



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM  
MUSEUM BOARD AGENDA  
556 W MAPLE  
Thursday, March 14, 2019  
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. Introduction of Guests**
- 4. Approval of the Minutes**
  - A. Minutes of February 27, 2019
- 5. Unfinished Business**
  - A. Heritage Zone Design-Brian Devlin and Final Recommendations
  - B. Review; Fund Raising Strategy/Approach
- 6. Communication and Reports**
  - A. Director Report
  - B. Member comments
  - C. Public comments
- 7. Next Regular Meeting: April 4, 5:00 PM**
- 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](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. *Las personas con incapacidad que requieren algún tipo de ayuda para la participación en esta sesión pública deben ponerse en contacto con la oficina del escribano de la ciudad en el número (248) 530-1800 o al (248) 644-5115 (para las personas con incapacidad auditiva) por lo menos un día antes de la reunión para solicitar ayuda a la movilidad, visual, auditiva, o de otras asistencias.* (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964).

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**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM  
MUSEUM BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, February 7, 2019  
5:00 PM**

Members Present: Jay Cunningham, Russell Dixon, Tina Krizanic, Marty Logue

Members Absent: Lori Eaton, Judith Keefer, Caitlin Rosso

Administration: Museum Director Leslie Pielack

Guests: Brian Devlin, Nagy Devlin Land Designs

Ms. Krizanic called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

**Approval of the Minutes  
Minutes of January 3, 2019**

**MOTION:** by Dixon seconded by Cunningham:

To approve the minutes of January 3, 2019, as amended.

**VOTE:** Yeas, 4  
Nays, 0

**Minutes of January 17, 2019**

**MOTION:** by Dixon seconded by Cunningham:

To approve the minutes of January 17, 2019, as amended.

**VOTE:** Yeas, 4  
Nays, 0

**Unfinished Business**

A. Brian Devlin of Nagy Devlin Land Designs shared recommendations regarding fencing and signage for the Heritage Zone. Changes from previous design recommendations are:

- Layered plantings at Allen House instead of yew hedges
- A dogwood variety (ex: 'Little Princess') instead of redbud
- 'Drift' landscape roses instead of boxwood in children's garden

Mr. Devlin also reviewed his recommended planting list for perennials, trees, and evergreens based on further study of what was commonly being used in residential gardens of the period of the Allen House. He shared an Eccentric article on gardening and discussed materials from contemporary nursery catalogs and design trends, including the Coryell Nursery that was located just west of the Allen House on the south

side of Maple Road. He also shared an analysis of garden design magazines and plant materials of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and will be able to share a copy with us for ongoing reference. Many varieties are still available, or suitable modern replacements can be used. The perennials suggested can be transplants from local gardens as part of the community perennial garden area. Mr. Devlin also presented options for suitable wood fencing commonly used at the time for the Allen and Hunter House areas. After discussion, the Museum Board agreed by consensus that leaving the existing picket fence in place was preferred; adding a baseboard front to the pickets around the Hunter House garden would differentiate it from the Allen House and be more historically accurate. A gate will be needed at the entrance to the Hunter House; Mr. Devlin suggested an arched gate with wood posts. The museum logo could be incorporated into the gate, and a matching version of the logo placed on the fence at the driveway end of the property. Further discussion regarding options for sign design ensued, centered around the physical location of the sign, its height, material and best type of design. The allowable size and placement of the sign per the ordinance has yet to be clarified. Museum Director Pielack will follow up with the planning department by the next meeting. The board decided to wait until the March meeting to finalize the sign design and location. Mr. Devlin will provide additional concepts and examples of signage for consideration before the next meeting.

B. Members reviewed the fundraising discussion from the recent special meeting. The costs of the revised list for the Heritage Zone bring the anticipated amount to raise to just over \$13,000. After the Heritage Zone design is finalized and reviewed by the HDC and commission, the board can revisit the fundraising goals and process. Mr. Dixon requested more information on whether it would be ethical for 100% of the museum board to donate to the project, in order to show potential donors that the board as a whole are behind the project. This was suggested by Mr. Dow at the fundraising meeting.

### **Communication and Reports**

Director Pielack highlighted portions of the Director Report, especially some new information that has come to light in the course of preparing the National Register nomination for the Allen House. This includes more information about the architect, Rupert W. Koch, and other features of the house and the previous existence of a playhouse, modeled on the Allen House but demolished when the John West Hunter House was relocated in 1970.

