



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM  
MUSEUM BOARD AGENDA  
556 W MAPLE  
Thursday, December 1, 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 November 3, 2022
- 4. New Business**
  - A. Meeting schedule for 2023-Revisions
  - B. Fundraising for Pond Zone Improvements
- 5. Communication and Reports**
  - A. Director Report
  - B. Member comments
  - C. Public comments
- 6. Next Meeting: January 5, 2023**
- 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](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.

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**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM  
MUSEUM BOARD MEETING  
556 W. Maple  
Thursday, November 3, 2022  
5:00 PM**

Members Present: Bev Erickson, Alexandra Harris, Judith Keefer, Marty Logue, Jay Shell

Members Absent: Kristy Barrett, Pat Hughes.

Administration: Museum Director Leslie Pielack

Guests: Museum Specialist Donna Casaceli; Museum Intern Justin Koch

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

**Approval of the Minutes  
Minutes of October 6, 2022**

**MOTION:** by Keefer, seconded by Erickson:

To approve the minutes of October 6, 2022.

**VOTE:** Yeas, 5  
Nays, 0

**Unfinished Business**

None.

**New Business**

Members reviewed the Museum Board meeting schedule for 2023.

**MOTION:** by Erickson, seconded by Keefer:

To approve the 2023 Museum Board Meeting Schedule as proposed.

**VOTE:** Yeas, 5  
Nays, 0

Museum Director Pielack reviewed the 2023-2024 anticipated budget, with operations and personnel remaining at current levels and larger expenditure requests including the lower level windows of the Allen House and some components of the Pond Zone landscape improvements not covered by CDBG funding. Members discussed the potential for planning fundraising activities that would help draw public interest and support to the park

and contributing to some costs, such as benches and trees. The board agreed to add an agenda item to the December meeting to discuss fundraising opportunities for the pond area in more detail. In January, the city's Long Range Planning meeting will take place and will highlight each department's direction for the coming year. The museum will emphasize public access expansion through digitization initiatives and public outreach as well as ongoing implementation of the Landscape Master Plan.

### **Communication and Reports**

Director Pielack provided an update to the Director Report. The Underground Railroad traveling exhibit and website project has received some hopeful news but final funding should be decided in the next couple of weeks.

Chair Logue commented that the museum has come a long way since it was first established 20 years ago, and that she thinks it is amazing what the museum has accomplished and where it is going.

**The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 1, at 5:00 PM.**

Ms. Logue adjourned the meeting at 5:43 PM.



## Director Report

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**DATE:** December 1, 2022  
**TO:** Museum Board  
**FROM:** Leslie Pielack, Museum Director  
**SUBJECT:** Director Report

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Museum Board Opening (Alternate Member)—Posted by the City Commission on 11/14, with planned interviews for 12/12.

Charter Amendment—The amendment passed with voters, and the new purchasing guidelines are being developed for city staff. RFPs will still be needed for some large items, and those of significant cost will require three bids or proposals and review with the city manager in most circumstances.

Storm Windows Phase of Window Project—all storm windows are now in, and historically inappropriate screen windows have been removed. The windows look crisp, clean, and fully functional, and the storm windows act as additional insulation.

Winter Repair Projects—Update—the new purchasing guidelines will have an impact on our scheduling of the winter repair projects at the Allen House. These include the furnace upstairs, carpeting in the central stairway, and electrical updates in the Hunter House and in the Allen House track lighting.

Museum Application for Michigan Humanities Council Grant—We are happy to be able to get the grant project underway after the new year. The grant will pay for some additional hours for Museum Specialist Donna Casaceli and Museum Intern Justin Koch to participate in the project. Many volunteer hours will also be utilized in all five community teams-Birmingham, Farmington, Royal Oak, Pontiac, and Southfield. I will provide you with regular updates on the project progress.

Community Engagement—with a Podcast! We're exploring the idea of creating a museum podcast, to be released twice a month and to feature items of local history interest featuring the one and only Caitlin Donnelly. Podcasts require a different approach than our other social media. They are audio only, run longer, and appeal to audiences who are listening while doing something else, like driving. We will draw from the same "enlightened entertainment" we use on all our platforms, however.

Fall/Winter Lecture Series at Baldwin Library Adult Lecture Series—December's presentation will feature the controversial mural in the Birmingham Post Office by Carlos Lopez, featuring Donna Casaceli as presenter.

Presentation Requests—The museum is receiving regular requests for presentations to local civic groups, historical organizations, and libraries. All staff are participating in the presentations, some of which are video recorded and will be on our YouTube channel.

Collection News—We received more Jacobson's-Birmingham items after one of the museum's recent public presentations.

Unexpected Promotion! *The Chronicle*, published by the Historical Society of Michigan, featured a half-page "member spotlight" on us that appears to have been taken from our Pure Michigan website.

Michigan Network to Freedom Signs for Greenwood—Will be installed soon at Greenwood's gates.



## BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM

Visitors will love exploring the Birmingham Museum—an ideal place to discover the history of Birmingham, Michigan, from its early days. The museum grounds consist of two historic houses on four acres adjacent to the Rouge River.

Inside the 1926 Marion and Harry Allen House, museum-goers will find both changing exhibits and permanent displays. An immersive exhibit on *Creem* magazine—an iconic rock music publication produced in Birmingham in the 1970s and 1980s—is just one highlight. Visitors will find culturally diverse content, pioneer-era local artifacts, Native-American projectile points found in Birmingham, and an intact Flint Faience Tile storybook fireplace from the children's wing of the Barnum School.

The 1822 John West Hunter House—identified as the oldest house in Oakland County—includes period antiques and showcases the nineteenth-century history of the area. The two historic buildings and the land upon which they reside are part of Birmingham's Mill Pond Historic District.

The museum, which operates as part of the city of Birmingham, also offers themed tours and hosts regular public programming, including monthly history lectures.



**PHONE**  
(248) 530-1928

**WEB**  
[bhamgov.org/museum](http://bhamgov.org/museum)



  
To become a business or organizational member of HSM, visit [hsmichigan.org](http://hsmichigan.org).

Michigan Freedom Trail signage (10 X 14), funded by a grant through the Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, will be placed at each of Greenwood's gates.

