

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COMMISSION / PLANNING BOARD  
JOINT WORKSHOP SESSION MINUTES  
JUNE 16, 2014  
DPS FACILITY, 851 SOUTH ETON  
7:30 P.M.**

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

Scott D. Moore, Mayor, called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

**II. ROLL CALL**

ROLL CALL OF CITY COMMISSION:

Present,	Mayor Moore Commissioner Dilgard Commissioner Hoff Commissioner McDaniel Commissioner Nickita Commissioner Rinschler Mayor Pro Tem Sherman
Absent,	None

ROLL CALL OF PLANNING BOARD:

Present,	Mr. Boyle Mr. Koseck Ms. Lazar
Absent,	Ms. Boyce Mr. Clein Mr. DeWeese Mr. Williams

Administration: Interim City Manager Valentine, City Attorney Currier, Clerk Pierce, Planner Ecker, PSD Director Heiney

**III. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

**A. REVIEW OF SUMMARY OBSERVATIONS FROM DUANY VISIT  
AND DISCUSSION OF PRIORITIES.**

City Planner Ecker explained that the draft summary of observations and recommendations has been categorized to focus the discussion.

The Planning Board and City Commission discussed the priorities of the visit by Andres Duany.

Mr. Boyle noted that Mr. Duany's comments were supportive of the City and that there was commentary on the fact that Birmingham is a strong City with opportunities for other areas, such as the Triangle District, and opportunity for development for parking. He noted that Mr. Duany's comments regarding Shain Park included the need to activate the park such as allowing food trucks.

Commissioner Nickita noted that Mr. Duany placed a lot of emphasis on multi-generational thinking and the need to keep incorporating it into future thinking. He commented that the

ability to purchase land was discussed and noted that the City's hands are tied by the Charter regarding the purchase of land. He stated that Mr. Duany commented on Bates and Pierce Street and suggested the City could do better with the size of trees and vegetation.

Commissioner Hoff commented that some ideas were not practical such as lighting up the 555 building as it is privately owned. She pointed out that Mr. Duany commented that the City demands high quality, which is why it is getting high quality. She suggested the need to prioritize some of his suggestions.

Ms. Lazar commented on the need to look further ahead for additional parking. She stated that the idea to expand the Triangle District into Adams Square is a good idea.

Commissioner Rinschler commented on the importance of the land control issue. He noted that the issue is central in order to make progress and suggested it is the number one priority.

Commissioner McDaniel agreed that land control is the central issue to taking the next step. He noted that Bates Street and the Library should remain high on the priority list. He suggested that food trucks would liven up Shain Park.

Mayor Pro Tem Sherman commented that development will not occur if there is nowhere to park. He noted that the focus should be parking in the downtown and where to add capacity in order to allow the rest of the City to happen.

Commissioner Hoff noted that Mr. Duany commented that the alleys should be kept clean, but to leave them as is and noted that he focused on development for the next generation. She agreed that land control, regarding the ability to purchase and sell, is a high priority.

Mayor Moore left at 8:50 PM.

## **V. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ann Bray, 1260 Buckingham, suggested incorporating what is left in the 2016 plan into the next plan.

Dorothy Conrad, suggested the Commission hire a professional to review the trees around City Hall.

Ashley Adidenbaum, 327 Southfield, noted that when attracting young professionals, look at the civic space as the downtown is essentially the living room.

## **VI. ADJOURN**

The Mayor Pro Tem adjourned the meeting at 8:58 PM.

Laura M. Pierce  
City Clerk