



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
MUSEUM BOARD AGENDA
556 W MAPLE
Thursday, April 4, 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 March 14, 2019
- 5. Unfinished Business**
 - A. Funds/Special Event for Heritage Zone Project
- 6. Communication and Reports**
 - A. Director Report
 - B. Member comments
 - C. Public comments
- 7. Next Regular Meeting: May 2, 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.* 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).

draft



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
MUSEUM BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, March 14, 2019
5:00 PM**

Members Present: Jay Cunningham, Russell Dixon, Lori Eaton, Tina Krizanic, Judith Keefer, Marty Logue, Caitlin Rosso

Members Absent: None

Student Members Present: Meredith Weddell

Administration: Museum Director Leslie Pielack

Guests: Brian Devlin, Nagy Devlin Land Design

Ms. Krizanic called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM.

**Approval of the Minutes
Minutes of February 7, 2019**

MOTION: by Cunningham seconded by Dixon:

To approve the minutes of February 7, 2019.

VOTE: Yeas, 7
Nays, 0

Unfinished Business

A. Brian Devlin of Nagy Devlin Land Designs shared further recommendations regarding plant choices and whether to utilize lattice for the Heritage Zone. Changes from previous design recommendations are:

- Move existing star magnolia from the front of the Allen House to the side and substitute Korean Spice viburnum (not white)
- Omit the weeping hemlock, as it is too formal, but keep 3 small globe arborvitae
- Determine whether to use vining plants on the front lattice near the staff door, as it seems to have been designed for plants (but no photos from the decades of the 1920s-1930s-1940s-1950s show vines there)

Museum Board members agreed by consensus on the plant changes and to leave the lattice unadorned. Mr. Devlin and members discussed options and placement for the primary sign for the museum. Museum Board members agreed by consensus on the following:

- Placement—the existing garden area in front of the bell to be extended in a curve closer to the sidewalk, and a 2-posted free-standing ground sign (one-sided) to be set toward the front of the bed.

- Design—Posts to mimic existing post design on picket fence. Sign to have gentle arch in the middle. Utilize proposed arched free-standing wood sign design option provided in the past by Mr. Devlin. Use baseboard instead of stone, similar to that proposed for Hunter House fence area to be used below main sign to anchor it visually, but to leave space below sign for ease of maintenance and possible low plantings. Sign to incorporate (new) 2017 Museum logo: graphic to be colored and composed of layered material in relief, lettering to be recessed
- Size—Sign to be approximately 4' tall by 8' wide (per ordinance), with the tallest point of the arch no higher than 4 ½ feet.
- Lighting--Up-lighting from ground as additional bid item at construction, pending availability of underground electrical service.
- Additional graphics—graphic of logo only to be reproduced and mounted on gate at Hunter House and on fence at driveway.

MOTION: by Dixon seconded by Keefer:

To recommend that the City of Birmingham accept the final design by Nagy Devlin Land Design, LLC, of the Heritage Zone component of the 2018 Landscape Master Plan for the Birmingham Museum, to be reviewed by the Historic District Commission and, if approved, to be presented to the Birmingham City Commission for final review and approval.

VOTE: Yeas, 7
Nays, 0

- B. Pending design approval by the Historic District Commission and City Commission, the matter of developing specific fund raising strategies can be explored in more detail at the April meeting. The HDC will review the Heritage Zone design at their March 20, 2019 meeting. A Museum Board position will be opening as of May 1, 2019, as Lori Eaton is moving out of the Birmingham area and will be unable to continue on the board. Members would like Museum Director Pielack to approach Bill Dow to determine if he is interested in applying for the open position, which could help with fund raising planning. Other members of the community are also encouraged to apply if interested.

Communication and Reports

Director Pielack highlighted portions of the Director Report, including noting that the CREEM documentary release may provide opportunities for a local release and fundraiser perhaps later in the summer, if it is feasible to plan such an event. The CREEM banner outside the former offices was removed for construction and has been replaced now that the weather has improved.

Ms. Logue mentioned that the Friends' Heritage Newsletter included a flyer about upcoming opportunities to raise funds for the Heritage Zone landscape project.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on April 4, 2019 at 5:00 PM.

