



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
MUSEUM BOARD AGENDA
556 W MAPLE
Thursday, December 2, 2021
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. Approval of the Minutes**
Minutes of November 4, 2021
- 4. Unfinished Business**
 - A. Heritage Zone Community Garden Project-Spring, 2022
- 5. New Business**
 - A. Update: Nomination of Greenwood Cemetery to National Park Service Network to Freedom
 - B. Update: Long Range Planning objectives
- 6. Communication and Reports**
 - A. Director Report
 - B. Member comments
 - C. Public comments
- 7. Next Meeting: January 6, 2022**
- 8. Adjournment**

You are invited to attend the meeting in person or virtually through ZOOM:

Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/99524391376> Meeting ID: 995 2439 1376

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).



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
MUSEUM BOARD MEETING
556 W. Maple
Thursday, November 4, 2021
5:00 PM**

Members Present: Bev Erickson, Alexandra Harris, Marty Logue, Jay Shell, Pat Hughes

Members Absent: Judith Keefer; Caitlin Rosso (attempted but unable to connect electronically due to Zoom error)

Student Members: None

Administration: Museum Director Leslie Pielack

Guests: None

Chairperson Logue called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM.

**Approval of the Minutes
Minutes of October 7, 2021**

MOTION: by Shell, seconded by Hughes:

To approve the minutes of October 7, 2021.

VOTE: Yeas, 5
Nays, 0

Unfinished Business

Members reviewed the plan for the community perennial garden and the plant list provided by landscape architect Brian Devlin. To help Birmingham resident gardeners prepare for the spring event, Museum Director Pielack will prepare a press release with the plan and plant list with a call for gardeners to pledge a plant from their garden next spring. An illustration of the planting plan can be made available on the website that will show the plants that have been pledged, and what is still needed. The program will be a Museum Board project, and will be promoted through social media as well.

New Business

The board reviewed the proposed meeting schedule for 2022, which keeps the Museum Board meetings on Thursdays at 5 PM.

MOTION: by Erickson, seconded by Logue:

To approve the 2022 meeting schedule of the Museum Board as proposed.

VOTE: Yeas, 5
Nays, 0

Director Pielack provided an update on the project to provide an engineering design for the ADA parking spot, boardwalk, and adjacent paths off Willits to the lower edge of the park as part of the next phase planning for Pond Zone improvements. There are funds in the current budget for the project. This project will provide construction estimates for budgetary planning for the construction phase of the Pond Zone.

Director Pielack also briefly discussed planned budget items outside the regular operational budgets for the upcoming budget cycle. They include construction of the Pond Zone items relating to the barrier-free path and increase in some personnel hours for needed collection work. The window restoration project for the Allen House will be split into two phases; the upper level, to be completed this year, and the lower level, to be budgeted for in 2022-2023.

Communication and Reports

Director Pielack reviewed the Director Report, providing updates. The potential wedding permit is not going to come to the Museum Board, as the bride has decided that there is insufficient room near the back porch to reasonably accommodate 170 guests. The new City Commissioners will be coming to the museum on December 1 for a tour and brief orientation to the museum.

There were no board member comments.

There were no public comments.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 2, at 5:00 PM.

Ms. Logue adjourned the meeting at 5:40 PM.

New sign at the museum part of phased landscape improvements

The Birmingham Museum has a new sign, installed as part of its first phase landscape improvements. As part of its landscape master plan, improvements in the Heritage Zone around the Allen and Hunter Houses have included a fence gate and re-introduction of three historic elm trees. The sign installation is the most visible enhancement, and features the museum's updated logo.

The sign is located in a planned community heirloom garden, which will contain heritage perennials sourced from Birmingham's gardeners through a plant donation and exchange event in May of 2022. Stay tuned for more information over the winter on how you can pledge your historic plants! Or, interested gardeners can contact the museum now at 248-530.1682 to find out more.

The Birmingham Museum is currently open Tuesday – Friday from 1 to 4 p.m., with our current exhibit, "Beyond Suffrage: Empowering Birmingham's Women" and guided tours of the John West Hunter House, the oldest house in Oakland County. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$5 for students and seniors, and children 5 and under and Friends members are free.

Contact the museum at 248-530-1928 or museum@bhamgov.org for more information or for help with your questions. To see what we've been up to, check us out on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/TheBirminghamMuseum/>) Instagram (https://www.instagram.com/birmingham_museum_mi/), Twitter (https://twitter.com/bham_museum) as well as with our videos at YouTube (www.youtube.com/watch?v=9VNTTymCOBk)!

(An image of the new sign in place will accompany the text; these are included for reference only. Note carved detail of logo and lettering)





Director Report

DATE: November 4, 2021
TO: Museum Board
FROM: Leslie Pielack, Museum Director
SUBJECT: Director Report

Pond Zone Barrier Free Parking and Path Project—Anderson, Eckstein & Westrick’s engineering design project is underway, and when complete will include construction estimates. We have requested Community Development Block Grant funds through the county, which will offset a portion of the cost in 2022/2023. Depending on how much funding we are allowed, the project may be split into two years, 21/22 and 22/23.

Allen House Window and Wall Repair—Three windows on the upper floor of the Allen House have been leaking rain, which has damaged the wet plaster on both floors, requiring immediate repair. We’re still awaiting a proposal for the work and hope to have it done in the next month. We will divide the window project up into two phases; 21/22, the upper windows, and 22/23, the lower ones. This will be less disruptive to the museum and will also break up the cost into two years.

Hunter House Paint Study Update—The paint analysis from the Hunter House’s paint study is due any time, which will give us direction in the implementation of the Hunter House’s interpretive plan as to interior paint color and planning for next year’s budget.

Update—Sign Installation and Heritage Zone Work—The sign is officially installed! The last item in the Heritage Zone work is the removal of the damaged fencing around the trash area and the installation of the post and cabling that will have clematis vines planted in the spring.

Website is Launched! Check it out at www.bhamgov.org/museum when you have 20 minutes or so to see all the marvels of modern technology applied to our web accessibility. We will continue to add/tweak, but this is a great refresh for the museum and gives a better sense of all we do.

Collection—We are the excited recipients of Clara Benedict’s childhood chest of drawers from the 19th century. This great piece was donated by descendants of hers, and will be a good addition to the children’s bedroom of the Hunter House to replace the piece that is there, which has no connection to Birmingham. This is in keeping with the current interpretive plan for the Hunter House. The Benedicts lived in Elijah Fish’s house, which was thereafter known as the Benedict House on the east side of Woodward north of Birmingham, demolished in the early 20th century.

Village Players Centennial, 2022-2023—We are working with the Village Players to create a celebration exhibit in their lobby for their centennial, which begins fall of 2022. We will be cross-promoting and possibly doing a joint event or two, such as a tour of the historic Village Players building, designed by Wallace Frost.

Holiday Post Cards (Eccentric Christmas Pudding Recipe)—Our historic holiday greeting this year is a reprint of a Christmas pudding recipe from the Birmingham Eccentric. We sent one to Friends members and donors to share our holiday season wishes. The cards were created by Donna for her December 2, 7 PM free presentation at the Baldwin Library, “Christmas in Early Birmingham: The Changing Traditions of the Holiday Season.” It will be simultaneously Zoomed and recorded and can be accessed on our website and YouTube channel in a couple weeks after the talk.



Clara Benedict's chest of drawers, c 1880