



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM  
MUSEUM BOARD AGENDA  
556 W MAPLE  
Thursday, March 2, 2023  
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; Introduction of Student Representatives**
- 3. Approval of the Minutes**  
Minutes of March 2, 2022
- 4. New Business**
  - A. Update on Taylor Project
  - B. Update on Underground Railroad Grant Project
- 5. Communication and Reports**
  - A. Director Report
  - B. Member comments
  - C. Public comments
- 6. Next Meeting: April 6, 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, February 2, 2023  
5:00 PM**

Members Present: Caroline Ashleigh (Alternate), Bev Erickson, Alexandra Harris, Pat Hughes, Marty Logue, Jay Shell

Members Absent: Kristy Barrett, Judith Keefer

Administration: Museum Director Leslie Pielack

Guests: None.

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

**Approval of the Minutes  
Minutes of January 12, 2023**

**MOTION:** by Erickson, seconded by Harris:

To approve the minutes of January 12, 2023.

**VOTE:** Yeas, 6  
Nays, 0

**Unfinished Business**

The Board discussed planned Pond Zone improvements and opportunities for fundraising. The cost for benches, bike rack, and trees has been donated for Phases 1 and 2 already. Remaining elements of Phase 1, 2, 3 that lend themselves to fundraising include wetlands plants and in Phase 4, more benches, native trees and wetlands/native plants. However, Phase 4 is not anticipated until 2025-2026, so those more tangible elements cannot realistically be targeted until we get closer. For 22/23 and 23/24, therefore, the garden plantings are really the only features not funded. Due to construction and ability to plan, the fall is better for timing. Several ideas were suggested for consideration for fundraising campaigns this year:

- An invitation-only private reception at the museum when potential donors can see progress on the grounds/renderings of garden designs for specialized fundraising
- Seeking a sponsorship or partnership from a local new business that may also be able to host a reception
- A public event in the fall such as:
  - "Picnic for Plants," plant exchange and hosted picnic
  - General Open House when Phase 1 and 2 construction are complete
  - Incorporating a seed exchange with the plant exchange if in the fall
- Reminder that planning a public event needs 90 day lead time, and that no alcohol should be planned for a reception at the museum

## **New Business**

Director Pielack reviewed the museum's Collection Policy and the anticipated need to begin deaccessioning activities later this year. At least one member of the previous Collections Subcommittee is no longer on the Board, so members revisited the role of the Collections Subcommittee, to be composed of up to three members of the Museum Board, and considered nominations for the following members:

- Caroline Ashleigh
- Judith Keefer
- Jay Shell

### **MOTION:**

To approve the Collections Subcommittee as nominated.

**VOTE:**       Yeas, 6  
                  Nays, 0

Subcommittee members will not need to schedule a meeting until museum staff have prepared deaccession paperwork on items for consideration. The process begins with staff identifying collection items that need to be removed from the collection, and then initiating the process. After the Collections Subcommittee has met and reviewed the potential deaccessions, they make a recommendation to the Museum Board for further review. The Museum Board, if in agreement, sends the recommendation to the City Commission for formal review and/or approval. The Collections Subcommittee is subject to the Open Meetings Act and therefore will be a public meeting. Due to the number of other projects and upcoming construction and closure of the museum, no deaccession activity is expected for at least a few months.

## **Communication and Reports**

Director Pielack shared the framed Congressional Record from Rep. Haley Stevens' office of the Underground Railroad designation of the Fish and Taylor burial sites at Greenwood Cemetery. The Taylor grave marker, which has now been ordered and has a 6 month timeframe. There is one interested bidder in the Allen House Phase II Window Project, and it is L.G.K. Construction, Inc. The Museum Board indicated its approval of L.G.K.'s involvement in the project, should the bid be in line with budgeted funds.

Ms. Erickson commented that she thought the museum's Collections Policy was well-written. Members also discussed meeting in the Hunter House in June when the Allen House has to close to the public for the window restoration project.

**The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 2, at 5:00 PM.** Ms. Logue adjourned the meeting at 5:56 PM.



## Director Report

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**DATE:** March 2, 2023  
**TO:** Museum Board  
**FROM:** Leslie Pielack, Museum Director  
**SUBJECT:** Director Report

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Landscape Design for Phase 3 of Pond Zone—Brian Develin of Nagy Devlin Land Design LLC will be providing our garden design for the pond area and will include a management plan for the care and maintenance of the planned wetlands and native planted materials.

