan

The Maintenance and Capital Improvement Committee is working with DPS to modify the holiday lighting plan for 2023/24 in order to reduce costs yet still maintain the quality lighting throughout the district. A final determination will be presented to the Board in April.

New Businesses

The much anticipated CB2 opened in February at the corner of Maple and Woodward in a beautifully restored building. We also welcome the following businesses who opened this month:

- RenU Acupuncture Medical
- The Taco Stand Taquerie Restaurant
- Face Foundrie Salon

2023 Dashboard Metrics

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

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

8 New Business Openings in 2023 (5 more in process)

Building Department

Construction Activity

Despite rising material costs and interest rates, construction activity in the City has remained consistent. January and February permits increased 35% over last year and we saw a construction value increase of \$22,652,549.

McKenna Inspector

An additional inspector from McKenna was brought on to help provide consistent oversight for the many commercial projects underway in the City.

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 February, we processed 276 online permit applications for a total of 521 in 2023.

City Clerk's Office

General Election on November 7, 2023

Birmingham will hold a General Election on Tuesday, November 7, 2023. At this time, four Birmingham Commissioner positions for a 4 year term and three Birmingham Library Board positions for a 4 year term will be on this ballot. The petition and candidate filing deadline for the November 7, 2023 General Election is 4:00 p.m. on July 25, 2023. For more information regarding petition and candidate filing please visit www.bhamgov.org/elections.

Election Change Updates

The effects of the State constitutional amendment known as Proposal 22-2, Right to Vote are still being fine-tuned in the State House and State Senate. Legislature will need to be drafted, approved and signed into a bill before the Board of Elections will finalize procedures to implement the changes. There are currently a lot of moving parts but implementation is projected to be in time for the Presidential Primary.

The changes we will see in future elections are as follows:

- State-funded postage for ballot applications and return postage on Ballots. Ballot mailing will continue to be funded by the local municipality.
- Mandatory, approved drop boxes for every 15,000 voters, secured and under video surveillance.
- Military and overseas civilian absentee ballots will be accepted if post dated by Election Day and received within 6 days after the election.
- Permanent ballot registration to allow voters to automatically receive a mailed absentee ballot without having to send in an application for each election.
- Mandatory 9 days of early voting for State and Federal elections, to be set up as a precinct but will service multiple precincts simultaneously. This may be done in conjunction with other municipalities or through the county.

Michigan Association of Municipal Clerk Institute Training

Deputy Clerk Woods completed her second year of the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerk Institute Training during the week of March 13th.

City Clerk Bingham completed her third year and graduated from the Institute during the week of March 20th and will soon receive her Michigan Professional Clerk (MiPMC) certification.

Party & Parade in Shain Park

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, May 21, 2023 Parade at 1:00 p.m. with party to follow in Shain Park

Planning is picking up steam for the 2023 Celebrate Birmingham Hometown Parade on Sunday, May 21st at 1:00 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!

Sponsors are welcome 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 is covered by traditional and social media, giving sponsors a fantastic PR opportunity. Visit www.bhamgov.org/parade for registration forms and sponsorship packages.

Greenwood Cemetery Advisory Board

The Greenwood Cemetery Advisory Board met on Friday, February 3, 2023 and received an update from Cheri Arcome of Creative Collaborations who coordinates cemetery services for the city. The board will continue to discuss strategic planning and cemetery services contract elements at the next Greenwood Cemetery Advisory Board meeting on Friday, April 14, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.

Ethics Board

The Ethics Board met on Monday, March 10, 2023 to continue their work on reviewing the city's current Ethics Ordinance and to hold a hearing for the Ethics Opinion Request regarding Commissioner Brad Host submitted by City Manager Tom Markus. The April date for the next Ethics Board meeting will soon be determined.

