



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM  
MUSEUM BOARD AGENDA  
556 W MAPLE  
Thursday, September 5, 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 August 1, 2019
- 5. Unfinished Business**
  - A. Hunter House Interpretive Plan
  - B. Hunter House Exterior Restoration and Preservation Project-CLG Grant Application Update
- 6. Communication and Reports**
  - A. Director Report
  - B. Member comments
  - C. Public comments
- 7. Next Regular Meeting: Re-schedule September 3, 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, August 1, 2019  
5:00 PM

Members Present: Russ Dixon, Dan Haugen, Judith Keefer, Marty Logue

Members Absent: Tina Krizanic, Caitlin Rosso

Student Members Present: Meredith Weddell

Administration: Museum Director Leslie Pielack

Guests: None

The Museum Board chair not being in attendance, Ms. Logue was elected temporary chair and called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM

**Approval of the Minutes  
Minutes of July 11, 2019**

**MOTION:** by Dixon, seconded by Haugen:

To approve the minutes of July 11, 2019.

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

**Unfinished Business**

A. Board members reviewed proposed museum resources to be included in the interpretive plan to accomplish the agreed-upon objectives for the plan.

The Hunter House cultural and historic resources were identified as follows:

1. Building and Site
  - a. Interior
    - i. Heritage room for visual 'scrapbook timeline' and display case; other rooms interpreted functionally
    - ii. Wall exposure
    - iii. Birmingham-related objects and artifacts whenever possible, with other furnishings as support for period interpretation
  - b. Exterior
2. Artifacts and Objects-displayed and directly interpreted (minimal labels with literature and/or QR coding)
  - a. Hunter-sleigh bells

- b. Hamilton-folding fork and knife
  - c. White pine slab
  - d. Swan desk (replace existing secretary)
  - e. Raynale portrait
  - f. Randall portrait
  - g. Fouracre oil lamp
  - h. Clizbe Melodion
  - i. Period garments, household items, and furnishings from collection as needed to support thematic objectives
3. Collection Photos/Maps/Architectural Drawings/Illustrations-virtual and physical literature and displays
- a. Building
  - b. Site
  - c. People (see list below)
4. Other Illustrations not in collection
- a. First surveyor and original parcel maps and documents
  - b. Museum-generated illustrations and maps
  - c. Period illustrations
5. Priority Stories/People
- a. **Hunter/Willits/Hamilton families**, various
  - b. **Imri Fish, Ziba Swan** and the **Utter** murders; the **Fish** family, Greenwood Cemetery
  - c. **Ebenezer Raynale**, early Birmingham, pioneer communities and roles
  - d. **Henry Randall**, the Civil War and post-war Birmingham, moving the Hunter House
  - e. **The Fouracres**-Alice, Albert, Edna; the Titanic, DUR, Spanish flu
  - f. **Wallace Frost** at Hunter House
  - g. **Rosemary Barnhardt**, Great Depression and rental period
  - h. **Flacks** and the preservation of the Hunter House

**MOTION:** by Keefer, seconded by Dixon:

To approve the Hunter House Interpretive Plan cultural and historic resources as proposed and modified.

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

- B. The city will be considering a final decision on a new city logo at the commission meeting scheduled for August 5, 2019, which will determine next steps in our final Heritage Zone process for approval.

### **Communication and Reports**

Director Pielack highlighted portions of the Director Report. Through the efforts of Friends member Linda Buchanan, Martha Baldwin will be inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame in November at an event to be held at Cobo Center on November 7. The library and museum will be working together on a public celebration event, and Linda and Library Director Doug Koschik will make a brief presentation to the commission. Plans for the fall lecture series have been finalized, with the theme of First Families of Birmingham. The evaluation of the pond seepage is underway, with no final outcome or recommendations as of yet. Director Pielack played a final/edited version of a complicated inventory project relating to the Hunter House that has been posted on the museum's Facebook page.

There were no board member comments.

There were no public comments.

**The next Regular Meeting will be held September 5, 2019 at 5:00 PM.**

Ms. Logue adjourned the meeting at 6:00 PM.

Interpretive Planning, Part III (September): Story-based Methodologies and Implementation (Proposed)

This component of the plan addresses appropriate means and methodologies for use in implementing the Hunter House Interpretive Plan.

Direct

1. Exhibits and displays (on and off site)
    - a. City Hall, other institutions or pop-ups
  2. Guided and self-guided tours (on and off site)
    - a. Hunter House, Greenwood guided and self-guided tours
    - b. Themed and ticketed specialty tours of the Hunter House
  3. Lectures and presentations-including conference/joint presentations as appropriate
  4. Interactive programs and activities
  5. Site events and participation at local community events as appropriate
  6. Exterior signage (Hunter House porch) with site information and QR code to online exhibits/maps/brochures (future apps) for afterhours visitors, to be coordinated with overall site
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Publications

1. Handouts/Brochures of details about Hunter House historic resources
  2. Short booklets, printed/self-published
  3. Print media (history magazines, etc.)
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Virtual

