



CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

December 2022

Baldwin Public Library

Library Board

The Library Board will meet on December 19 for its regular meeting. At their November meeting, the Library Board voted to elect Jennifer Wheeler as President, Karen Rock as Vice President, and Danielle Rumble as Secretary.

Phase 3 Expansion and Renovation

Construction drawings for the Phase 3 expansion and renovation are nearing completion. City and library staff are working with PCI Dailey and Merritt Cieslak Design to begin planning the bidding process for the Phase 3 project.

Winter Reading Challenge

Baldwin is currently hosting a Winter Reading Challenge from December 1 through January 31. Sign up online at <https://baldwinlib.beanstack.org/reader365> to get started. After you complete five challenges, you will be entered into the prize raffle. This program has been generously sponsored by the Friends of the Baldwin Public Library.

Behind the Scenes 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, January 12 at 10:00 a.m.

Library Closed

The Library will be closed on Saturday, December 24, Sunday, December 25, Sunday, January 1, and Monday, January 16.

Baldwin Public Library Board Seeks Student Representatives

The Board of the Baldwin Public Library invites interested high school juniors who reside in the City of Birmingham, Village of Beverly Hills, Village of Bingham Farms, or the City of Bloomfield Hills to apply for the position of Student Representative to the Baldwin Public Library Board. To find application details, visit www.baldwinlib.org/volunteer. The completed application, essay, and two letters of recommendation are due by January 12, 2023 to Jaclyn Miller at the Baldwin Public Library, 300 West Merrill, Birmingham, MI 48009 or via email to Jaclyn.Miller@baldwinlib.org.

The Birmingham Museum

Elijah Fish and George Taylor's connections to our local Underground Railroad history has been officially entered into the Congressional Record by Representative Haley Stevens. The record details their stories and acknowledges the importance of the Birmingham Museum and the City of Birmingham in achieving the designation of Fish's and Taylor's burial sites at Greenwood Cemetery to the National Park Service's Network to Freedom. It also recognizes the important role played by the settlement of Birmingham in the anti-slavery movement in Michigan in the 19th century. This tribute will become part of the national record and will provide a permanent recognition of Birmingham's role in this important American story. A framed copy of the statement will be presented to the museum and will be displayed in the lobby.

Birmingham Shopping District (BSD)

Small Business Saturday

On Saturday, November 26, 2022, the BSD kicked off the holiday shopping season with special promotions, hot chocolate, roasted chestnuts and special giveaways all day. Shoppers and families once again participated in the annual Santa Walk with over 200 children participating, as well as enjoying horse-drawn carriage rides and free parking in the structures all day.

Winter Markt & Other Holiday Festivities

The Birmingham Winter Markt was held in Shain Park again this year from December 2 – 4, 2022 with Santa and Mrs. Claus being provided the key to the city and the annual Holiday Tree Lighting adorned with over 40,000 LED lights kicking it off. Visits with Santa were available each day during the Winter Markt, as well as horse drawn carriage rides, over 4,000 marshmallows being roasted and entertainment throughout the day from local students and organizations. Over 60 vendors participated featuring holiday decorations, gifts, food and a variety of local artisan products. A special thank you goes out to our Tree Lighting sponsor Wells Fargo, Winter Markt presenting sponsor Mercedes-Benz of Bloomfield Hills, event sponsors Surnow Company and TDR Orthodontics, and over 2,000 tree lighting glow wands were provided by KW Domain.

Holiday Shopping Weekend Activities & Promotions

On the weekends of December 10-11, December 17-18, and on Christmas Eve day, the Birmingham Shopping District continues the holiday spirit with horse-drawn carriage rides, pre-registered Santa House visits and complimentary hot cocoa at the Daxton Hotel, as well as the Grinch and Cindy Lou Who visiting downtown Birmingham on the 17th.

Live in the D

Downtown Birmingham was featured on Live in the D on Channel 4 (WDIV) on Wednesday, December 14 at 11:00 a.m. Residents and visitors can also browse our Holiday Gift Guide online at <https://www.allinbirmingham.com/visitors/shoppingguide> or pick one up in stores.

The Great Decorate

The Great Decorate (TGD) is on until December 31, with over 40 participating businesses decorating uniquely designed Christmas trees in their windows and stores - all for a good cause. TGD raises awareness and funds to support local foster teens. Each year, a group of foster teen recipients are selected for TGD through a partnership with the Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange. Visitors are encouraged to visit participating restaurants and retailers throughout downtown Birmingham to view magnificently decorated holiday trees and decor, and vote for their favorite by donating online at www.thegreatdecorate.com or in-store.

100% of donations go directly to local foster teens to use toward their future when they turn 18. Each year in the United States, more than 250,000 children are placed in foster care and over 26,500 age-out, including 1,700 in Michigan alone. TGD aims to make that transition a little easier for teens in need. To date, TGD has raised more than \$150,000 for local foster teens.