Ms. Krizanic adjourned the meeting at 6:19 PM

DATE: April 2 2018
TO: Museum Board
FROM: Leslie Pielack, Museum Director
SUBJECT: Director Report

HDC Review of Heritage Zone Plan—Brian Devlin presented the Heritage Zone plan to the HDC on March 20 and the plan was issued a Certificate of Appropriateness by the HDC. The next step is to ask the city commission to accept the final plan. The first opportunity to bring it to the commission will be May 20. Brian will be there to answer any questions.

Exhibit Update—the Jacobson's display is now complete and we are working on several other displays for the exhibit. One interesting development involves a display related to the current restoration underway of a little researched but very well preserved Wallace Frost house in Birmingham. The homeowner has agreed to some kind of representation in our exhibit of the house and what they are doing to preserve it, including possible artifacts. We will also feature information about preservation in general, and will coordinate as needed with the HDC and HDSC. Tyler Firestone's research for his Seaholm class will also be turned into an exhibit and displayed. **Exhibit hashtag** (for updates and online interaction about the exhibit): **#BhamBeforeAfter**

Adult Lecture Series, update—Bruce Kopytek's lecture on Jacobson's was very well-attended and was a great way to open our lecture series. The series and its promotion seems to be effective at raising awareness of the museum and our collection. We have a steady stream of visitors, new donations, and research requests during our lecture series. Our Jacobson's collection was fairly small, but since the lecture we have received a number of really great donations of Jacobson's memorabilia and merchandise. The series will be continuing on **April 11 with Pam DeWeese and George Getschman** presenting on "**Birmingham's Neighborhoods and their Stories.**"

New Summer Lecture Series will Expand Programs—At the library's request, we will be adding a series this summer, which will be presented by museum staff. The series will be a light hearted approach to Birmingham's history that we are calling ***Throwback Thursdays*** (see attachment).

School Tours—Our school tour program again will include site visits to Quarton Elementary and our on-site tours and programs here. This year they will take place between May 7 and May 23.

Allen House National Register Listing Nomination Application—Update 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.

Roof Repair and Replacement-Allen and Hunter Houses—is anticipated in the next couple weeks and will be wrapped up during April before the school tours begin in May.

Interns-Winter Semester and Summer Update—Our completed internship projects include a promo video update for our web page and Facebook, a data project that will allow us to analyze 1925 residents and their occupations, and a brief review of local historical organizations' use of virtual and physical gift shops (more to come by early summer). The interns have been working on various aspects of our marketing questions, which are reinforcing our continued success and accomplishment of our strategic plan. We have one new intern for certain and may also get a second intern for spring and summer, with some re-organization of parts of our city website as a possible project, plus assistance with school tours and learning about general museum operations.

Throwback Thursdays Lecture Series

As part of the Birmingham Museum's current exhibit, "Birmingham: Before and After," this series will explore some unique gems of local history presented by the staff of the Birmingham Museum and co-sponsored by the Baldwin Public Library.

- **"Fash Bash at Jake's—Sixties Style!"** (June 13, 2019) (Donna Casaceli)

It was Birmingham. It was the 1960s. It was Jacobson's. The department store pulled out all the stops, bringing famous designers and creative style to grace downtown Birmingham. This program will highlight the stunning dresses and accessories sold by Jacobson's and the original fashion photos taken in and around the city during the store's heyday.

- **"Birmingham: America's Shetland Pony Capital?"** (July 18, 2019) (Caitlin Donnelly)

True! From the late 19th through early 20th century, the quiet village of Birmingham was the place to buy the highly desirable Shetland breed of pony. The gentle and sturdy ponies were not only in demand on farms, but were featured summertime amusements at Detroit's Belle Isle, Boblo Island and Palmer Park. Don't miss this chance to hear more about Birmingham's special "pony tales!"

- **"Birmingham at the Movies"** (August 8, 2019) (Kyle Phillips)

From actors to directors, professionals in the film industry have looked to Birmingham as a source of inspiration in their movies, but why? See some clips and learn about how our city has influenced the film and television industry. Come check out why Birmingham is all the rage in Hollywood!