1. Brief video and/or audio presentations
  2. Electronic articles and photos
    - a. Website
    - b. eNewsletters
    - c. Local media/newspapers
  3. Electronic exhibits (links, QR, etc.)
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Social Media/Interactive

1. Facebook
  2. Instagram
  3. Twitter and other social media platforms as appropriate
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**DATE:** September 5, 2019  
**TO:** Museum Board  
**FROM:** Leslie Pielack, Museum Director  
**SUBJECT:** Director Report

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Legislative Tribute to Birmingham Museum—On August 23, the museum was presented with a Legislative Tribute by State Representative Mari Manoogian. Commissioners Hoff and DeWeese and City Manager Valentine were on hand, as were Museum Assistant Caitlin Donnelly and Museum Director Leslie Pielack to receive the tribute, which is displayed in the museum lobby. The tribute references the awards, quality programs and services, and especially the effective Twitter account that make us stand out and provide great educational service to the Birmingham community.

Museum Hosted Special 'Family Reunion'—The museum was host to a special "family reunion" of sorts on Saturday, August 24 that brought together Birmingham resident Janice Morgan and her family with a long lost diary written by her Uncle Air Force Lieutenant Saul Kempner, who died in a plane crash over England in 1944. The plane had just taken off and was loaded with explosives when it experienced engine trouble and was headed for a small English village. Kempner and the crew fought to bring the plane down safely outside the town, and were killed in the process. Kempner had kept a diary that was saved from the trash by Ed Ginter, a janitor at the air base where Kempner had been posted. 75 years later, Ginter's son Martin connected with an Englishman writing a book about the incident, who had been an 8-year-old boy in the village at the time of the crash. Together they found Morgan and her siblings, the last descendants of Lt. Kempner, and arranged to bring the diary home to Michigan. Morgan wanted to hold this solemn event at the Birmingham Museum because of its beautiful and historic setting. The museum was honored to host the exchange and bring together the family, their treasured artifact, and help see this amazing story to its conclusion.

Greenwood Tours September 21 at 1 PM/Possible Joint MB/Friends Special Tour in 2020—The Friends will be hosting the annual Pioneer Greenwood Cemetery tours in September, rain or shine. They are planning a special tour of Greenwood next year that focuses on the women of Birmingham in celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. As that is also our exhibit theme for next year, it would be worthwhile to consider a joint MB/Friends event to promote on a larger scale, perhaps a reception/tour as a fundraiser.

Fall Lecture Series—Our programs for September, October, and November are already getting attention. September's program on the 19<sup>th</sup> will summarize the under-recognized importance of the Allens (and the Clizbes before them) in the formation of modern Birmingham and in bridging the values of the 19<sup>th</sup> century rural village with the new, progressive 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Bloomfield Library Jacobson's Display in January of 2020—Word of our Jake's exhibit has spread, and the library would like us to create an exhibit for January with items from our Jacobson's collection. A great opportunity to promote our museum with a different audience and work collaboratively at the same time.

Collections Update—The summer project focusing on correcting documentation and collection-related errors in the Hunter House kitchen is now complete. Thanks to the updated/imminent Hunter House Interpretive Plan, the museum was able to accept an important piece of furniture into its collection to help tell the stories of women and children's lives during the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Called a **cradle bench**, it is a wide rocker with a cradle area that allowed women to have an infant beside them but have their hands free to do other tasks such as knitting, sewing, etc. It can be displayed in the Hunter House as part of our planned changes.

City Logo Update—The city is still reviewing its logo options. They can be seen online at [https://www.bhamgov.org/new\\_birmingham\\_logo.php](https://www.bhamgov.org/new_birmingham_logo.php)

## Museum Receives Legislative Tribute



State Representative Mari Manoogian presented the Birmingham Museum with a State of Michigan Legislative Tribute on August 23, 2019. The document was signed by Governor Gretchen Whitmer and Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilcrist II and is a testament to the museum's efforts to reach new audiences in engaging ways:

*LET IT BE KNOWN that the Birmingham Museum has since 2001 provided a top-quality educational experience to the people of Birmingham, Michigan.*

*The Birmingham Museum was founded in May of 2001 at the Marion and Harry Allen House and the surrounding area. It includes the oldest house in Oakland County, the 1822 John West Hunter House. The museum works to educate citizens as the history of Birmingham and the many people who have lived here. The Museum won the 2018 Michigan Museums Award for Community Engagement for its exhibit "The People of Birmingham: 200 Years of Stories."*

*The Museum had previously won the 2014 Michigan Museum Association Award for "Best New Experience" for "Afternoon Backstage With Chad Smith." That event showcased the museum's ability to deliver creative and entertaining alternative programming to the citizens of Birmingham.*

*The museum must also be recognized for its amazing Twitter account, @bham\_museum. This once again shows the ability of the museum to engage patrons in creative and non-traditional ways. It's the best Twitter account of any museum around, don't @ us.*

*IN SPECIAL TRIBUTE, Therefore, this document and signed and dedicated to Birmingham Museum. May you continue your excellence in the fields of history and education for years to come.*

**BIRMINGHAM**  
*The* **MUSEUM**