New Businesses

The BSD is pleased to announce that three new businesses opened this past month, including Serena & Lily (home furnishings), Faherty (apparel) and O2PT (health).

Dashboard Metrics

Retail Occupancy Rate - 96%

12 New Business Openings in 2022 (6 more in process)

59 FYE2022 Hosted Event Days

13 million in PR media impressions FYE2022

120,392 Website "hits" or "unique viewers" annually

214 Flower planters/baskets maintained

Building Department

Staff Recognition

Jeff Zielke and Suzanne Pedigo just earned certifications from the International Code Council. Jeff earned his Residential Plans Reviewer certificate and Suzanne earned the Permit Technician certificate. Both tests require a lot of time and preparation, so please join us in congratulating them!

Welcome, Kourtney Blanchard

We are happy to welcome Kourtney Blanchard to the Community Development team! She previously worked as a public safety emergency dispatcher for the City of Berkley and has been hired into the Secretary A position.

Insurance Services Office Evaluation Complete

The Building Department successfully completed its Insurance Services Office (ISO) evaluation. We expect to receive the results in approximately 3 months.

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 November, we processed 313 online permit applications for a total of 4,488 in 2022.

City Clerk's Office

Annual Licenses

Birmingham has many different annual licenses which are issued through the Clerk's office. Renewal notices and applications for fire prevention, pawn shops, child care, theaters, open parking systems, motor vehicle rentals, and hotels have been sent to businesses and are coming in. We are working with departments to ensure that any approvals and inspections needed are completed in order to renew these licenses.

Parade & Hometown Celebration

The Clerk's Office is gearing up to present the Celebrate Hometown Parade on Sunday, May 21, 2023. After department and City Commission approvals for the special event have been granted, we will be acquiring and organizing volunteers, getting donations and identifying groups to participate in the parade. Along with the parade, we will be organizing the Government Day Celebration.

Ethics Board

The Ethics Board last met on November 21, 2022 to collaborate with the Executive Director of Ethics for the City of Detroit on a proposed ethics conference for the spring of 2023 in Downtown Detroit.

The board also started to work through a review of the city's current Ethics Ordinance and a review of their rules of procedure. The board plans on continuing this work in January; meeting date to be determined.

Cemetery Board

The Greenwood Cemetery Advisory Board met on December 2, 2022. The board voted to approve the Historical Marker Application for the Taylor Monument. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 3, 2023 at 8:30 am in City Hall and will include discussions of strategic planning and the review of the contract for cemetery services.

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
Advisory Parking Committee	1 Resident shopper term ending 9/1/2025	Until Filled	
Architectural Review Committee	None		
Birmingham Shopping District	1 Regular Member term ending 11/16/2026	Until Filled	
Birmingham Area Cable Board	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	Until Filled	
Board of Review	1 Alternate Member term ending 12/31/2025	Until Filled	
Board of Zoning Appeals	1 alternate member term ending 2/18/2023		

Brownfield Redevelopment Authority	1 regular member Term ending 5/23/2024	Until filled	
Design Review Board	None		
Ethics Board	None		
Greenwood Cemetery Advisory Board	None		
Hearing Officer	None		
Historic District Commission	1 alternate member term ending 9/25/25	Until Filled	
Historic District Study Committee	None		
Housing Board of Appeals	None		
Martha Baldwin Park Board	None		
Multi Modal Transportation Board	None		
Museum Board	None		
Parks & Rec Board	None		
Planning Board	None		
Public Arts Board	2 Regular Members term ending 1/28/2026, 1 alternate member term ending 1/28/2026, 1 alternate member 1/28/2025	1/19/23	1/24/23
Stormwater Utility Appeals Board	2 alternate members 1/31/2025 1 regular member term ending 1/31/2023	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 January edition of the Around Town e-Newsletter, which will include information about new parking structure equipment, the Citywide Master Plan for 2040, winter sports, ice skating classes and more. Follow [this link to view the December edition](#) of the Around Town e-Newsletter.



2023 City of Birmingham Calendar

The 2023 City of Birmingham calendars are currently being mailed to residents and businesses. The calendar features beautiful images of the city from our photographer, Chris Cook, and the cover image is by our Parks and Forestry Operator, Brandon Wynn. Download the [2023 city calendar here](#).

Human Resources

Recruitment Update

The Human Resources department is evaluating candidates following the completion of interviews for the vacancy of Director of Public Services. We are anticipating a selection to be made in the next few days, and will make an announcement to the Commission, once a new Director has been chosen. Two Police Officers are in the hiring process, which will backfill vacancies left by the resignation of Officer Aguilar, and Chief Clemence's retirement. Sharee Monroe has been hired as a new part-time Police Dispatcher. Marc Schwartz is being hired into the Fire Department as a new Firefighter. A recruitment for Secretary A in the Community Development's Building department has been opened to backfill a vacancy caused by Brigette Moran's retirement. Applications for the Plumbing Inspector position continue to be collected.

