



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM  
MUSEUM BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, June 2, 2016  
6:30 PM**

Members Present: Russ Dixon, Tina Krizanic, Marty Logue, Caitlin Rosso; Kate Montgomery arrived at 6:40 PM

Student Members Present: Nahri Carman

Members Absent: Gretchen Maricak, Jeff Wilmot

Administration: Museum Director Leslie Pielack

Guests: Jennifer O'Hare, Leslie Mio; Friends of Birmingham Museum Board  
Carlos Jorge, City of Birmingham Facilities Superintendent

Mr. Dixon called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Guests and Museum Board members introduced themselves.

**Approval of the Minutes  
Minutes of May 5, 2016**

**MOTION:** by Krizanic, seconded by Rosso:

To approve the minutes of May 5, 2016 as amended.

**VOTE:** Yeas, 4  
Nays, 0

The Museum Board agreed to discuss New Business 7A. Allen House Siding and Unfinished Business 6B. Joint Planning with Friends Board for Bell Dedication before its other business, in recognition of guests in attendance.

**New Business**

A. The Allen House's existing cedar siding, including the board window trim, is deteriorating and needs to be addressed. Animals have found openings and have intruded into the building in numerous places. The paint on the cedar siding is failing in many places and moisture is causing rot damage. For approximately the last year, Facilities Superintendent Carlos Jorge and the Museum Director have been attempting to get cost estimates on repair/repainting or replacement of deteriorated elements. Two options are available; one is to repair/replace existing siding and prime and paint in the field

and the other is to use an alternative fiber cement siding with a cedar siding profile, with a factory applied finish. Both options will involve lead remediation.

Repair/replacement of cedar shingles will require periodic spot repair and replacement, with painting of the entire side to match approximately 3 to 5 years, based on the existing siding's repair history. At the time of repair, the Each cycle of spot repair will require lead remediation.

Full replacement with Hardie fiber cement shingles comes with a 15 year warranty on the finish and 30 years for the substrate. It is a more physically stable product and does not rot; its finish appearance would likely require repainting in approximately 15 years.

Mr. Jorge and Director Pielack requested a courtesy review from the Historic District Commission on May 18, 2016 to discuss the Hardie fiber cement product. The commission was not supportive of the use of the fiber cement product on the Allen House, instead advocating remaining with the cedar shingle siding.

The Museum Board was presented with information about the two materials and samples of the Hardie fiber cement shingle and trim board. Discussion included pros and cons of the two materials, cost projections, and clarification that in historic preservation terms, the Allen House falls under the category of *Rehabilitation*, which applies to adaptively re-used buildings such as the Allen House. The Allen House has already been altered substantially from a residence to become a museum and is a public building. The estimate for the fiber cement Hardie siding specified a four foot shingle panel; however, Hardie cedar is available in individual shingles as well, which can have a more traditional appearance. Mr. Dixon suggested that the existing cedar siding was most desirable and that any additional costs associated with continuing to use traditional cedar siding was less important than preserving the appearance and integrity of the hand-applied wood.

**MOTION:** by Logue, seconded by Rosso:

To endorse the use of James Hardie fiber cement cedar shingles, using individual shingles rather than panels on the entire house, and Hardie board wood-style trim for the Allen House and request the City of Birmingham to proceed with the project using these materials.

**VOTE:** Yeas, 4  
Nays, 1

### **Unfinished Business**

B. The Friends of the Birmingham Museum would like to form a joint effort to create an event to dedicate the Hill School Bell in the fall. This event could be characterized as a 'Homecoming,' to reference school heritage and the idea of getting together and coming back home. Discussion included coordinating the date with another bigger event in Birmingham and participating as one aspect of it. The dedication could be a ½ hour program, the museum could be opened, and cider/hot chocolate and doughnuts or cookies could be served on site. The Junior League Pumpkin Patch was mentioned, but has rules about healthy foods only. Their event is scheduled for October 30. Other group events may be equally appropriate. The Birmingham Chamber of Commerce would be a good resource in this matter. Mr. Dixon offered to work with Director Pielack to develop a dedication program chronology that would provide a basis for exploring participating with a larger event.

A. The Museum Board reviewed objectives for Goal II of the revised 2017-2020 Strategic Plan.

**MOTION:** by Montgomery, seconded by Krizanic:

To approve the following objectives for Goal II of the 2017-2020 Birmingham Museum Strategic Plan:

*Goal II: Provide stewardship and management of the museum's collection of artifacts, archives, and buildings, in accordance with established professional museum practice.*

Objectives for Goal II:

- A. Improve museum collection's storage organization and environmental controls to protect and preserve the collection.
- B. Improve efficiency, accuracy, and accessibility of collection object records and documentation.
- C. Develop and implement collections-related policies and procedures for collections management; future acquisitions; deaccessioning; disaster preparedness; the museum's hands-on use collection; building maintenance; and other collections-related policies and procedures in accordance with accepted museum standards.
- D. Provide improved digital access through exploring online or other virtual exhibit/access options.
- E. Seek professional training opportunities for museum staff to provide ongoing collection management skills development and effectiveness.

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

**New Business, continued**

B. Two invited proposals have been received for providing historic landscape services. Quinn Evans Architects has proposed services in the amount of \$39,750 and Devlin Nagy

Land Design in the amount of \$5,100. Both firms are qualified to provide the services requested in the scope of work. Sufficient funding for the Devlin Nagy proposal is available through grant money donated by the Rosso Family Foundation and held in a dedicated account by the Friends of the Birmingham Museum. The contract would be finalized with the City of Birmingham using its customary procedures.

**MOTION:** by Logue, seconded by Montgomery:

To recommend that the City of Birmingham award the Historic Landscape Survey Project for the Birmingham Museum/John west Hunter park to Nagy Devlin Land Design, LLC, in an amount not to exceed \$5,100.00.

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

### **Communication and Reports**

- A. Director Pielack shared updates to the Director Report. The paver program continues to draw interest, and has been promoted via local media and through the City of Birmingham's electronic newsletter.
- B. There were no additional Board member comments.
- C. There were no public comments.

Mr. Dixon adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.