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:

Board	Openings	Application Due by Noon	Interview/ Appointment at City Commission meeting 7:30 pm
Ad Hoc Environmental Sustainability Committee	9 Members terms ending 9/27/2024. Preferred qualifications/areas of professional expertise: energy, equity, civil/construction engineering, water quality, environmental engineering/consulting/law, recycling and solid waste.	3/22/23	3/27/23
Advisory Parking Committee	1 resident shopper term ending 9/1/2025 1 large retail member term ending 9/1/2025	3/22/23	3/27/23
Architectural Review Committee	1 regular member term ending 4/11/2026	Until Filled	

	1 regular member term ending 4/11/2025		
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	1 regular member term ending 5/23/25 1 regular member term ending 5/23/24 2 regular members term ending 5/23/2026	4/19/23	4/28/23
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
Martha Baldwin Park Board	1 Regular member term ending 5/1/24	3/22/23	3/27/23
Parks & Rec Board	2 regular members, 1 alternate member terms expiring 3/13/2026	Until Filled	
Planning Board	3 regular members terms ending 3/28/2026	3/22/23	3/27/23
Public Arts Board	1 alternate member term ending 1/28/2026 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 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

Communications

Around Town e-Newsletter

The communications team is working on the April edition of the Around Town e-Newsletter, which will include information about yard waste collection, spring events, pet safety information and more. Follow [this link to view the March edition](#) of the Around Town e-Newsletter.

Reels

The communications team began publishing reels on social media and they have been well received. Video reels published to date have featured the city’s sledding hills, skaters at the Birmingham Ice Sports Arena, our new parking structure equipment, spring drone footage and more. Enjoy our reels on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).



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 Sign up for customized messaging at [bhamgov.org/areas](#)

EMERGENCY ALERTS
 Register for emergency alerts at [www.bham.gov](#) or text 48009 to 888777

VIRTUALLY EXPLORE BIRMINGHAM
 Enjoy our 3D virtual tour at [birmingham.bhamgov.com](#)

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Please forward this newsletter to your family and friends!

IN THIS ISSUE
 LATEST NEWS
 CITY MANAGER SELECTION PROCESS
 GOLF COURSE EARLY SIGN UP BONUS
 SPRING EVENTS



The Birmingham Beat Newsletter

We are pleased to introduce the redesigned Birmingham Beat newsletter! The team worked with a new graphic designer to create a fresh, modern look that is easy to read and aesthetically pleasing. This edition features updates about the city’s new Environmental Sustainability Committee, spring and summer community events, Junior Golf Program, Parks & Recreation bond projects, the Birmingham Museum’s new podcast, construction projects and more. Keep an eye out for it in your mailbox around April 1, 2023.

Webpage for DTE Updates

During the recent snow and ice storms, the communications team created a webpage to provide DTE updates, infographics, videos, safety tips and power outage links all in one place. The page also features a message from City Manager Markus explaining how electric, gas and telecommunications are regulated in our state, and how to engage with the agency empowered to regulate these services. Access the webpage at www.bhamgov.org/poweroutage.

Human Resources

Human Resources Manager Joseph Lambert has resigned to take a new position. Assistant City Manager Melissa Fairbairn will be overseeing HR until a permanent replacement is hired. The new Assistant Director of Engineering is expected to begin in mid-April. The city will be recruiting for two Secretary A positions in the Building Department. Other vacancies with the city include: Fleet Mechanic, Parks and Forestry Operator, Plumbing Inspector, and Streets Sewer Water Operator.

BIRMINGHAM CITY COMMISSION - UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS

Topics brought up by the Commission

Meeting	Topic	Commissioner	Staff Follow Up	Dates Addressed	Status (resolved/ongoing)
In Progress					
3/13	Discussion on policy for sponsoring and administering events	Baller		4/24	In progress
3/13	Community foundation (review former letter from Kucharek)	Baller	CM/Atty	4/24	In progress
2/27	Bench and Little Library for Pat Andrews	Host	DPS & Staff	3/13 - commission to discuss further	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	In progress
12/5/22	Becoming Mayor	McLain	Mary	12/19 - Motion to make a workshop Workshop TBD, possibly May	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 soon	In progress
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	In Progress

				2/8&2/9 First round interviews 2/15 Meet & Greet March - Final Interviews, Direction from CC, contract negotiation	
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
Resolved					
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	Lauren Wood	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 - Recruiting Board Members
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	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

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

Forestry News

Tree City USA

Birmingham earned recognition as a Tree City USA in 2022, making it its 45th year as a Tree City USA! Residents of Birmingham should be proud to live in a place that makes the planting and care of trees a priority! We plan to celebrate our Tree City USA status during our Arbor Day Celebration coming up next month. An announcement is forthcoming.

