



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
MUSEUM BOARD MEETING
556 W. Maple
Thursday, September 1, 2022
5:00 PM**

Members Present: Kristy Barrett, Bev Erickson, Pat Hughes Alexandra Harris, Judith Keefer, Marty Logue, Jay Shell

Members Absent: None.

Student Members: None.

Administration: Museum Director Leslie Pielack

Guests: None

Chairperson Logue called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

**Approval of the Minutes
Minutes of August 4, 2022**

MOTION: by Hughes, seconded by Keefer:

To approve the minutes of August 4, 2022.

VOTE: Yeas, 7
Nays, 0

Unfinished Business

Updates for the Underground Railroad Commemorative Event included:

- Program/Promotion
 - Ms. Barrett, Ms. Erickson, Mr. Hughes, Ms. Harris, Ms. Logue and Mr. Shell plan to attend; Ms. Snyder-Phillipoff is speaking at the event
 - Members received name badges and lanyards for the event
 - Review of the final program, sequence, and roles for all members
 - General introduction as a group
 - Mr. Hughes will hold sign and lead group to cemetery
 - Police will be on hand for crowd control
 - Museum Board to return to museum as hosts for speakers in Hunter House reception so museum staff can assist at cemetery and prepare museum for opening
- Mr. Getschman and Donna Casaceli will be at the Taylor and Fish gravesites to interpret and answer questions
- Museum will be open to the public at no charge from 2 to 4 PM

Final installation of the windows is scheduled for the week of September 19, after which the offices and upstairs storage can be finished.

New Business

Director Pielack learned of a Michigan Humanities Council grant and conceived a five-community Underground Railroad traveling exhibit and interactive map website, and has been able to develop the project and get commitments from Royal Oak, Southfield, Farmington, and Pontiac (Oakland History Center) to participate. The project has the enthusiastic support of the City of Birmingham and a funding pledge from the Friends of the Museum. The MHC will announce awards November 1. If funded, Ms. Pielack will serve as project director with trained volunteer researchers and some paid research over most of 2023, culminating in a portable set of exhibit panels that will be free to libraries, schools, and other public organizations over at least three years. The goal of the project is to bring this relatively unknown local history to the public in a professional and integrated way to show how the Underground Railroad was active in southern Oakland County.

Communication and Reports

Director Pielack announced that the City's strategic plan process is underway, and that an opportunity for board members to participate will take place on Wednesday, September 14 from 6 to 8 pm at the Baldwin Library. Commissioners will be present to lead groups and receive feedback regarding the city's strategic plan for consideration in plan development.

Mr. Shell mentioned that he added some of the design-specific plants to the community garden from his garden.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 6, at 5:00 PM.

Ms. Logue adjourned the meeting at 5:44 PM.