



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
MUSEUM BOARD AGENDA
556 W MAPLE
Thursday, October 6, 2022
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 September 1, 2022

4. Unfinished Business

- A. Underground Railroad commemorative event-wrap-up
- B. Museum window project-walk through

5. Communication and Reports

- A. Director Report
- B. Member comments
- C. Public comments

6. Next Meeting: November 3, 2022

7. 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).



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
MUSEUM BOARD MEETING
556 W. Maple
Thursday, September 1, 2022
5:00 PM**

Members Present: Kristy Barrett, Bev Erickson, Pat Hughes Alexandra Harris, Judith Keefer, Marty Logue, Jay Shell

Members Absent: None.

Student Members: None.

Administration: Museum Director Leslie Pielack

Guests: None

Chairperson Logue called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

**Approval of the Minutes
Minutes of August 4, 2022**

MOTION: by Hughes, seconded by Keefer:

To approve the minutes of August 4, 2022.

VOTE: Yeas, 7
Nays, 0

Unfinished Business

Updates for the Underground Railroad Commemorative Event included:

- Program/Promotion
 - Ms. Barrett, Ms. Erickson, Mr. Hughes, Ms. Harris, Ms. Logue and Mr. Shell plan to attend; Ms. Snyder-Phillipoff is speaking at the event
 - Members received name badges and lanyards for the event
 - Review of the final program, sequence, and roles for all members
 - General introduction as a group
 - Mr. Hughes will hold sign and lead group to cemetery
 - Police will be on hand for crowd control
 - Museum Board to return to museum as hosts for speakers in Hunter House reception so museum staff can assist at cemetery and prepare museum for opening
- Mr. Getschman and Donna Casaceli will be at the Taylor and Fish gravesites to interpret and answer questions
- Museum will be open to the public at no charge from 2 to 4 PM

Final installation of the windows is scheduled for the week of September 19, after which the offices and upstairs storage can be finished.

New Business

Director Pielack learned of a Michigan Humanities Council grant and conceived a five-community Underground Railroad traveling exhibit and interactive map website, and has been able to develop the project and get commitments from Royal Oak, Southfield, Farmington, and Pontiac (Oakland History Center) to participate. The project has the enthusiastic support of the City of Birmingham and a funding pledge from the Friends of the Museum. The MHC will announce awards November 1. If funded, Ms. Pielack will serve as project director with trained volunteer researchers and some paid research over most of 2023, culminating in a portable set of exhibit panels that will be free to libraries, schools, and other public organizations over at least three years. The goal of the project is to bring this relatively unknown local history to the public in a professional and integrated way to show how the Underground Railroad was active in southern Oakland County.

Communication and Reports

Director Pielack announced that the City's strategic plan process is underway, and that an opportunity for board members to participate will take place on Wednesday, September 14 from 6 to 8 pm at the Baldwin Library. Commissioners will be present to lead groups and receive feedback regarding the city's strategic plan for consideration in plan development.

Mr. Shell mentioned that he added some of the design-specific plants to the community garden from his garden.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 6, at 5:00 PM.

Ms. Logue adjourned the meeting at 5:44 PM.

DATE: October 6, 2022
TO: Museum Board
FROM: Leslie Pielack, Museum Director
SUBJECT: Director Report

UGRR Ceremony Outcomes—so many wonderful things came of the event on September 17:

- A great opportunity to bring so many different elements together with shared interests!!!
- Future collaboration and new information and photos on Birmingham's Black history from the Harris-Jackson family
- New memberships in the Friends and additional cash donation to the Taylor marker fund
- An opportunity to connect with the BPS superintendent office (with Kristy Barrett's help) to discuss educational and curriculum collaboration with the museum and the schools
- Involvement with the ceremony and visit by Mayor Longe, with additional exposure to the Black history element, the new exhibit, and the updated interior of the Hunter House
- Positive public exposure for the museum staff and Museum Board
- Video and audio footage (to be edited and used to create a final 'highlights' video)
- Tallies:
 - Attendance at event: Between 225-250 people total
 - Attendance at cemetery: Approximately 50-60 people total
 - Attendance at museum exhibit during public hours: 40

Museum Reopening on Saturdays—As of October 1, the museum has reopened on Saturdays, from 1 to 4 PM. This will allow us to accommodate students and families

Museum Board Opening (Alternate Member)—As our Alternate Member is planning to apply for the permanent member position, the Alternate position will be open. If you know anyone who you think would be interested in serving, please ask them to get in touch with Museum Director Pielack.

Windows Project—The windows have been reinstalled and are functioning and looking great. Storm windows will be installed separately in the next couple of weeks. Next year we will plan to do the lower floor with an RFP beginning in January or February and installation next summer.

Winter Repair Projects—The furnace in the upstairs zone of the Allen House is scheduled to be replaced this winter. The old furnace is functional, so at this time there is no emergency. We intend to do the work some time in November or December. Also needed are updates on electrical lighting in the Hunter House and the track lighting in the lower level of the Allen House.

Fall/Winter Lecture Series at Baldwin Library Adult Lecture Series—October's presentation will be Zoomed and will feature museum staff Donna Casaceli and Justin Koch giving an overview to our "Tapestry of Birmingham" exhibit.

Cemetery FindAGrave Digital Data—beginning to work on the plan for integrating Jacquie Patt's files into a digital content management program at the museum. This will hopefully offer options for managing the information and records for both the museum and clerks office and offer public access.

Collection News—A direct descendant of Clara Taylor has offered to donate her framed portrait if it can be displayed long-term. We are considering creating a display in the Heritage Room at the Hunter House that includes Birmingham's UGRR/Black history as related to the Taylor family. Stay tuned.

Portrait of Clara Blevins Taylor Farmer Proctor: The only known photo of the adopted daughter of George and Eliza Taylor is on loan from her grandson, and may become part of our permanent collection.



PORTRAIT OF
CLARA PROCTOR

*Colorized photo, c 1910
Courtesy Charles Anzalone*