Tree Inventory Update

Davey Resource Group recently completed the second phase of the Tree Inventory Update, collecting a total of 4,866 sites in the northwest quadrant of the city in addition to some parks and golf courses, bringing the total updated tree count to over 10,000 sites. We are halfway through this update (two of four years complete).

Storm Damage

The month of March has not been kind to our forest, piling ice and heavy snow on top of our canopy causing hundreds of city trees' (and many more private trees) branches, and limbs to fail. During our normal season of brush route pick up (April through October), one brush route crew is able to make it through the city in seven to ten business days, often quicker. With the amount of damage received back to back with ice and heavy snow, we had three brush route crews from our forestry contractor and one from DPS cleaning up, for a total of four crews. Even with the amount of brush crews, the cleanup has taken over a week for each storm event. There were dozens of requests submitted to GovPilot, which proves to be an effective reporting tool for the public and City employees.

Prescribed Burn at Barnum Park

DPS hired David Borneman, LLC, www.restoringnaturewithfire.com, to conduct a prescribed burn at Barnum Park in late March or early April, weather permitting. We added prescribed burning to our natural areas maintenance program in 2017 and it's proven to be successful. Fire was once a regular and frequent component of our landscape in the Midwest. Before development, many of our local ecosystems such as prairies, woodlands, and certain wetlands burned often from lightning strikes. The fire stimulates native plant species to grow more vigorously and discourages others that did not adapt to the heat from fire including many invasive species. Barnum Park is regularly treated and Booth Park and Quarton Lake have been part of this program in the past as well.

Birmingham Little League Agreement:

Birmingham Little League (BLL) wishes to donate dugout covers to Kenning Park, fields #2, and #3 (Palmeri field). We are in the midst of formulating an agreement for BLL to procure, install, and maintain these seasonal fabric dugout covers that will attach to our existing fencing system around the players benches.

mParks Play is Essential Grant

Birmingham was selected for a mParks Play is Essential Grant for the amount of \$2,000. We applied for the grant in order to install accessible equipment at Adams Park including seat backs for the sea-saw and a stationary cyler on the new structure.

Engineering Department

Construction Update

The following construction projects will start in April:

Westwood, Oak, and Raynale Project
Cranbrook Road Non-Motorized Pathway Improvement Program
Parking Lot No. 5 Slope Repair

Sign up to receive project updates at www.bhamgov.org/enews.

The following construction projects are tentatively scheduled to start at the end of April/beginning of May, weather dependent:

2022 Cape Seal Program
Water Tower Maintenance and Coating

Affected property owners will receive information about these projects.

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 is 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.

S. Eton Public Open House – April 18, 2023

The City will host a Public Open House for S. Eton from 14 Mile Road to Yosemite Blvd on Tuesday, April 18, 2023 from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. at Department of Public Service Conference Room – 851 S. Eton Street to receive public feedback on bike lane options.

Fire Department

The Birmingham Fire Department sent Firefighter Ryan Wiseman along with three other OAKWAY firefighters to Menominee County in October to help extinguish a very large commercial fire.

Follow [this link](#) to download a thank you letter and photo of the fire.

Planning Department

Master Plan 2040

During a public hearing on March 8, 2023, the Planning Board completed its review of the Birmingham Plan 2040 ("2040 Plan") and recommended the City Commission 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. At this point, the 2040 Plan will move to the City Commission for final review and approval per the requirements of the Michigan Planning Enabling Act. The remaining schedule of review should closely resemble the following:

Date	Meeting Type	Action Needed
April 3, 2023	City Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Set the public hearing date and provide an additional public comment period.• Provide required public notice as described in the MPEA.
May 22, 2023	City Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Present the final Plan and hold a public hearing.• If prepared to do so, the City Commission may adopt the Plan by resolution.

