



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM  
MUSEUM BOARD AGENDA  
556 W MAPLE  
Thursday, March 1, 2018  
5:30 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. Introduction of Guests**
- 4. Approval of the Minutes**
  - A. Minutes of February 1, 2018
  - B. Minutes of Special Meeting February 15, 2018
  - C. Minutes of Special Meeting February 20, 2018
- 5. Announcements**
  - A. Memoriam: Gretchen Maricak
- 6. Unfinished Business**
  - A. Book project
  - B. Bicentennial planning
- 7. New Business**
  - A. Exhibit Reception/Open House
- 8. Communication and Reports**
  - A. Director Report
  - B. Member comments
  - C. Public comments
- 9. Next Regular Meeting: April 5, 2018**
- 10. 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](http://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 MINUTES  
Thursday, February 1, 2018  
5:30 PM**

Members Present: James Cunningham, Lori Eaton, Judith Keefer, Tina Krizanic, Marty Logue

Student Members Present: None

Members Absent: Russell Dixon, Caitlin Rosso

Administration: Museum Director Leslie Pielack

Guests: None

Ms. Krizanic called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM.

**Approval of the Minutes  
Minutes of January 4, 2018**

**MOTION:** by Cunningham, seconded by Logue:

To approve the minutes of January 4, 2018.

**VOTE:** Yeas, 5  
Nays, 0

**Minutes of January 16, 2018  
Special Meeting/Joint Workshop**

**MOTION:** by Keefer, seconded by Eaton:

To approve the minutes of the January 16, 2018 Special Meeting/Joint Workshop.

**VOTE:** Yeas, 5  
Nays, 0

**Announcements**

Ms. Eaton's provided notes for the bicentennial brainstorming meeting on December 18 and a book proposal outline example will be addressed under unfinished business, as both relate to those agenda items.

**Unfinished Business**

A. The board discussed Ms. Eaton's suggestion that a book committee be re-convened in order to pursue the book project. Members agreed that the timeline and cost suggest

a project separated from the bicentennial with perhaps a two-year timeline. Ms. Keefer expressed additional concern about timeline and cost, as did Ms. Logue. Mr. Cunningham suggested it may be helpful to connect with a local author who may already be working on a similar historical work about Birmingham. Ms. Krizanic suggested a joint effort with other city entities may be in order for form a working committee that will broadly represent the community and have a better chance of success. For the bicentennial theme, Ms. Eaton suggested that a shorter-term strategy might be to print a booklet composed of the museum's current exhibit panels that can be more inexpensively produced but yield an interesting publication. Ms. Krizanic will explore the possibility of forming a book committee with former members of the book committee as well as others in the community.

B. Museum-focused celebration of the bicentennial theme for the Celebrate Birmingham parade in May and a possible summer outdoor event at the museum to highlight the landscape planning, the bicentennial, and perhaps conduct targeted fundraising for the landscape. Stations could be set up with tents that highlight the landscape plan's four zones. Special sponsors could be solicited. It would be beneficial to create an invitation list, but charging an admission fee would be difficult to manage. Having old time games, possibly performers, and family-friendly activities such as a scavenger hunt were discussed. Cutouts of bicentennial characters could be displayed in the landscape, and participants could receive a special stamp at each one as part of the activity. Regarding bicentennial awareness, a letter could be sent by the Museum Board to other city boards and local civic organizations (such as the Chamber of Commerce) announcing the museum events and also inviting participation in the bicentennial and/or the book committee. A coordinated city-wide bicentennial celebration is perhaps better managed and/or promoted from City Hall/the communications director, Kevin Byrnes. Museum Director Pielack will explore further with Mr. Byrnes.

