



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
MUSEUM BOARD AGENDA
556 W MAPLE
Thursday, November 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

3. Approval of the Minutes

Minutes of October 5, 2023

4. New Business

A. Allen House Porch Roof Repair

5. Communication and Reports

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

6. Next Meeting: December 7, 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.* 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, October 5, 2023
5:00 PM**

Members Present: Caroline Ashleigh, Kristy Barrett (Alternate, with vote),
Alexandra Harris, Pat Hughes, Judith Keefer, Marty Logue,
Jay Shell
Members Absent: Bev Erickson
Student Members Present: Alexander Motea
Administration: Museum Director Leslie Pielack
Guests: None

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by Chairperson Logue.

**Approval of the Minutes
Minutes of September 7, 2023**

MOTION: by Keefer, seconded by Ashleigh:

To approve the minutes of September 7, 2023.

VOTE: Yeas, 7
Nays, 0

New Business

Members reviewed the proposed 2024 meeting schedule for the Museum Board, which includes a change from the first Thursday of July to the second Thursday, July 11, due to the holiday falling on the first Thursday. A second proposed change is to hold no meetings during October of 2024, as each Thursday falls on an observed religious holiday.

MOTION: by Barrett, seconded by Shell:

To approve the proposed 2024 schedule with the change from July 4 to July 11 and the omission of an October meeting.

VOTE: Yeas, 7
Nays, 0

Communication and Reports

Director Pielack provided updates to the Director's Report. There have been delays in the storm window project and weather delays in the ADA parking space/sidewalk along Willits, but both projects should be completed by winter. The George and Eliza Taylor marker has been inscribed by the memorial inscription company, but they made an error, so the erroneous marker will be installed while another is fabricated. This may take as long as a

year. The error is on layout of the names and the 'circa' term for their birth dates, which will need correcting but can be placed on the grave with an explanatory sign to clarify the situation. Our podcast has had really good interest and download statistics, and Caitlin will be doing a special collaborative theme to work with the Birmingham Shopping District in sharing the history of the downtown. The museum will be holding a special 4-part lecture series at the museum on Saturdays during Black History month to draw additional attention to our local Black history, and a bus tour of southern Oakland County UGRR sites is in the works for Juneteenth that would include Farmington, Southfield, Royal Oak, Birmingham, and Pontiac. The museum has a new Indigenous People of Oakland County virtual exhibit page on the museum's website, which will have content related to the Anishnaabe tribes that occupied this area and feature items from our recently donated basket collection. Also recently donated were some items for the museum's Use Collection that were in everyday use in the 19th and early 20th centuries, including a maple cutting board, preservation crock, and a wooden dough bowl. These items help enhance visitor experience of the Hunter House, because they can be set out and even touched by visitors, as deemed appropriate by staff.

Member Comments

Chairperson Logue reported that the recent Friends' cemetery tour was very successful, with 37 people in attendance, and that an additional private tour makes about 50 people who toured the cemetery this fall, generating funds for the Friends and the special cemetery preservation fund.

Public Comments

None.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 2, 2023, at 5:00 PM.

Ms. Logue adjourned the meeting at 5:53 PM.

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

Allen House Windows, Phase II—Storm windows will be installed presently, finishing up this !

Construction of Phase 1 and 2 of the ADA/Barrier Free parking and path—underway, also has experienced delays but anticipated completion by December 1.

Taylor Grave Marker Update—a replacement marker has been ordered due to errors on the inscription, but will take as long as a year to redo. The mis-inscribed marker will be installed as a place holder, and the museum will work with the Friends to have a ground sign made to explain the details to visitors at the gravesite.

Museum Site Interpretive Plan—Final document in process and is anticipated to be ready for Museum Board final review in December or January.

Historic Tour of Downtown for Michigan Downtown Association--Birmingham, Uncovered” Outreach Coordinator Caitlin Donnelly will be working with Nick Dupuis, Planning Director, to conduct a walking tour of downtown Birmingham for the MDA on November 4. This collaboration grew out of a BSD request and also includes a companion series of podcasts on the people behind Birmingham’s retail history.

Special Group Tours—Museum staff has hosted several customized group tours of note, including a woman’s philanthropic private tour, a private group walking tour (Woman’s history), and a group from the metro Detroit area who came specifically to view our diversity and Underground Railroad exhibit.

Programming Update

- Donna Casaceli presented an in depth look at muralist Carlos Lopez in October for Hispanic Heritage Month. It is now available on YouTube. Donna has received inquiries from researchers and interested patrons outside Birmingham for her work on this project.
- Our ongoing monthly lecture series will feature Caitlin Donnelly presenting at the library November 9 on 19th century mental health treatment. We have had several advance inquiries about that program as well.
- Planning is underway for special Saturday programming during Black History Month in February 2024 on different aspects of local African American stories and the history of Birmingham.
- A multi-community bus tour of UGRR sites in Oakland County is in planning for June (Juneteenth), with Oakland County Parks being the chief sponsor.

Expansion of UGRR Research in 2024 (Michigan Humanities Grant Funding) –Update.

Virtual Exhibits—

- The yearbook collection is nearing completion. We anticipate an online launch of the first phase in December or January.
- “Birmingham’s Indigenous Heritage” new webpage has launched. We will be adding articles on the archaeological record of our area (Caitlin Donnelly) and highlights on three exemplary Anishnaabe baskets we recently received.