All of the documents related to the 2040 Plan remain available on 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

Now that the Planning Board has wrapped up its review of the 2040 Plan, it will begin to chip away at its Action List and begin reviewing several major developments that have submitted applications. Due to a holiday issue in April, the regularly scheduled meeting of the Planning Board on April 12th, 2023 was cancelled, and a special meeting was set on April 17th, 2023 to handle the business that was planned on the 12th. A tentative Planning Board list of scheduled items is provided below:

1. 479 S. Old Woodward – Special Land Use, Final Site Plan & Design Review (3/22/23)
2. 34952 Woodward & 690 E. Maple – Community Impact Study & Preliminary Site Plan Review (4/17/23)
3. B1 Zoning District Commercial Permitted Uses – Study Session (4/17/23)
4. 380 S. Bates- Community House – Community Impact Study & Preliminary Site Plan Review (4/26/23)

Multi-Modal Transportation Board

The Multi-Modal Transportation Board (MMTB) is in the process of reviewing design concepts for S. Eton Road resurfacing. An open house was held in January where the public was invited to provide input on proposed concepts. Upon review of possibilities at the meetings in February and March, the Multi-Modal Transportation Board has narrowed down their preferences of concepts. Preliminary concepts under review for S. Eton between Lincoln and Yosemite include either additional pavement on the west side,

or removing on-street parking on the east side in order to improve visibility and accommodate space for bike lanes. Concepts for S. Eton between 14 Mile and Lincoln involve additional pavement to extend the bike lanes and connect them to Royal Oak. A second open house for public review and comment on S. Eton designs will be held on Tuesday April 18, 2023 at the Department of Public Services building from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Comments from the public at the open house will be considered by the MMTB during their May 4, 2023 meeting.

Public Arts Board

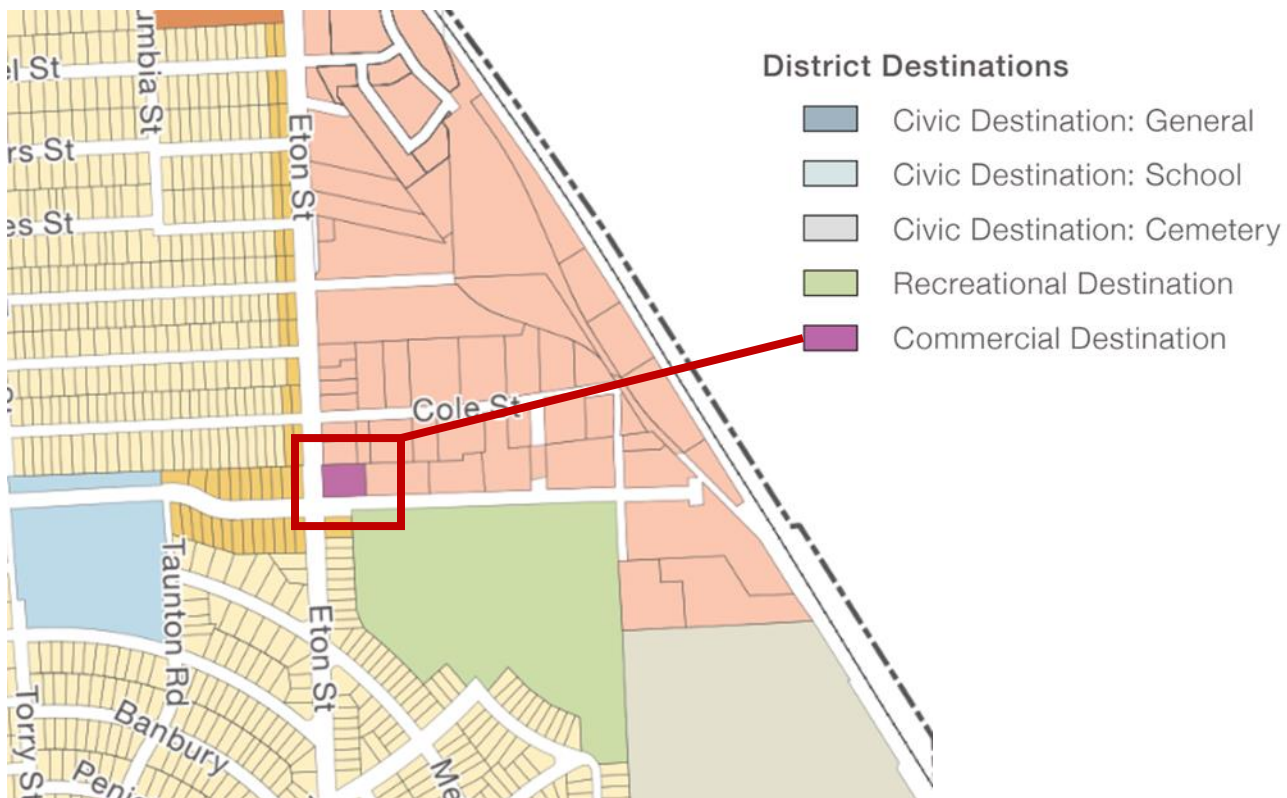
The Public Arts Board (PAB) will begin planning events for the summer and fall. Such events will include piano painting, chalk artists at Day on the Town, and potential involvement with an art walk in the fall. The PAB is also considering a “color to the music” event to occur during an In the Park Summer Concert.

