



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
MUSEUM BOARD AGENDA
556 W MAPLE
Thursday, June 2, 2022
5:00 PM**

Mission Statement: *The Birmingham Museum will explore meaningful connections with our past, in order to enrich our community and enhance its character and sustainability. Our mission is to promote understanding of Birmingham's historical and cultural legacy through preservation and interpretation of its ongoing story.*

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Approval of the Minutes**
Minutes of May 5, 2022
- 4. Unfinished Business**
 - A. Heritage Plant Exchange-update
 - B. Underground Railroad Commemorative Event-update
- 5. New Business**
 - A. Museum Window Project-Update
 - B. July Museum Board Meeting
- 6. Communication and Reports**
 - A. Director Report
 - B. Member comments
 - C. Public comments
- 7. Next Meeting: June 2, 2022**
- 8. Adjournment**

NOTICE: Individuals with disabilities requiring accommodations for effective participation in this meeting should contact the city clerk's office at (248) 530-1880 (voice), or (248) 644-5115 (TDD) at least one day in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance. *APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MUSEUM BOARD MEETINGS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE AND ON THE CITY WEBSITE AT www.bhamgov.org.* City of Birmingham, 151 Martin, Birmingham, MI 48009; 248.530.1800. Persons with disabilities that may require assistance for effective participation in this public meeting should contact the City Clerk's Office at the number (248) 530-1880, or (248) 644-5115 (for the hearing impaired) at least one day before the meeting to request help in mobility, visual, hearing, or other assistance.

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**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
MUSEUM BOARD MEETING
556 W. Maple
Thursday, May 5, 2022
5:00 PM**

Members Present: Kristy Barrett, Alexandra Harris, Judith Keefer, Marty Logue, Caitlin Rosso, Jay Shell

Members Absent: Bev Erickson, Pat Hughes

Student Members: Jordan Snyder-Phillipoff

Administration: Museum Director Leslie Pielack,

Guests: None

Chairperson Logue called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM.

**Approval of the Minutes
Minutes of April 7, 2022**

MOTION: by Keefer, seconded by Harris:

To approve the minutes of April 7, 2022.

VOTE: Yeas, 6
Nays, 0

Unfinished Business

Updates for the status of the Heritage Plant Exchange included the following:

- Promotion
 - Mr. Shell has sent 200 postcards and the press release to the Birmingham Farms Neighborhood Association
 - Ms. Harris has been distributing flyers to the Sunday Farmer's Market
 - The City's Engage Birmingham site now has an event page for the plant exchange; members viewed the page and were supportive of its content and utility for the next month and hope to use it for future plant exchange events
 - Press releases and newsletter articles have promoted the event; the museum's Facebook page also has information about it.
- Staffing/personnel
 - Mr. Shell confirmed that he will be in attendance and will be returning from out of town to be present; Ms. Harris will create a hat for him for the event to identify him as the master gardener to visitors

- Ms. Harris and Ms. Barrett will be stationed in the tents and will help visitors with plant labeling as needed
- Ms. Keefer may not be able to participate due to a conflict
- Ms. Snyder will be on hand to assist and take photos
- All four museum staff will be on hand for Allen House and Hunter House visitors and to assist outdoors as needed
- Other
 - Mr. Shell will take any leftover plants for the BFNA island garden on Northlawn
 - Donated plants for the museum grounds will be stored on the north side of the Allen House and DPS will plant them on the Monday following
- Director Pielack will send email follow up to the board for final staffing and other arrangements

The Board addressed additional details about the commemorative event for the Network to Freedom designation now confirmed for Saturday, Sept. 17, 11 AM to 1 PM:

- Name of Event—“Underground Railroad Commemoration/Greenwood Cemetery/Birmingham, MI” with additional text clarifying Elijah Fish and George Taylor burial sites and outlining program/speakers with text about tour at cemetery to follow
- Program—confirmed components as follows:
 1. Museum Board chair **Marty Logue** will act as emcee
 2. Researchers **Getschman, Patt**, and **Casaceli** will be recognized and give brief remarks
 3. Commission representative (e.g., mayor) will speak
 4. (Possible: Michigan Freedom Trail Commission representative, e.g. Rachelle Danquah)
 5. **Snyder-Phillipoff** representing Seaholm Black Student Union and perspective
 6. **Pastor Adam Kuehner** from the historic Southfield Reform Presbyterian Church will speak to the historic UGRR connection between J.S.T. Milligan of the church and George Taylor and their lifelong relationship
 7. (Possible: descendants)
- Cemetery Walk—following program, as previously determined
- Participation—create opportunities for students, local historical groups, etc. to participate in other ways, such as set-up, helping with tours, etc.