City Manager Recruitment

The City Manager recruitment has closed, securing six candidates that meet the desired qualifications and will be provided to the Commission in a separate confidential message. It is the recommendation of Human Resources that first-round interviews be conducted in-house, with a list of 3-4 candidates narrowed down for a public Meet & Greet with the City Commission.

Department	FT & PT Staff Count	Current Vacancies/Hiring	Department Vacancies Filled Since 2020	Notes
Birmingham Shopping District	5	Events & Office Assistant	8	Recruitment for Events Asst on temporary hold
Clerk's Office	5	-	6	Clerk's Intern candidate contacted
Building	17	Plumbing Inspector Secretary A	3	Accepting applications.
Engineering	8	-	7	
Finance / Treasury	14		8	
Fire	35	-	12	M. Schwartz pending hire
Information Technology	4	-	3	
Maintenance	2	-	1	
Manager's Office / Communications / HR	6	-	6	
Museum	3	-	2	
Parking System	9		2	
Planning	7	-	4	New Admin Role Upcoming
Police	71		13	Recruitment for PT & FT Dispatcher ongoing
Public Services	56	DPS Director & Forestry Technician	14	
Ice Arena & Golf Courses	N/A	Seasonal Labor	48	

Congratulations to City Clerk, Alex Bingham

City Clerk Alex Bingham will graduate from Central Michigan University with her Master of Public Administration on Saturday, December 17, 2022. Please join us in congratulating her on this achievement.

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					
12/5/22	Lighting to sustainability board	Haig			
12/5/22	Becoming Mayor	McLain			
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	In progress
9/12/22	Banner	M: Baller S: Host	TBD	11/14 CC discussion scheduled	
8/15/22	Birmingham Country Club	M: Host S: Haig	Fairbairn, Dupuis, Clerk's Office	8/29 – City Commission Discussion *Draft a letter	Resolved, letter sent
8/15/22	Speed Bumps	M: Haig S: Host	Clemence/Brooks	8/29 - Staff report *Further study by MMTB	In progress, sent to MMTB
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	In progress
4/25/22	Improvements in Information Provision and Methodology	M: Haig S: Baller	TBD	TBD	

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	CM Recruitment Portfolio posted 10/25/22
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	6/27/22 In progress/ being monitored
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	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	Will be revised and presented again at an upcoming CC meeting
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	Resolved

				info in city publications	
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

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 - Unresolved

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

Birmingham Public Schools Community Resource Officer

Follow [this link to download correspondence](#) between the City of Birmingham and Birmingham Public Schools regarding the school liaison officer and the potential for a full time school resource officer in the 2023-2024 budget year. Download [Birmingham Public Schools' 2022-2027 Strategic Plan here](#).

George W. Kuhn Retention Treatment Basin

The city received an email from Water Resources Commissioner, Jim Nash, regarding accusations made against the George W. Kuhn (GWK) Retention Treatment Basin. Mr. Nash's email ([available at this link](#))

provides information regarding the accusations, which pertain to pollution in Lake St. Clair and the Clinton River. Correspondence between Mr. Nash and Macomb County Public Works Commissioner, Candice Miller, and documentation countering the accusations are [available at this link](#).

Setting the Record Straight

2040 Master Plan does not Rezone Property

The previous City Manager's Report dated November 28, 2022 addressed inaccurate information being presented on social media to Birmingham's residents by a sitting City Commissioner. Specifically, two videos posted by Commissioner Host were discussed, [one on Oakland Ave.](#) in which he stated "these five homes as well as the two lots over near Woodward are going to be *rezoned* to multiple", and the other in the [Poppleton Neighborhood](#) in which he stated "in the proposed 2040 Plan they are going to *rezone* these two houses on Poppleton and turn them into multiples" and that "you have time to tell the master planners and Planning Board what you think about this *rezoning* proposal." These inaccuracies were raised and discussed at the City Commission meeting on November 28, 2022.

The City has repeatedly corrected the inaccuracies put forth by Commissioner Host in prior written documents as well. Specifically, the City has reiterated, in writing, the fact that comprehensive master plans do **not** rezone property once adopted in the following documents:

- In a press release distributed [February 11, 2021](#), which stated "it is important to clarify that a master plan does not rezone property. It is a framework setting the course for what the City may or may not do in the future."
- In a Frequently Asked Questions publication distributed on both [February 10, 2021](#) and [October 13, 2021](#), which included the following commentary:

Is the Master Plan rezoning the City?

No. The Master Plan will include a Future Land Use map, but not a new zoning map. The Master Plan recommends that the City study and revise its current zoning code, but does not establish any updated zoning. The Master Plan recommends that zoning be updated for two primary purposes: 1) to simplify but not substantively change zoning in the Downtown and Triangle District, and 2) to better align neighborhood zoning with existing character to avoid new houses that are out of character. Other zoning changes are recommended for further study by the City.