C. Brian Devlin of Nagy Devlin Land Designs is working with Museum Director Pielack on a draft document of the Museum Board-approved Conceptual Master Landscape Plan. The document will provide goals of the project, contextual history and findings, existing conditions, and Mr. Devlin's description and analysis as well as historic photos and drawings. The Museum Board re-iterated that the Pond Zone is the highest priority item for the landscape plan and that the document should reflect that. The Museum Board could convene a special meeting to review and potentially approve so the final draft could go to the commission on February 26. With that timeline in mind, the Museum Board agreed by consensus to hold a special meeting on Thursday, February 15, at 9:00 a.m. at the museum for review and approval of the draft master landscape plan document.

### **New Business**

B. In consideration of the need to adjourn the meeting to accommodate two board members with other commitments, the Museum Board considered the matter of pursuing a National Register individual nomination for the Allen House and grounds at the local level of significance. Currently the Allen House is located within the City of Birmingham local historic district, governed by local ordinance, but is not on the National Register. The nomination process can take many months to a year or more, so it would be important to pursue as soon as possible. If designated, the Allen House's listing on the National Register would make Certified Local Government grant funds available for some anticipated preservation projects, including possibly portions of the landscape

plan. Other preservation grant monies may also become available that currently are not. Listing on the National Register is honorary only. The City of Birmingham would retain the right to do as it wished with the property, which at most would be de-listed from the Register if it was no longer maintained in a historic manner. The nomination would be handled by Museum Director Pielack, who has successfully nominated other properties in the past.

**MOTION:** by Eaton, seconded by Keefer:

To support the pursuit of the nomination process to list the Allen House and grounds on the National Register of Historic Places through application with the State Historic Preservation Office.

**VOTE:** Yeas, 5  
Nays, 0

D. There were no public comments.

The remainder of the agenda items will be deferred to the Special Meeting planned for February 15 or the regular meeting scheduled for March 1, 2018.

Ms. Krizanic adjourned the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

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**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM  
MUSEUM BOARD  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, February 15, 2018  
9:00 AM**

Members Present: Lori Eaton, Judith Keefer, Tina Krizanic, Marty Logue  
Caitlin Rosso arrived at 9:05; James Cunningham arrived at 9:10

Student Members Present: None

Members Absent: Russ Dixon

Administration: Museum Director Leslie Pielack

Guests: None

Ms. Krizanic called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

**Unfinished Business**

A. The Museum Board reviewed the draft document and suggested additional content to highlight programmatic/community engagement opportunities in each zone. Additional suggestions about layout changes to make the document more user-friendly and readable were also made. The Board decided to make the Heritage Zone top priority because of affordability and visibility, and to demonstrate progress on the plan in a high impact way. This change will potentially improve the funding prospects for the more expensive Pond Zone. Additional information from Mr. Devlin and other costs and more specific fund-raising sources for each zone were also requested for the final draft plan.

The Museum Board agreed upon February 20, 2018, at 9:00 AM for a special meeting to review the final document draft. Targeted fundraising will be deferred until the next regular meeting in March.

There were no public comments or Museum Board comments.

Ms. Krizanic adjourned the meeting at 10:28 AM.

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**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM  
MUSEUM BOARD  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, February 20, 2018  
9:00 AM**

Members Present: Lori Eaton, Judith Keefer, Tina Krizanic, Marty Logue, Caitlin Rosso

Student Members Present: None

Members Absent: James Cunningham, Russ Dixon

Administration: Museum Director Leslie Pielack

Guests: None

Ms. Krizanic called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

**Unfinished Business**

A. The Museum Board continued their review of the Master Landscape Plan, with suggested layout changes and clarifications, but no changes to the content.

**MOTION:** by Keefer, seconded by Eaton:

To approve the 2018 Birmingham Museum Master Landscape Plan document as amended and to recommend it be presented to the city commission for final approval.

**VOTE:** Yeas, 5  
Nays, None

There were no public comments and no board comments.

Ms. Krizanic adjourned the meeting at 9:56 AM.

