



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM  
MUSEUM BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, November 10, 2016  
5:30 PM  
Hunter House**

Members Present: James Cristbrook, Russ Dixon, Judith Keefer, Tina Krizanic, Marty Logue, Caitlin Rosso,

Student Members Present: None

Members Absent: Gretchen Maricak

Administration: Museum Director Leslie Pielack

Guests: Andrew McMechan, George Stern, Museum Assistant Caitlin Donnelly

Mr. Dixon called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

**Approval of the Minutes  
Minutes of October 6, 2016**

**MOTION:** by Logue, seconded by Krizanic:

To approve the minutes of October 6, 2016.

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

**Announcements**

None.

**Unfinished Business**

A. The Museum Board reviewed the proposed 2017-2020 Strategic Plan at the task level. The proposed plan continues some goals, objectives, and tasks from the existing 2013-2016 plan with slight modifications and was reviewed in abbreviated form. The final written document draft will be presented to the Museum Board for its approval and recommendations in January. Mr. Stern commented that he was disappointed that some tasks were not completed from the 2013-2016 Strategic Plan.

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

To approve the 2017-2020 Strategic Plan at the task level.

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

## New Business

A. The Museum Board reviewed the proposed meeting schedule for 2017 and agreed to the dates with a modification of the meeting time to be at 5:30 PM rather than 6:30 PM.

**MOTION:** by Keefer, seconded by Krizanic:

To approve the proposed 2017 Museum Board Meeting Schedule as amended to a 5:30 PM meeting time.

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

B. The Museum Board considered the appropriateness of supporting a city-wide initiative to commemorate the bi-centennial of Birmingham's founding on December 1, 1818 with some type of public event on or around December 1, 2018. Connecting such an event to the annual Wintr Markt was mentioned as a logical tie-in. It is unclear how the city as a whole might best approach this type of celebration. The Museum Board asked the Museum Director to gather additional information for the board to review before its January meeting in order to consider the matter further.

The Museum Board also considered the matter of an update to the *Book of Birmingham* as part of the bicentennial celebration. Mr. McMechan proposed that the original *Book of Birmingham* be left as is, with the exception of minor corrections only. Changing the content, updating with additional information, graphics, photographs, etc. would alter the original work, which he believes should be left intact. Instead, he proposed a different publication as a separate work that can incorporate new content and material that is relevant to Birmingham's continuing story. The Museum Board discussed the value of a new publication as well as the challenges of such a task. Developing partnerships, such as with local publications, other community groups, and for fundraising, etc. would involve a significant effort that would need to be well organized and begun as soon as possible. Mr. Cristbrook pointed out that the anniversary of the Fair Housing Administration is also approaching, and this could tie in to possible funding and partnerships for a book project. The input of the Friends would be very helpful; their next meeting is scheduled for November 17, 2016. The Museum Board proposed that a joint subcommittee with the Friends would be an important next step.

**MOTION:** by Rosso, seconded by Cristbrook:

The Museum Board is in support of a book project, and proposes the establishment of a joint subcommittee with the Friends of the Birmingham Museum to explore the possibility of a publication, to take place around the Birmingham Bicentennial on December 1, 2018.

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

## Communication and Reports

- A. Director Pielack presented the Director Report. The budget process is in its early stages, and it is expected that the museum budget will request similar funding for operations as it has in the past. Mr. Dixon asked that the Museum Board be provided with comparative numbers on the proportion of the museum budget to the city budget and revenues in 2009 during the recession vs. the current 2016-17 budget.
- B. There were no Museum Board comments.
- C. Public comments are included under business items relating to the Strategic Plan (Unfinished Business) and Birmingham Bicentennial and Book Project (New Business).

Mr. Dixon adjourned the meeting at 6:46 p.m.