Sustainability

The City has received several applications for the Environmental Sustainability Committee, which have been reviewed by the Planning Division to better understand how the applicants might fit into the defined roles of the ESC once appointed by the City Commission. Meanwhile, the City continues to push sustainability in all aspects of City government, which have culminated into several sustainability wins, with more to come. One major success was the securing of nearly \$450,000 for the conversion of the City’s streetlights to LED bulbs. Special thanks to Leah Blizinski, City Planner for putting together an excellent application in conjunction with Melissa Coatta, City Engineer. The Planning Division is aware of, and will be pursuing many more grant opportunities that are (and will continue to be) available to help fund our sustainability goals.

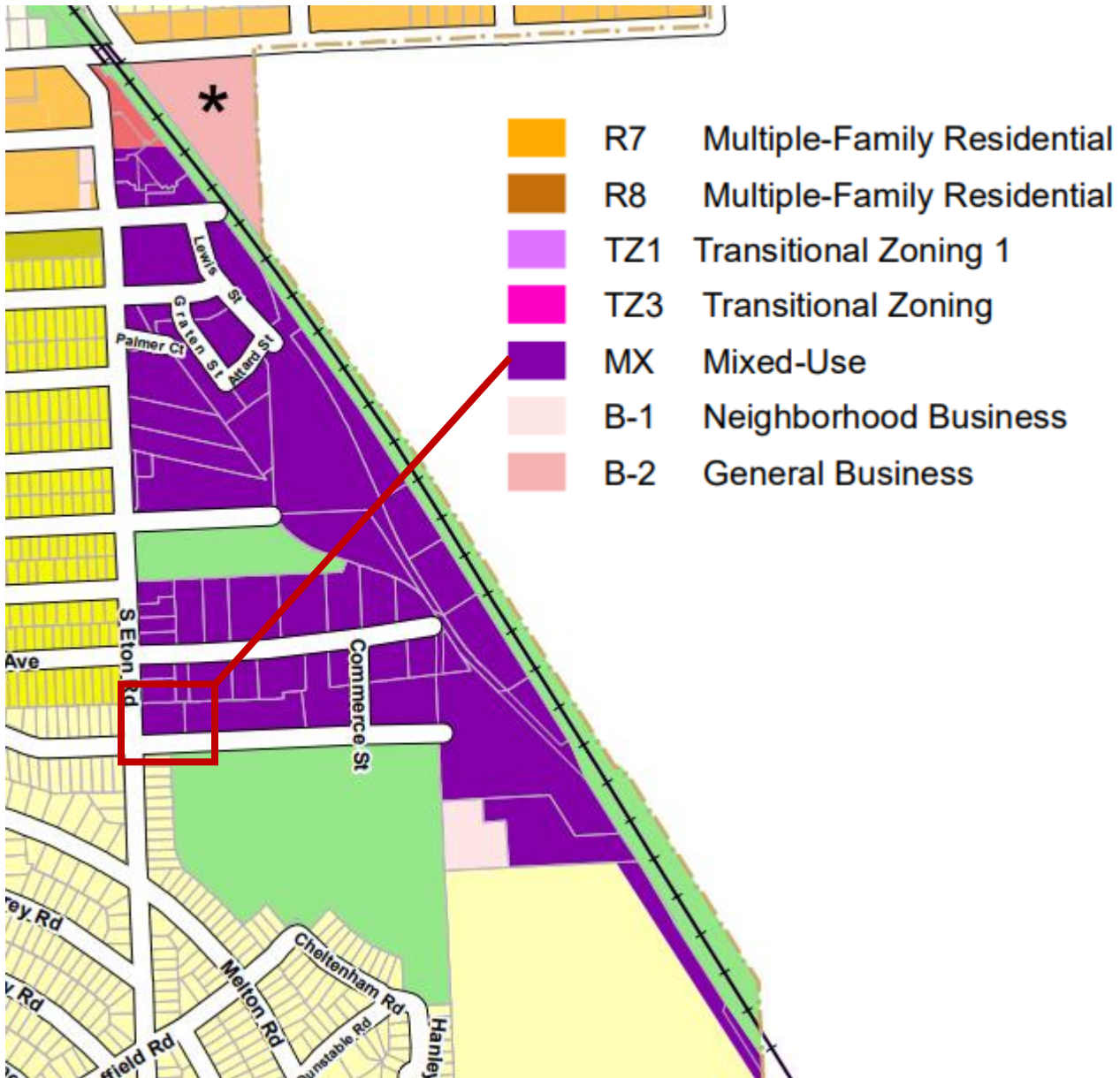
Setting the Record Straight – Lincoln & Eton Commercial Destination

