



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM  
MUSEUM BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, June 15, 2017  
5:30 PM**

**Members Present:** Jay Cunningham, Russ Dixon, Judith Keefer, Tina Krizanic, Marty Logue, Caitlin Rosso

**Student Members Present:** None

**Members Absent:** Lori Eaton

**Administration:** Museum Director Leslie Pielack

**Guests:** None

Mr. Dixon called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Ms. Rosso arrived at 5:40 PM.

**Approval of the Minutes  
Minutes of May 11, 2017**

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

To approve the minutes of May 11, 2017.

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

**Announcements**

None.

**Unfinished Business**

A. In light of the new Museum Board members, the board discussed their backgrounds and interest in the museum and the ways they hope to serve the board. The Museum Board is in a unique position to represent the museum within the community. Continuing engagement in the community and collaborating with other organizations was mentioned as one way to connect and spread awareness of the museum. Several specific approaches were mentioned to help reach new audiences. The wide range in our audiences and their preferred method of connecting means the museum needs to be proficient in traditional as well as virtual engagement. As an entity, the Museum Board can get involved in outreach and help respond to the public's needs. The landscape master plan currently in process can be a major way of assessing, responding, and planning for the public benefit.

B. Members reviewed the landscape existing conditions and zones and discussed areas that could focus on historic content, barrier-free access, and natural zones with environmental/wildlife educational goals and interpretation. The issue of reconstructing what the pool was originally like vs. preserving how it is and interpreting its history were briefly addressed. Reconstruction may trigger a need for additional safety measures that might obstruct or interfere with the appreciation of the pool. It would be desirable to ensure that barrier free access could take visitors across the current lawn to a possible observation area overlooking the Rouge River. Managing invasives would be a significant part of the planning for the slope to the river and the museum portion of the trail area, and would require an ongoing commitment. However, it would allow the museum to interpret the land as it was historically at the founding of Birmingham. Many of these interventions may qualify for major grant funding, and could lead to the landscape being a 'destination' park.

### **Communication and Reports**

- A. There is no Bicentennial Book Committee Report at this time.
- B. Director Pielack reviewed the Director Report. Three contractors were present at the pre-bid meeting today. If there are no qualifying bids, the project will be re-bid in the fall. The Creem: Revisited event on June 10 was a great success and resulted in more quality artifacts being donated to the museum and also generated support from 3 new sponsors. Approximately 75 new visitors viewed the exhibit. School tours just ended, with 458 students and 155 adults coming through the museum.

### **Board Comments**

Mr. Dixon shared that former Museum Board member Gretchen Maricak received an award for a work of art and that the Scott Richard Case (SRC) band, with members formerly from the Birmingham area, received a lifetime achievement award at the 2017 Detroit Music Awards, and Mike Posner, who formerly attended Groves, also received awards.

### **Public Comments**

None.

Mr. Dixon adjourned the meeting at 6:45 PM. Next meeting is scheduled for July 13, 2017.