- In the November 28, 2022 edition of the City Manager's Report which stated:

The words "rezone" or "rezoning" do not exist within the 2040 Plan document, nor the [Michigan Planning Enabling Act](#) that regulates comprehensive master planning in Michigan. A comprehensive master plan is a document designed to guide the future actions of a community. It presents a vision for the future, with long-range goals and objectives for all activities that affect the local government. One might say however, and correctly so, that a comprehensive master plan *informs* future zoning. In the spirit of guiding future actions and informing zoning, a Future Land Use Map is created, which is contained across pages 8 and 9 of the [current draft of the 2040 Plan](#). A Future Land Use Plan is

legally required to be included in the 2040 Plan by the Michigan Planning Enabling Act.

Despite the continued corrections issued on the matter, yet another video has been circulating on social media in which Commissioner Host stands near the corner of Lincoln and Grant, and states that “The 2040 Plan as proposed is going to *rezone* to *multiples (sic)* all of the south side of Lincoln between here (*Grant Street*) and Woodward”. Once again, there is a need to reiterate that comprehensive master plans do **not** rezone property once adopted.

As discussed last month in both the City Manager’s Report and at the City Commission meeting on November 28, 2022, it is very important that City staff, board members and City Commissioners are factually accurate when discussing important issues with the public. The continued assertion by Commissioner Host that the Draft 2040 Plan will rezone single-family properties to multi-family zoning, despite repeated attempts by City staff to set the record straight as to the fact that master plans **do not** in fact rezone properties once adopted disregards the facts and staff’s attempts to advise him of his inaccuracies. Such communication undermines the confidence of the public in city government, and adversely affects the integrity of city government. Public office is a public trust. For government to operate properly, each city official, employee, or advisor must earn and honor the public trust through integrity and conduct.

2040 Master Plan does not Propose Food and Beverage Services at Quarton Lake Park or the W. Lincoln Well Site

It is also important to set the record straight due to another video that has been circulating on social media in which Commissioner Host states that the 2040 Plan “proposes kiosks, cafes, food trucks, commercial endeavors here”, referencing the waterfall at the south end of Quarton Lake at the dam.

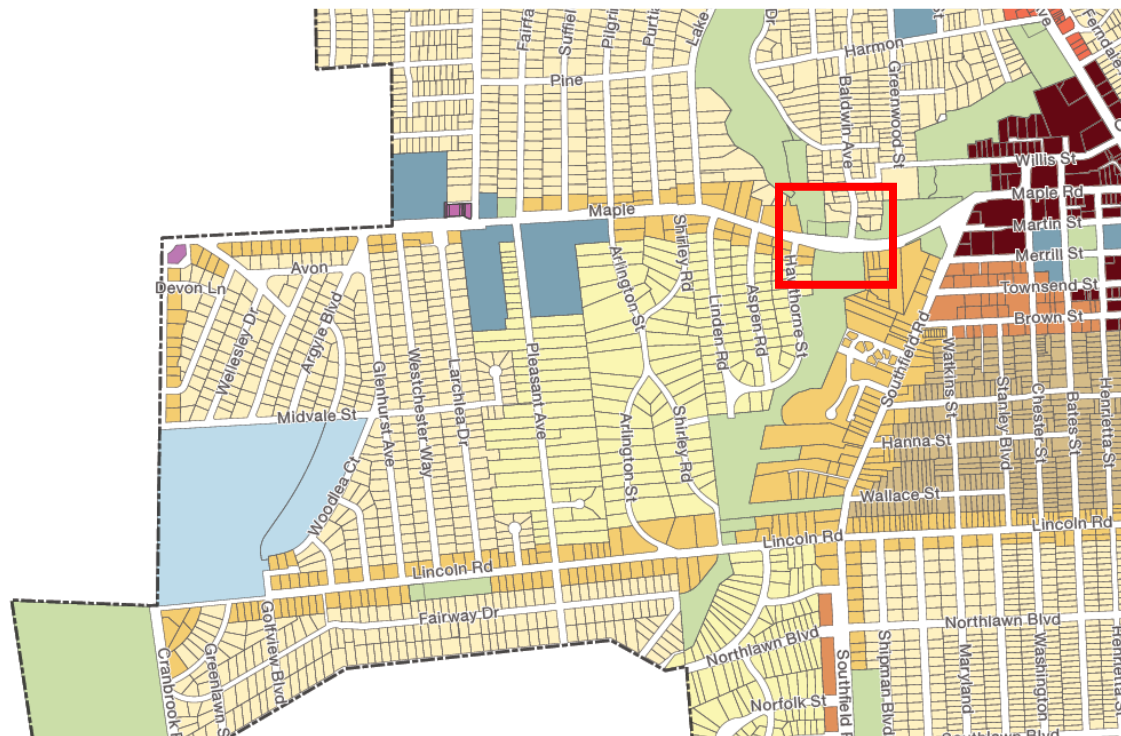
This area is part of Quarton Lake Park, and the draft 2040 Plan clearly refutes Commissioner Host’s inaccurate statement. Chapter 3, Retain Neighborhood Quality, of the draft 2040 Plan clearly contains a chart on page 53 (Figure 34) with all parks listed, and specifically excludes the provision of food and beverage services at Quarton Lake Park (see highlighted chart below).