Over the course of the last two Planning Board meetings, the City has received substantial public comment regarding the proposed commercial destination at the northeast corner of Lincoln and Eton in the Birmingham Plan 2040.

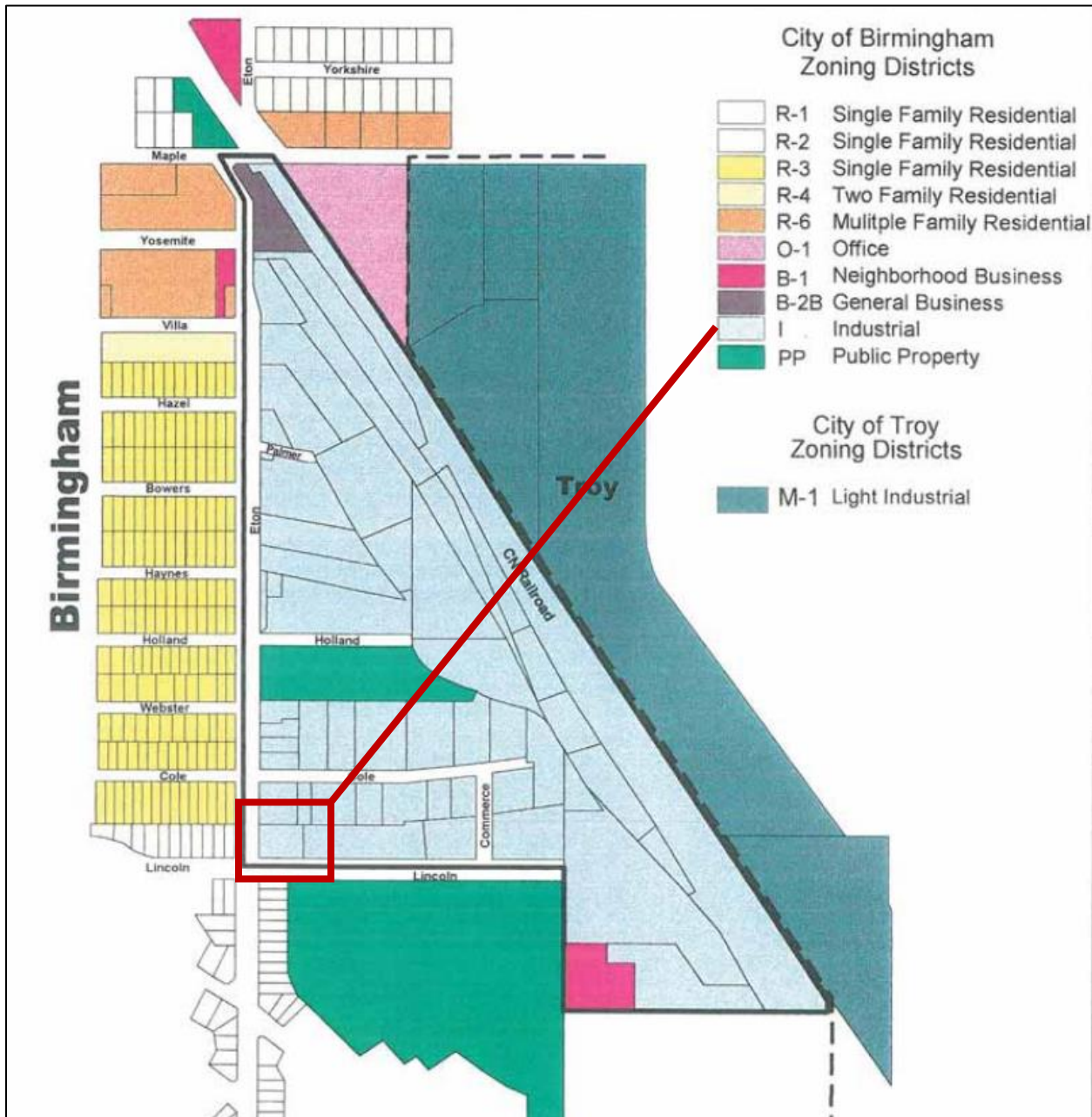


By way of background, the commercial destination proposal is a part of the larger planning districts concept in which several of the recommendations of the 2040 Plan are based upon. In the 2040 Plan, commercial destinations are described as a special category of non-residential uses that serve a local rather than regional customer base due to their size, hours of operation, and the specific category of business, and would be intended for new zoning categories, which limit development and operational parameters necessary to promote compatibility with surroundings.

Although this parcel is without question publicly owned property, the history of zoning on the site has been consistently aligned with the greater district, which has resulted in the zoning conditions that are applicable today. When the official zoning map received comprehensive updates in 2001, the parcel in question was zoned MX (Mixed-Use), and remains zoned MX to this day:



It is worth noting that this is not the first time that this parcel was zoned consistently with the greater area. Prior to the zoning map updates in 2001, the Rail District area was zoned as industrial, including the subject parcel despite it being publicly owned.



Based on the history of the zoning on this parcel, a conclusion can be drawn that the proposed commercial destination concept in the 2040 Plan does NOT contemplate a future zoning for this site that is substantially different than exists today. It also remains that a master plan does not rezone property, but rather informs future zoning.

Finally, as it relates to the current status of the subject property, City Staff is currently undergoing extensive research in an attempt to discover if it was ever formally designated as a park, or part of a park, by the City Commission. As has come up in recent conversations about the property adjacent to the Fire Station and Market Square, a formally designated park and the functions thereof are very different from non-park public open space. Any future findings relating to the status of this property will be reported to the City Commission at a future date.