**DATE:** March 1, 2018  
**TO:** Museum Board  
**FROM:** Leslie Pielack, Museum Director  
**SUBJECT:** Director Report

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Budget Meeting and Process—The manager review of the proposed museum budget has been completed. The museum operations budget remains at similar levels to previous years, and personnel remains unchanged for FY 2018-2019. The next step is the public budget meeting before the commission later in April.

2018-19 Additional Projects Planned—include installing moisture sensors in the irrigation lines from the Hunter House to improve water usage efficiency (as that is where the upper area/Heritage Zone is watered from) and to replace the picket fence along the east boundary. Also planned for 18/19 are the roofs of the Allen and Hunter Houses. H2A architect Jackie Hoist has indicated that the new roofing on the Allen House installed with the siding would be a good choice, and State Historic Preservation Office architect Brian Lijewski has concurred.

Additional projects in remainder of FY 2017-2018 at Allen House include repairs to foundation and basement to improve insulation and make it a better environment for our collections storage.

Master Landscape Plan to Commission on March 12—the Master Landscape Plan is tentatively scheduled for the agenda at the city commission meeting on March 12. Brian Devlin will be available to present the plan that evening; Museum Board members may wish to be present to show support to the commission and the public.

Pursuit of Individual National Register Listing for Allen House—The matter is planned to go before the City Commission on March 12 for discussion and review.

Exhibit Reception—The exhibition is sufficiently installed to plan for a public reception/open house. (Timing and approach to be determined with further discussion.)

Press Release for Adult Lecture Series, Woodward Construction, and March city eNewsletter—The adult lecture series co-sponsored with the Baldwin Public Library is planned for March, April, and May, and will tie in to the Birmingham Bicentennial theme. The first presentation is by Jim Craft on Thursday evening, March 8: *“The Good Roads Movement in Michigan: How the late 19<sup>th</sup> c. Bicycling Craze Got Farmers out of the Mud.”*

3-D Printing Project for School Tours in May/June—Mammoth teeth and jaw bone are potentially going to be transformed into 3-D objects that students will be able to handle during school tours. The Idealab at the library is still working out the details.

Friends-Celebrate Birmingham Parade May 20—The Friends are discussing making a big splash during the parade in May. Museum staff will be there to add to the crowd, and Museum Board members can walk and show their support. The Friends are talking about getting special T-shirts for the parade.



# LOOKING BACK AT BIRMINGHAM



2018 BICENTENNIAL LECTURE SERIES

This series will explore some historical curiosities and hidden undercurrents of Birmingham's past 200 years and how they relate to widespread but little known American cultural movements



**MARCH 8, 2018 7:00 PM**

**THE GOOD ROADS MOVEMENT IN MICHIGAN: HOW THE LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY BICYCLING CRAZE GOT FARMERS OUT OF THE MUD**

Author and local historian **Jim Craft** will explain how bad roads—really bad—in the 1880s led to a grass roots social movement that changed American roads forever. It was the bicycle that was the catalyst, ultimately leading to engineering marvels like modern Woodward Avenue.



**APRIL 19, 2018 7:00 PM**

**THE AMERICAN CHAUTAUQUA MOVEMENT AND BIRMINGHAM'S FAMOUS ELLSWORTH C. PLUMSTEAD**

Local historian and Library Friends President **Pam DeWeese** will present the important role played by the part-entertainment, part-education, part-religious traveling performances that left lasting effects on local culture, and how it made a celebrity of Birmingham's Ellsworth C. Plumstead.



**MAY 10, 2018 7:00 PM**

**THE MOST IMPORTANT ROAD: HOW THE SAGINAW TRAIL BECAME WOODWARD AVENUE AND BUILT EARLY MICHIGAN**

The Native American Saginaw Trail (Woodward Avenue) was once the only route into the Oakland County wilderness. Author and Museum Director **Leslie Pielack** will discuss how the trail brought pioneers Elijah Willits, John Hamilton, and John West Hunter together, and the scheme that founded Birmingham..



**BIRMINGHAM  
The MUSEUM**

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