	Athletics	Food & Bev.	Garden	Dogs	Exercise	Play	Splash	Seating	Walkways
Specialty Parks									
18. Booth		X		X	X	X	X	X	X
19. Rouge River								X	X
20. Shain		X				X	X	X	X
21. Quarton Lake			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
22. Museum								X	X
23. Manor					X	X		X	X
24. Springdale	X			X	X	X		X	X
25. Lincoln Hills	X			X	X			X	X
26. Worth Park		X						X	
26. Haynes Sq.		X			X	X	X	X	X

Figure 34. Recommended Park Amenities for Consideration in a Parks and Recreation Plan Update.

In addition, the Future Land Use Map contained in the draft 2040 Plan also clearly refutes Commissioner Host’s statement. Section B, Future Land Use, of the draft 2040 Plan clearly contains the Future Land

Use Map on page 8 (Figure 5), which does NOT recommend a commercial destination at the south end of Quarton Lake Park (location highlighted in red).



District Destinations

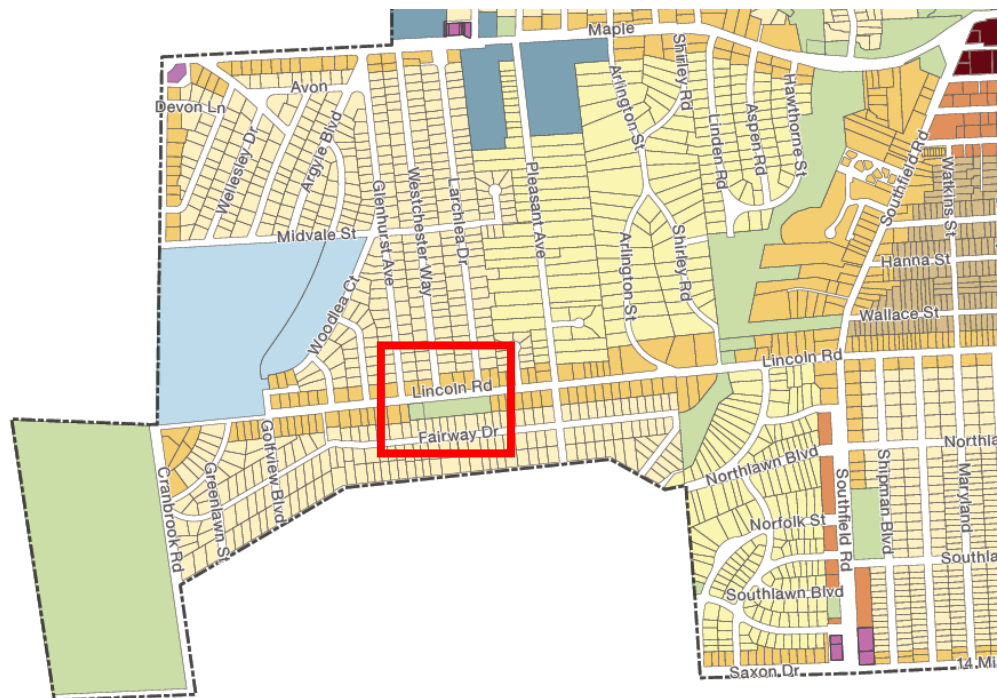
- Civic Destination: General
- Civic Destination: School
- Civic Destination: Cemetery
- Recreational Destination
- Commercial Destination

Yet another video was circulated on social media on December 14, 2022 in which Commissioner Host appears at the W. Lincoln Well Site on Lincoln between Larchlea and S. Glenhurst, and states that the 2040 master plan shows that “they want to put in kiosks, cafes, food trucks or carts...this is subject to interpretation. Does that mean a Starbucks?” at the W. Lincoln Well Site.

Once again, it is important to set the record straight. The area referenced by Commissioner Host is formally named W. Lincoln Well Site, and is also known as Lincoln Park. The draft 2040 Plan clearly refutes Commissioner Host’s inaccurate statement. Chapter 3, Retain Neighborhood Quality, of the draft 2040 Plan clearly contains a chart on page 53 (Figure 34) with all parks listed, and specifically excludes the provision of food and beverage services at W. Lincoln Well Site (see highlighted chart below).

