

**Birmingham City Commission Minutes  
Special Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, January 30, 2024  
Shirley Road & Arlington Street Walk  
Starting near W. Lincoln Street and Shirley near the Linden Park Trail  
9:00 A.M.  
Vimeo Link: <https://vimeo.com/907909617>**

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Elaine McLain, Mayor, opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II. ROLL CALL**

City Clerk Bingham called the roll.

Present: Mayor McLain  
MPT Schafer  
Commissioner Haig (left 10:35 a.m.)  
Commissioner Host  
Commissioner Long  
Commissioner Longe (left 10:08 a.m.)

Absent: Commissioner Baller

Staff: City Manager Ecker; City Clerk Bingham, Assistant City Manager Clemence, City Engineer Coatta, Senior Planner Cowan, Parks and Forestry Coordinator Dix, Assistant City Manager Fairbairn, Police Chief Grewe, IT and Media Specialist Kim, City Attorney Kucharek, Police Officer Macumber, Parks and Forestry Foreman McGaughey, Department of Public Services Director Zielinski

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Kathleen Devereaux made a comment in support of the City paying for the plowing of City sidewalks.

**01-028-24 Brandon Street**

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Host, seconded by Commissioner Long:  
To do about 200 yards on Brandon between Linden and Shirley.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes, MPT Schafer  
Commissioner Host  
Commissioner Longe  
Commissioner Long  
Commissioner Haig  
Mayor McLain

Nays, None

## **IV. SPECIAL BUSINESS**

Mayor McLain and staff provided introductory remarks.

### Public Comment

Jim Mirro commented about the project's potential impacts on road safety, trees, and utility poles.

The walk commenced, then paused for public comment.

### Public Comment

Mr. Mirro commented about his alternative sidewalk proposal.

John Smith noted that there was some concrete presently on the streets within the project area.

The walk continued, then paused for public comment.

### Public Comment

Mr. Smith warned those present that the surface conditions were slippery.

Mr. Mirro commented about the differences in his estimation between Brandon and Arlington and Shirley.

Doug Freidel commented on the difficulty of navigating the intersections in the project area as a pedestrian.

Samantha Chyette Sciette<sup>1</sup> asked a question about the interaction between the proposed project and traffic in the project area stemming from navigation platforms.

The walk continued, then paused for public comment.

### Public Comment

Mr. Mirro commented about his alternative sidewalk proposal.

Mr. Freidel noted that if the project area had sidewalks, all the participants of this walking tour could be standing on the sidewalk presently.

Mike Minelli thanked the Commissioners and staff for participating in the walk, and supported the City exploring alternative proposals for the project area.

The walk continued, then paused for public comment.

### Public Comment

Mr. Mirro commented about the character of the Arlington and Shirley area.

---

<sup>1</sup>As amended at the February 12, 2024 meeting.

Mr. Freidel again commented on the difficulty of navigating the intersections in the project area as a pedestrian and commented on the lack of crosswalks in the area.

Mr. Minnelli concurred with Mr. Freidel about the challenges posed to pedestrians by the intersections in the area, and reiterated his preference for an alternative proposal for the project area.

Loretta Mirro made a comment about the width of the streets accommodating larger vehicles and about the importance of trees in the neighborhood.

Lauren Buttazzoni ~~Butazoni~~<sup>2</sup> commented that safety has not been an issue in the project area.

Jenny Shebib agreed with Ms. Butazoni.

The walk continued, then paused for public comment.

#### Public Comment

Barry Saltzgeber noted the trees on his property that would be impacted by the project and said he would support a bike path in part of the project area.

Barbara Heller asked what the impact would be to homes with rear yards fronting the project area.

Mr. Minnelli reiterated his preference for an alternative proposal for the project area.

Mr. Freidel commented that the addition of trees would be beneficial to the area.

Mr. Mirro commented that the project could represent increased utility costs for the residents of the project area and reiterated his support for his alternative sidewalk proposal.

Ms. Shebib commented on land ownership nearest to this stop and parking.

The walk continued, then paused for public comment.

#### Public Comment

Mr. Minnelli commented that the project would impact his property adversely and requested that the hickory tree on his property be preserved.

Lindsay Van Syckle ~~Vansyckle~~<sup>3</sup> supported the project area being an exception to the City's general street standardization efforts and commented on the potential financial impact of the project.

Judy Baller supported the addition of speed signage in the hopes of slowing traffic speeds in the project area.

Renee Billmeyer ~~Bilmeyer~~<sup>4</sup> commented that the project could impact residents' efforts to build on the street and supported other traffic calming options being explored.

---

<sup>2</sup>As amended at the February 12, 2024 meeting.

<sup>3</sup>As amended at the February 12, 2024 meeting.

<sup>4</sup>As amended at the February 12, 2024 meeting.

Ms. Butazoni commented on safety within the project area, opposition to the project, and Birmingham's walkability.

Ms. Shebib agreed with Ms. Butazoni.

Mr. Mirro commented on prior areas in Birmingham which were granted exemptions from street standardization efforts and opposed the proposed project.

The walk continued, then paused for public comment.

Public Comment

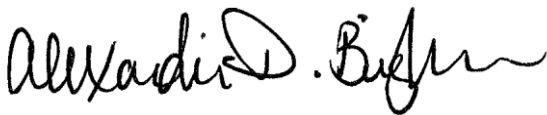
Mr. Mirro supported the preservation of the history of the project area and the use of trenchless sewer repair as an alternative to aspects of the project's proposed methods.

Elaine Hazel thanked the Commission for going on the walk, and commented that the Commission should consider the opinions of the residents of the project area.

Ms. Mirro commented that sidewalks would be difficult given the sloping terrain of the project area, and supported the historic preservation of the neighborhood.

**V. ADJOURN**

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.



Alexandria Bingham, City Clerk



Laura Eichenhorn, City Transcriptionist