

The Joint Meeting of the Birmingham Planning Board and Troy Planning Commission was called to order by Troy Planning Commission Chair Schultz at 7:30 p.m. on July 14, 2009 in the Lower Level Conference Room of the Troy City Hall.

1. ROLL CALL

Birmingham Planning Board

Present:

Robin Boyle, Chair
Carroll DeWeese
Gillian Lazar
Mark Nickita
Janelle Whipple-Boyce
Bryan Williams

Absent:

Sam Haberman

Birmingham Administration

Jana Ecker, Planning Director

Troy Planning Commission

Present:

Robert M. Schultz, Chair
Donald Edmunds
Michael W. Hutson
Mark Maxwell
John J. Tagle
Lon M. Ullmann

Absent:

Philip Sanzica
Thomas Strat
Mark J. Vleck

Troy Administration

Mark F. Miller, Planning Director
R. Brent Savidant, Principal Planner
Christopher Forsyth, Assistant City Attorney
Steve Vandette, City Engineer
Zak Branigan, Carlisle/Wortman Associates, Inc.
Kathy L. Czarnecki, Recording Secretary

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Resolution # PC-2009-07-062

Moved by: Edmunds
Seconded by: Tagle

RESOLVED, To approve the Agenda as submitted.

MOTION CARRIED

3. MINUTES – Special Joint Meeting of April 16, 2009

Resolution # PC-2008-07-063

Moved by: Maxwell
Seconded by: Edmunds

RESOLVED, To approve the minutes of the April 16, 2009 Special Joint Meeting of the Birmingham Planning Board and Troy Planning Commission as prepared.

MOTION CARRIED

4. PUBLIC COMMENT – For Items Not on the Agenda

There was no one present who wished to speak.

5. TROY/BIRMINGHAM TRANSIT CENTER – Presentation by Wendel Duchscherer Architects & Engineers

Mr. Miller made a brief introduction and stated the purpose of the meeting is to receive comment on the design plans of the transit center, to which the firm of Wendel Duchscherer Architects & Engineers (WD) has prepared to 30% completion. Mr. Miller said going forward the project would change hands to Hubbel, Roth & Clark (HRC) for preparation of the Preliminary Site Plan. He noted that representatives of HRC are present at tonight's meeting. Mr. Miller said Carlisle/Wortman Associates, Inc. would assist HRC with landscape plans.

Ms. Ecker emphasized that the design plans are conceptual only and that HRC would bring the project forward for Preliminary Site Plan review.

Mr. Vandette addressed his participation in the project with Wendel Duchscherer, and introduced WD representatives Laird Pylkas, Project Manager, and David Zielinski, Architect.

Ms. Pylkas briefly discussed the design process.

Mr. Zielinski, in a PowerPoint presentation, reviewed recent revisions to the conceptual site plan and addressed the following:

- Tunnel; size (14' wide, 10' in height).
- Multiple access points (tunnel, stair, walkway).
- Relation to Doyle Avenue.
- Area for pedestrians to congregate.
- Access for cars, buses and handicapped parking.
- Traffic circulation.
- Lobby.
- Building construction materials.
- Evolving process from schematic design to construction.

Discussion and comments among members addressed the following:

- Grade and safety of walkway (inclement weather).
- Roofline design.
- Elevator (cost factor).
- Building square footage.
- Building floor plans (space allotted for mechanical, janitorial and electrical storage; potential to excavate and house in basement).
- Design of retaining walls.
- Focal point at end of tunnel.
- Distance from off-street parking to Amtrak platform.
- Protection/shelter from inclement weather (drop-off area, canopy).
- Platform location (potential to switch tracks).
- Traffic circulation; bus and taxi access.
- Tunnel. 1) Safety, security and maintenance. 2) Traversing site relative to width and height.
- Accommodation for cyclists, users of other transportation modes.
- Designs of Birmingham and Troy sides; specialize to individual City.
- Funding of project and time line to move project forward.
- Modular plan for potential to expand in future.
- Correlation to SMART bus routes.

It was noted that HRC representatives have been meeting regularly with City representatives and are intimately familiar with the project.

HRC representatives identified the following focus on the project:

- Enhance platform area and public space.
- Develop Troy side to create more than a shelter.
- More emphasis on multi modal access.
- Less emphasis on multiple small structures.

Ms. Ecker indicated she is working on an operational and maintenance plan.

6. TROY/BIRMINGHAM TRANSIT CENTER PARKING LAYOUT – City of Birmingham

Mr. Miller presented three exhibits relating to the City of Birmingham parking that addressed traffic circulation, angled parking and perpendicular parking.

Ms. Ecker asked members to voice their preference on parking; perpendicular parking on both sides versus angled parking on one side.

Discussion followed.

The following determinations were made:

- Provide parking and sidewalks on both sides.
- Provide additional handicapped parking on Birmingham side.
- Provide pedestrian drop-off area.
- Negotiate with school to acquire small strip of land.
- Provide covered bike/moped/scooter parking.

OTHER BUSINESS

7. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – Items on Current Agenda

There was no one present who wished to speak.

8. **PLANNING BOARD AND PLANNING COMMISSION COMMENT** – Items on Current Agenda

Favorable comments from around the table were made with respect to the progress and productivity of tonight's meeting.

ADJOURN

The Special/Study Meeting of the Planning Commission adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert M. Schultz, Chair

Kathy L. Czarnecki, Recording Secretary