	Athletics	Food & Bev.	Garden	Dogs	Exercise	Play	Splash	Seating	Walkways
Mini Parks									
1. Baldwin Well								X	
2. Derby Well			X	X	X	X		X	X
3. Pump House					X			X	X
4. Redding Well			X		X			X	X
5. Lynn Smith			X		X			X	X
6. Martha Baldwin					X			X	X
7. South Well			X					X	X
Neighborhood Parks									
8. Crestview	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
9. Howarth	X		X	X	X	X		X	X
10. Linden	X		X	X	X	X		X	X
11. Pembroke	X		X	X	X	X		X	X
12. St. James	X		X	X	X	X		X	X
13. W. Lincoln Well Site	X		X	X	X	X		X	X
14. Adams Park	X				X	X		X	X
A. Adams Square	X			X	X	X		X	X
B. Quarton School	X			X	X	X		X	X

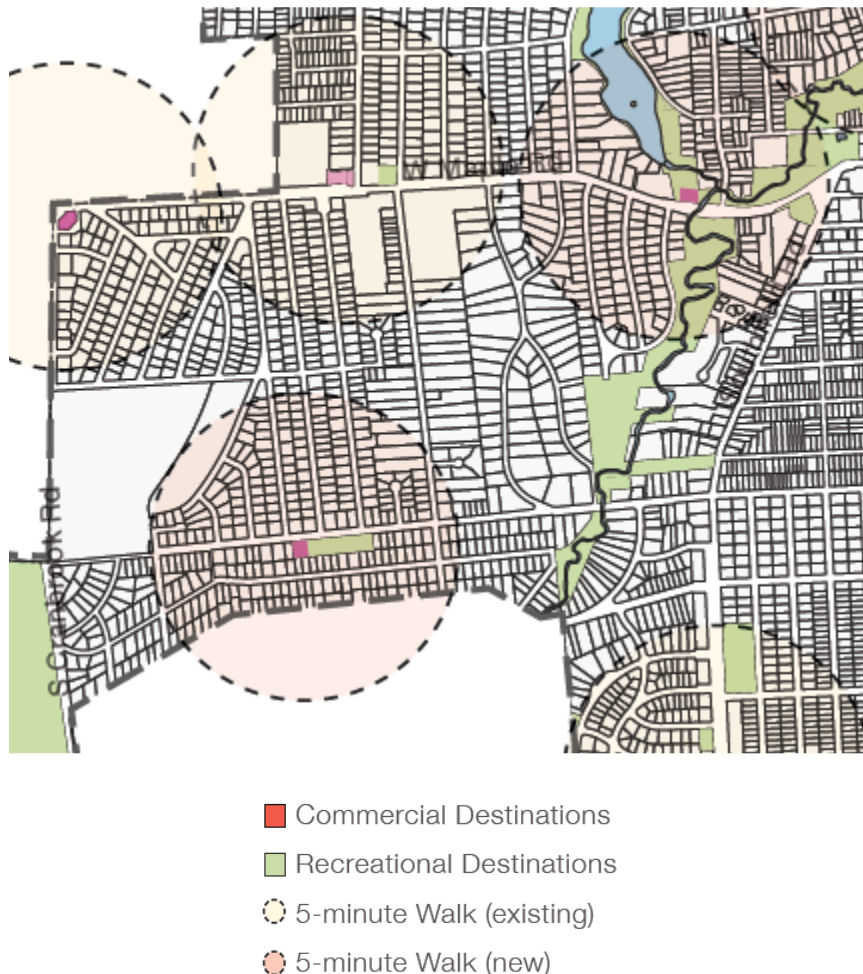
In addition, the Future Land Use Map contained in the draft 2040 Plan also clearly refutes Commissioner Host's statement. Section B, Future Land Use, of the draft 2040 Plan clearly contains the Future Land Use Map on page 8 (Figure 5), which does NOT recommend a commercial destination at the W. Lincoln Well Site (location highlighted in red).



District Destinations

- Civic Destination: General
- Civic Destination: School
- Civic Destination: Cemetery
- Recreational Destination
- Commercial Destination

The confusion about “commercial endeavors” being proposed in Quarton Lake Park, or a coffee shop at the W. Lincoln Well Site may have arisen as a result of Figure 22 in Chapter 1, Connecting the City, on page 36 of the draft 2040 Plan. Figure 22 shows recommended neighborhood commercial destinations at the south end of Quarton Lake Park, and at the west end of the W. Lincoln Well Site.



However, during Planning Board review of the draft plan, direction was provided to the consultant at a public meeting to remove the Quarton Lake Park and the W. Lincoln Well Site neighborhood commercial destinations based on public input. These updates were made to Figure 34 (Parks Chart) and to Figure 5 (Future Land Use Map) but updates were not made, and should have been, to Figure 22 (Neighborhood Destinations). However, Planning Director Dupuis clearly stated at the November 28, 2022 City Commission meeting that the consultant will ensure these corrections would be made in the final draft of the 2040 Plan.

During the past week, yet another video was posted on social media by Commissioner Host regarding the Poppleton neighborhood, wherein Commissioner Host states that “the 2040 master plan asks us to embrace managed growth and encourages these 2 lots to be townhouses, duplexes or multi-family buildings”. The change in terminology utilized in this video seems to demonstrate that perhaps

Commissioner Host may be attempting to self-correct his previous misstatements as to rezoning in earlier videos.

As noted above, it is very important that City staff, board members and City Commissioners are factually accurate when discussing important issues with the public, and thus City Commissioners and board members should contact City staff to verify the accuracy of all public communications.

