

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COMMISSION, HISTORIC DISTRICT
COMMISSION, HISTORIC DISTRICT STUDY COMMITTEE, &
MUSEUM BOARD MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING, NOVEMBER 9, 2013
THE COMMUNITY HOUSE, 380 S BATES ST
9:00 AM**

I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

George Dilgard, Mayor, called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

II. ROLL CALL

ROLL CALL OF CITY COMMISSION:

Present,	Mayor Dilgard Commissioner Hoff Commissioner McDaniel Commissioner Nickita Commissioner Rinschler Commissioner Sherman
Absent,	Mayor Pro Tem Moore

ROLL CALL OF HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION:

Present,	Mr. Coir Mr. Deyer Ms. Dukas Ms. Gehringer Mr. Henke
Absent,	Ms. Weisberg Mr. Willoughby

ROLL CALL OF HISTORIC DISTRICT STUDY COMMITTEE:

Present,	Mr. Deyer Mr. Dixon Ms. Maricak Ms. Thompson
Absent,	Ms. Debbrecht Ms. Healey Ms. Lang

ROLL CALL OF MUSEUM BOARD:

Present,	Mr. Dixon Ms. Logue Ms. Maricak Mr. Stern
Absent,	Mr. Cummins Mr. Wilmot

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

IV. NEW BUSINESS

11-304-13 HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The board and commission members discussed the City's current historic preservation in the City and the Historic District Study Committee. The discussion focused around the purpose of the Historic District Study Committee and whether it is needed under the Certified Local Government status.

The Historic District Study Committee (HDSC) does research. The Committee would like to expand on researching homes and educating the community. It was noted that it is important to have members with special interest. Several members expressed concern with the lack of dedicated City staff to work as a conductor for the HDSC.

Commissioner Hoff commented that it is important to support historic preservation and the City should allow the committee to continue. Commissioner Nickita agreed and questioned the proper "home" for the committee. Commissioner Rinschler commented that Birmingham has history of well-run government, in part due to reducing the size of the organization to make it more effective. He noted the question is what is the most efficient and effective way to move forward.

Discussion ensued regarding the best location for the committee and funding. Ms. Bashiri noted that Planning Departments in other cities handle historic preservation matters. Commissioner Hoff noted that if this is a priority, the Planning Department should allocate more funds toward it and increase staff time allocated to it.

Mr. Bruner noted that the activities that the HDSC are currently undertaking are not required by statute. He stated that the decision on projects is a local decision. Ms. Bashiri confirmed there is funding available through the state grants for projects.

In response to a question from Commissioner McDaniel, Mr. Dixon explained that the Museum Board is working with the strategic plan and trying to keep the museum running with limited staff and finances. He noted it would be disruptive to combine the two boards. Ms. Pielack agreed that resources are a factor such as maintaining and caring for the physical artifacts in the collection. The role of the Museum is to interpret the collection.

Ms. Bashiri pointed out that the ordinance requires an annual meeting between the City Commission and HDSC.

Commissioner Sherman suggested the Commission determine the role of the HDSC, and then decided where the board belongs. Once the location is defined, funding would be available. Mr. Deyer listed items supported by the HDSC such as heritage homes designation plaques, surveys, walking tours, etc. Commissioner Hoff noted that these are minimal costs. She suggested leaving the committee as is and to direct the city planner to allocate funds so the committee can work on the noted projects.

Mr. Coir suggested the HDSC be given a space where they can gather files and create an archive for individuals to see the local history of Birmingham. He also suggested a comprehensive plan be developed.

Mr. Henke commented that it should be determined what is required and where does the City want the education component to fall. Commissioner McDaniel added funding will need to be discussed.

Ms. Thompson requested consideration be given to the historic preservation within the Planning Department as well.

V. ADJOURN

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 11:10 AM.

Laura M. Pierce
City Clerk