Ms. Krizanic shared her participation in a Parks and Recreation Parks Priority public meeting and that the various park projects being discussed (including Rouge corridor improvements that would impact the museum). All had a similar amount of support from the public, with survey results still coming in. Mr. Dixon provided a copy of a recent article about censorship and Dearborn's history and asked that a copy be distributed to the board members.

**Due to scheduling conflicts, the next Regular Meeting will be held on March 14, 2019 at 5:00 PM instead of March 7, 2019.**

Ms. Krizanic adjourned the meeting at 6:33 PM

Birmingham Museum – Examples of Signs from Similar Institutions



The Burgh Historical Park, Southfield, Michigan (Ggl)



Governor Warner Mansion, Farmington, Michigan (Ggl)





Troy Historical Village, Troy, Michigan (Ggl)



Sanilac County Historic Village, Port Sanilac, Michigan (SCHV Web)



Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm,  
Rochester Hills, Michigan (Ggl)



Stoney Creek Schoolhouse, Rochester Hills Museum at  
Van Hoosen Farm, Rochester Hills, Michigan (RHVHF Web)





Westland Historic Village Park, Westland, Michigan (Ggl)



Charlton Park, Hastings, Michigan (Ggl)



Mill Race Village, Northville, Michigan (Ggl)



Historic Greenmead, Livonia, Michigan (Ggl)





Honolulu House Museum Sign, Marshall, Michigan (Ggl)



Tecumseh Area Historical Museum,  
Tecumseh, Michigan (Ggl)



Stuart House Museum, Mackinac Island, Michigan (Ggl)



Ypsilanti Historical Museum, Ypsilanti, Michigan (Ggl)





Old World Wisconsin, Eagle, Wisconsin (Ggl)



Old World Wisconsin Directional Sign, Eagle, Wisconsin (Ggl)

**DATE:** March 14, 2018  
**TO:** Museum Board  
**FROM:** Leslie Pielack, Museum Director  
**SUBJECT:** Director Report

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Staffing Update—we now have a second new Museum Assistant in our group-Kyle Phillips has accepted our ten hour position. Kyle has expertise and background in digital content management and will be able to help us move toward our goals of increased electronic access for the public.

New Exhibit Update—our next exhibit, “Birmingham, Before and After,” is in development and will be installed in phases over the coming weeks. Planned as a set of vignettes that offer a look at some aspect of Birmingham history that can be explored the way it was and the way it is now, we will be integrating history about Harry Allen and our built environment as well as memories of the Birmingham experience. The first vignette to be installed will feature Jacobson’s, and will be ready in time for our lecture series opening with Bruce Kopytek on March 14.

Another vignette will feature the work of our Seaholm student, which is a project relating to Birmingham’s development as a city and the growth of its population in the early twentieth century—especially how its character has been shaped by the auto industry and economics. We are very excited to be able to include this project and demonstrate the relevance of Birmingham’s story for young people. We will be planning some way to draw special attention to his work and to appeal to our high school audience.

Adult Lecture Series—we have been getting a lot of interest in our adult lecture series and have asked the Birmingham/Bloomfield Cable TV staff to plan to film the lectures, as we often get requests for the video link after the fact and this way we have a video recording available permanently. In addition to our spring series, featuring Jacobson’s with Bruce Kopytek, Birmingham’s Neighborhoods with Pam DeWeese and George Getschman, and Downtown, Then and Now, with myself and BSD Director Ingrid Tighe, we are already planning on something in the fall series to focus on some of the family legacies in Birmingham-TBA.

In addition, we are pursuing another lecture series for the summer with a fun twist-this one would feature our staff presenting on various light-hearted aspects of our collection and Birmingham history and would be an effort to appeal to younger audiences. These presentations would build on the success of our Twitter presence using similar themes and approaches in a slideshow and discussion format, still TBD.

Allen House State Historic Preservation Nomination Application—has been submitted. It is now in the review process in Lansing; Michigan SHPO staff will be assessing the application and determining if it fulfills the requirements, or if other information may be needed or the application needs to be modified in some way. We should have some idea whether it will be moving on to the next step (public meeting/state historical commission review scheduled for May) in a few weeks’ time.

Budget Preparation for 2019-2020- the budget is very similar to the last several years, with the exception of including costs for restoration of the Allen House windows and shutters. If the Allen House is listed on the National Register, that will give us options for seeking funding for these as restoration projects.

Roof Repair and Replacement-Allen and Hunter Houses—is awaiting a break in the weather to be scheduled.

Internship Progress and Projects—Our communications interns have been working on a couple interesting projects in addition to learning the ropes of museum operation and collections care, with more TBA.