New Business

The board considered the upcoming application process for installing a historical marker at Greenwood Cemetery for the Taylors, following a procedure currently being finalized by the Greenwood Cemetery Advisory Board. In consideration of the importance of timing

and the need to act as quickly as possible, the board acted to recommend that the Taylors meet the requirements of historic significance in advance of future procedural activities to approve the installation of a marker according to the anticipated new rules for the installation of historical markers by non-deed holders.

MOTION: by Shell, seconded by Logue:

To assert that George and Eliza Taylor's gravesites are historically significant to Birmingham, that any future grave marker for them is an appropriate form of recognition, and to recommend approval to the Greenwood Cemetery Advisory Board for future marker installation.

VOTE: Yeas, 6
Nays, 0

Communication and Reports

Director Pielack provided updates to the Director Report. Members downloaded the new Birmingham Museum app and explored how it worked, especially the two tours. The board was enthusiastic about other tour opportunities.

Ms. Barrett complimented Director Pielack on a recent interview she gave.

Ms. Rosso announced that she will be unable to participate in board meetings for the foreseeable future but will be available to help with projects and will stay in touch with museum activities.

There were no public comments.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 2, at 5:00 PM.

Ms. Logue adjourned the meeting at 6:07 PM.



Director Report

DATE: June 2, 2022
TO: Museum Board
FROM: Leslie Pielack, Museum Director
SUBJECT: Director Report

Rouge Trail Design-Park Bond Funds—Design services are underway for Rouge Corridor Trail improvements, to include aspects of the Rouge Trail Woodland Zone concept design by Brian Devlin of Nagy-Devlin Land Design. A meeting later in June will involve different park areas affected by the project, including the museum and the boardwalk and pathways for Rouge access. Funding for the construction of the final design will be planned in the next phase of implementation of the park bond.

Donor Trees—The three donor trees in the front lawn of the Allen House now have their plaques, installed by DPS, and the donors were sent photos. All donors were impressed and those out of state have indicated they will try to visit in the fall.

Budget Approval—The City Commission is scheduled to approve the recommended budget later in June, with personnel changes expected to take effect July 1. The current 20 hour Museum Assistant position will become a 32 hour Museum Specialist position, and the current seasonal Museum Intern will become an annual 10 hour a week position.

Tour App—we have been collecting survey data on our Allen House and Hunter House tour app. In general, visitors like the app and find it appealing.

Final presentation at Baldwin Library Adult Lecture Series—On Thursday, June 2 at 7 PM, Donna and Justin will be co-presenting a program on Juneteenth and the Underground Railroad in Birmingham. The program will be video recorded. We have been getting emails, donations, and research questions from people who are also finding and responding to our online content outside FB & Twitter. This represents an indication of our growing audience and engagement.

Donation of Fire Engine/Collaboration of Museum and Fire Department—Chief Wells will be working with the museum on the display and an interpretive panel for the 1924 La France fire engine recently donated to the department. It has been in the Olsen firefighting family since being decommissioned from the BFD in 1963. The engine will be kept in running condition as long as possible and will be used in public events, parades, etc. In between, it will be housed in Station 2. An addition to our website on the BFD's history is a collaborative effort between us. Check it out at https://bhamgov.org/about_birmingham/city_history/birmingham_museum/virtual_exhibits/history_of_the_birmingham_fire_departmentt.php

Visit from Molly Allen-Harry and Marion Allen's Granddaughter and Great Grandson—Molly, who lives in the Birmingham area, stopped by for a visit with her son and mentioned donating some family items to the museum at some point. Her son Nicholas was with her, and later sent a digitized written 'contract' that Harry Allen had set up with Jim and Peggy Allen in 1930 as an agreement about getting a collie dog (see attached). This is a great addition to our collection and gives greater insight into the Allen family.

It has been agreed on the twenty second (22nd) day of December and the year of nineteen hundred and thirty (1931) that a collie dog shall be given to Eleanor and James Allen sometime between the first (1) day of January nineteen hundred and thirty one (1931) and the last day of spring vacation, by their father Harry Allen.

The dog is to be ~~the~~ bought and given under the following conditions:

- I The aforesaid Mr Allen shall pick the dog.
- II That ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{use} of the dog shall not exceed three (3) years ^{to} and ^{be} not less than ^{nine months} ~~or~~.
- III That James and Eleanor shall pay the annual dog tax ^{and} any entrance fees to dogs shows.
- IV That the said Eleanor and James Allen shall give it full care, regular meals, and good shelter.
- V That the dog be pedigreed if price is not too high.
- VI That Harry Allen do the deciding as to whether the price is too high on dog.
- VII That the said Mr Allen shall not be liable to pay for any damages done to dog after it has arrived or be forced to replace it if it is killed.
- VIII That he should not have to deliver the dog on any date before the said dead line if it is too inconvenient for him.

signed..... Harry Allen
 Eleanor Allen
 Jim Allen



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