Community Development Block Grant Funding for Parking and Enhancements—We are still waiting for the final approval on re-programming of Federal funds for this project before we will be able to go out to bid with a construction RFP. The hope is that we can get approval soon so we can get sufficient response to this project.

Allen House Windows, Phase II—One bid was received from L.G.K. Construction, who did our Phase I window project. The project will include storm windows, which will improve heating efficiency as a sustainable objective, as well as return the exterior windows to their appropriate historical appearance. Total bid for both window repairs/restoration and for new storm windows is 178,900.00; we expect the project completion to be fall of 2023.

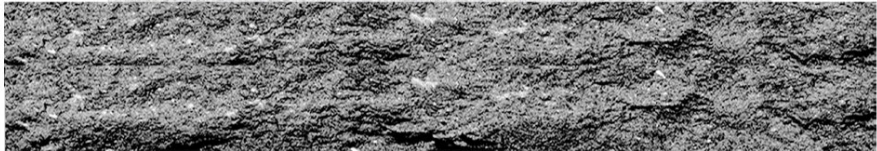
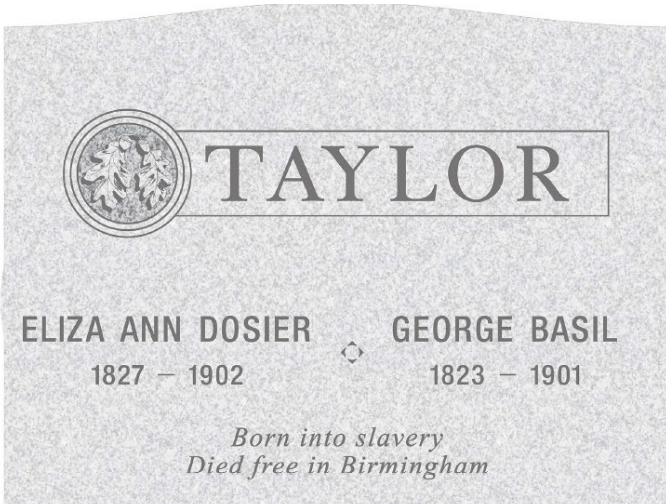
Hunter House Electrical Updates—In accordance with the City's sustainability goals, the Hunter House will receive electrical updates; LED lighting in all fixtures and updated plug covers and outlet covers. This completes the interior refinishing project that included the historic paint study & historically accurate colors for a more accurate interpretation and visitor experience.

Taylor Marker and Friends Board's Cemetery Preservation Focus—The final graphic has been approved for the Taylors' marker. With the remaining funds, the Friends have decided to get an assessment of markers in Section A, especially Elijah Fish's marker, by a cemetery preservation professional. The Fish family has indicated their support for any effort to repair/preserve his marker, which is at increased risk because it has fallen and is more vulnerable to weathering.

Podcast—"Birmingham, Uncovered" is expected to launch in late March or early April, pending the outcome of the Birmingham Area Cable Board PEG grant decision on March 15. Scripts are being written and finalized for the first few episodes, and the podcast logo has been created.

School Programs Back in the Hunter House for 2023—The museum has made improvements to the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade tour experience of the Hunter House for the re-launch of our school tour program this May. Students will have an enhanced personal experience that will be more inclusive and reflect our expanding understanding of our local history.

Fall/Winter Lecture Series at Baldwin Library—The final presentation for this season is "The Levinsons: First Jews in Birmingham," at 7 PM on March 9. The program discusses how Morris and Gittel Levinson fled oppression in Russia in the 1870s and 1880s and discovered new opportunity in Birmingham—and the crucial role played by technology in their decision to settle here. Their amazing family legacy includes some of the most influential American lawmakers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



230455

DATE \_\_\_\_\_  APPROVED AS SUBMITTED \_\_\_\_\_  
 In signing on the "Approved" line... I assume complete responsibility for layout, spelling and dates.  
 I also agree that after signing this proof no further changes can be made.

MAKE CHANGES AND RESUBMIT NEW DRAWING \_\_\_\_\_

**Non Inventory Items Will Not Be Ordered Until We Receive Final Approval**