The City goes to great lengths to accurately describe the purpose of our public meetings. Having elected officials encouraging public attendance is fine. Misrepresenting what the purpose of a hearing is or the topics that are to be discussed is inappropriate and only causes conflict and needless emotional distress. As I have stated before, "Let the process work". The City Commission has appointed citizens to the Planning Board to review the master plan drafts and the board members have shown their willingness to be completely transparent and open to considering public comments which may differ from what the draft master plan calls for. The professional staff and consultants are paid to provide their professional advice, however, they recognize that their recommendations must stand the test of the public process, and are likely to be questioned, challenged and altered through the very public and transparent review process. What the public does not need is a public official misstating the proposals contained within the draft 2040 Plan or encouraging a public position for or against the various recommendations contained in the evolving drafts of the proposed master plan.

I would also say that prematurely taking positions or advocating positions on the various aspects of the draft 2040 Plan is contrary to following an open public process, especially when it comes to a City Commissioner who ultimately is one of seven persons who are held responsible for the final decision on the plan. As those of you who have gone through the new City Commissioner orientation process know, I encourage our elected officials to keep an open mind about the decisions they make right up to the time they are called upon to vote.

Finally, I repeat, "Let the process work". Our community is filled with intelligent, thoughtful and well-informed people who are not likely to sit in a pot of boiling water without making their discomfort and views known. Our process works quite well and in my opinion, does not benefit from misinformation or fear mongering.

Boiling Frog Metaphor

At the November 28, 2022 City Commission meeting, a Commissioner asserted that frogs will remain in a pot of water that is slowly brought to a boil. Although the boiling frog metaphor is commonly used in political discourse, herpetologists have found that frogs will, in fact, attempt to escape a pot as its water temperature is raised. For more information, read this brief [article](#) by [Dr. Whit Gibbons](#), Professor Emeritus of Ecology at the University of Georgia.

Department of Public Services

Pat Andrews Tribute

The table below describes the donations received to date in honor of Pat Andrews.

Pat Andrews Tribute	Amount Received	Date Received
Name of Donor		
Debicki, Sandra	\$225.00	12/16/2021
Host, Bradley	\$500.00	11/17/2021
Karhohs, Jo	\$100.00	11/17/2021

Wagoner, Richard	\$250.00	11/17/2021
Total	\$1,075.00	

Some examples of recognition opportunities through the City of Birmingham include a tree with a plaque for approximately \$800 or a park bench for \$2,500.

A concept plan for the Fire Station #2 property was donated by local architect, Chris Longe. While DPS does not have a formal cost estimate for this plan, it is anticipated this plan could range between \$200,000 to \$350,000, depending on selection of materials. This project was not included in the budget or as part of the Parks and Recreation Bond. Fire Station #2 is public property designated for public safety, it is not a park. The Parks and Recreation Board reviewed the concept plan, provided comments but took no action.

The Parks and Recreation Board has a priority list of numerous other improvement projects to accomplish as part of the Parks and Recreation Bond funding.

Engineering Department

Water Service Verification Program

Verification of existing water service material as part of the Lead and Copper Rule work is continuing through the middle of December.

As a reminder, the "In-Home/Business" water service line material needs to be determined as part of this program. 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.

2023 Construction Projects

The Engineering Department is working on upcoming construction projects that will occur in 2023. Below is a preliminary list of projects in 2023:

- Continue work on 2022 Sidewalk Trip Elimination Services
- Continue work on 2022 Sidewalk Repair Program
- Water Lead Service Replacement Program
- Water Service Verification Program
- 2023 Sidewalk Trip Elimination Services
- 2023 Sidewalk Repair Program
- Hunter and Derby Water Tanks Exterior Paint and Miscellaneous Repairs
- 2022-2023 Cape Seal Program
- Parking Lot No. 5 Slope Repair
- Cranbrook Road Non-Motorized Pathway Improvements
- Lincoln Hills Golf Course Tee No. 1 Project
- Westwood, Oak, and Raynale
- Brown Street, S. Old Woodward to Woodward
- Pierce Street, 14 Mile Road to Lincoln
- 2023 Resurfacing Program

S. Eton Public Workshop

Planning work is starting on some of the 2024 construction projects. The City will be hosting a Public Workshop for S. Eton from 14 Mile Road to Yosemite Blvd on Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Department of Public Services' Conference Room – 851 S. Eton Street. This workshop will include

information on how to participate in an upcoming City survey and general information about the project.

Fire Department

FEMA Public Assistance Reimbursement Grants

The City was awarded two more FEMA Public Assistance Reimbursement Grants totaling \$228,000.51. The time frame for reimbursement requests was from January 1, 2022 to June 30, 2022. This money was reimbursed covering employee overtime costs caused by COVID-19 illnesses, mainly overtime in the fire and police departments. The City has received over four million dollars over the last three years in various COVID-19 grants.

