

Birmingham City Commission Special Meeting Minutes - Workshop
September 9, 2024
Municipal Building, 151 Martin
6:00 p.m.

Vimeo Link: <https://vimeo.com/1007821549>

This will be considered a workshop session of the City Commission. No formal actions will be taken. The purpose of this workshop is to engage in a presentation and discussion regarding Birmingham's Future Senior/Recreation Center at 400 East Lincoln.

I. Call to Order

Katie Schafer, Mayor Pro Tem

II. Roll Call

City Clerk Bingham called the roll.

Present: MPT Schafer
Commissioner Baller
Commissioner Haig
Commissioner Host
Commissioner Long
Commissioner Longe

Absent: Mayor McLain

Staff: City Manager Ecker; City Clerk Bingham, Assistant City Manager Clemence, Assistant City Manager Fairbairn, Building Maintenance Superintendent Galik, Police Captain Kearney, City Attorney Kucharek, Fire Marshal Scaife, Fire Chief Wells

09-533-24 Nomination of Temporary Mayor Pro Tem

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Long:
To make a nomination for Therese Longe to be Mayor Pro Tem.

VOICE VOTE: Ayes, tMayor Schafer
Commissioner Haig
Commissioner Baller
Commissioner Longe
Commissioner Host
Commissioner Long

Nays, None

III. Presentation & Public Comment

CM Ecker, Cris Braun, Executive Director of Next, and Parrish Underwood, President and CEO of the YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit, made the presentation. Staff answered informational questions.

The Commission elected to allow public comment before Commissioner comment.

Terry Parks commented on the pool, the recreation facilities, and the building as an asset.

Christy Barrett supported recreation being an integral part of this project and commented on her previous comments to the SCC.

Bert Koseck supported Next being able to achieve their program within the planned space, commented on costs, and commented regarding the project architect's charge.

George Dilgard supported a building comprised only of Next and City facilities and commented on Next's estimated operating expenses.

Mike Clift supported further recreation facilities within this project and commented on the City's financial investment in the project.

Thomas Brady commented regarding a potential pool.

IV. Discussion

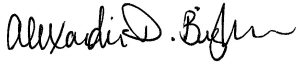
Commissioners raised the following points during discussion:

- Residents should understand that this project is being collaboratively designed in public view, and few decisions have been made yet.
- The Commission is trying to create a project the majority of Birmingham residents would favor and would be willing to support financially.
- It would be helpful to understand the most recent changes in Next's proposed space program.
- Before presenting a proposal to voters, it would be essential to determine whether the community has other resources that could meet the needs this project aims to meet.
- If part of the building is built to house the YMCA and the YMCA does not move in, the City could likely find other appropriate uses for the space.
- It might be more appropriate for the City to pay to build the entire building, and to enter into a long-term partnership with the YMCA. This would allow for both recreational and senior facilities to be available to the community. The YMCA could also have the option to build out their portion of the space as necessary.
- The project circumstances changed since the original proposal, and it is helpful to keep that in mind.
- Neither Option A or Option B would be preferable at this time. Other options would be appropriate to explore.
- It may be appropriate for the City to build at least Next's part of the building with an additional pool, because voters may not approve a bond without a pool. Subsequently, options for collaborating with the YMCA could be considered.

- If the City were to build and provide recreational facilities, it would be important to determine who would provide the non-Next services in each scenario.
- This project should be an effort to offer life-long programming. Voters are only likely to support a project that will benefit community members of all ages.

V. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.



Alexandria Bingham, City Clerk



Laura Eichenhorn, City Transcriptionist