Police Department

Police Department Annual Training

During the month of April, all officers will be attending two days of mandatory training. Every year officers are scheduled to attend these department training days where a variety of topics are taught. This year officers will be receiving training updates in First Aid, CPR and the use of Narcan. Additionally, officers will be trained in the use of Automated External Defibrillators (AED) which the Police Department recently purchased to be placed in patrol cars, as officers are often the first to arrive on medical calls for service.

Also, due to recent incidents involving railroads, training with CN Rail was scheduled. The training provides first responders with critical information allowing them to effectively respond to and safely investigate incidents involving the railroad.

Lastly, officers will participate in scenario-based training. This type of reality-based training is to help officers hone their skills and develop better judgment when faced with real-world situations. It requires officers to problem-solve and respond quickly under pressure, testing their response and decision-making skills in pressure situations. It also provides trainers with the opportunity to provide a more accurate assessment of what future training may be needed to enhance officer performance and protect the department from liability.

Police Department Annual Report

The Birmingham Police Department annually publishes a report detailing departmental activities and statistics. Download the [Birmingham Police Department's 2022 Annual Report here](#).

Parking Systems Update

Equipment

Installation of the new TIBA parking equipment is almost complete. The new equipment has been installed at the Chester St. Garage, Pierce Garage, Peabody Garage, and Park Garage. The N. Old Woodward Garage is the only remaining garage and it will be completed by the start of April.

Once the new TIBA equipment is installed, City staff is looking to implement 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.

Occupancy

FEBRUARY AVG CAPACITY	
Chester Garage (880)	54.80%
Old Woodward (745)	62.02%
Park Garage (811)	57.46%
Peabody Garage (437)	58.05%
Pierce Garage (706)	62.71%

Future Agenda Items

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

Future Workshop Items

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