Welcome, Firefighter Marc Schwartz

The Fire Department has recently hired Firefighter Marc Schwartz. Marc has been a Highland Township Firefighter/EMT for the past four years. Marc is currently enrolled in Paramedic school and will be completing the program in the Fall of 2023.

Independence Township Joins OAKWAY

Independence Township Fire Department has successfully met the requirements to join the OAKWAY mutual aid group and they were voted in this month. OAKWAY members now include: Birmingham, Bloomfield Township, Ferndale, Farmington Hills, Independence Township, West Bloomfield, Southfield, Rochester Hills, Royal Oak, and Waterford regional (which includes Waterford Township and the City of Pontiac).

Planning Department

Master Plan 2040

The third and final draft of the Birmingham Plan 2040 is available to read and download at www.thebirminghamplan.com. The schedule of review will consist of reviews at the Planning Board, the required 63-day public noticing period, and review by the City Commission. The remaining schedule of review should closely resemble the following:

Date	Meeting Type	Action Needed
<i>Required 63-Day Public Notice Period</i>		
January 11, 2023	Planning Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review final draft and present / discuss comments received during the distribution period.• Set public hearing date.
February 2023 (Exact Date TBD)	Planning Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Present the final Plan and hold a public hearing. Further discuss comments received during the distribution period as needed.• Adopt plan; recommend to the City Commission for adoption.
March 2023 (Exact Date TBD)	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 next available agenda of the Planning Board.

Planning Board

The Planning Board has reviewed 32 development applications this year so far. The Planning Board will finish the busy year with some final development applications, a public hearing for outdoor dining, and will be planning for a busy 2023. A tentative Planning Board schedule is provided below:

1. 2040 Master Plan – Draft #3 Review (Ongoing)
2. Outdoor Dining Ordinance – Public Hearing (12/14/22)
3. 300 S. Old Woodward – Restoration Hardware - Revised Special Land Use Permit, Final Site Plan & Design Review (12/14/22)

Historic Preservation

The Historic District Study Committee (HDSC) has started researching the Wallace Frost designed house at 1283 Buckingham, which was recently requested for Designation by Keith and Carole Deyer. In the coming months, the preliminary HDSC report will take form and a preliminary report will be circulated as required by City Code. In addition to this designation, the HDSC wrapped up its recommendation for a revived Heritage Home Program. After some refinement, the Planning Division plans to bring the proposal to the Commission in early 2023.

Sustainability

Mike Bernal (DPS), Leah Blizinski (Planning) and Nick Dupuis (Planning) recently took an opportunity to meet with key representatives at DTE to discuss Birmingham's approach to electric vehicles and the programs that DTE offers that can help Birmingham reach its EV infrastructure goals. The meeting was productive, and City Staff came away with some great ideas to get started. In addition to building relationships with DTE, City Staff continue to participate in a number of EV and sustainability related groups such as the Catalyst Leadership Circle, EV Smart Communities, Michigan Green Communities and the GWK Community Group.

Police Department

2023 Polar Plunge

On February 4th, 2023, Birmingham Police department members are participating in the 2023 Polar Plunge for the Special Olympics of Michigan. Special Olympics Michigan provides year-round sports training and athletic competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. The athletes achieve their dreams with the support of caring volunteers, coaches, family members and staff.

We're freezing for a reason! Donations from Michigan citizens and businesses provide funding for the program. You can support your Birmingham Police members in this cause by going to this link <https://www.classy.org/team/467203>.

Suspects Identified by Detective

Our Birmingham detective assigned to the multi-jurisdictional Special Investigations Unit (SIU) has identified two suspects involved in a rash of larceny from autos and stolen vehicles from our City and throughout the area. Detectives have filed reports with the prosecutor's office to obtain criminal charges. The vast majority of these incidents have involved unlocked vehicles, often with the keys left inside. We strongly encourage you to help reduce these crimes of opportunity by locking your doors and removing your keys.

Parking Systems Update

Equipment

New TIBA parking equipment is scheduled to be installed starting on January 9th. The current schedule is to start at the Chester Structure followed by Pierce, Peabody, Park, and N. Old Woodward.

Once the new TIBA equipment is installed, City staff is looking to extend the agreement with ParkMobile into its parking structures, giving the City one consistent online payment provider for all things parking. Currently ParkMobile is offered as a form of online payment for all the City's metered parking.

Construction

The Engineering Department is getting updated pricing to mill and repave Lot 5, the surface lot behind the N. Old Woodward Structure. This lot was originally scheduled to have a cap (thin layer of asphalt placed on top of the existing surface) put in place this past fall, but it was determined the lot was in too poor of condition and that a complete replacement was needed. The intent will be to repave the lot this spring when asphalt plants reopen.

Occupancy:

NOVEMBER AVG CAPACITY	
Chester Garage (880)	36.54%
Old Woodward (745)	48.38%
Park Garage (811)	58.44%
Peabody Garage (437)	74.46%
Pierce Garage (706)	69.11%

Future Agenda Items

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

Future Workshop Items

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