



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
MUSEUM BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, September 21, 2017
5:30 PM**

Members Present: James Cunningham, Lori Eaton, Judith Keefer, Tina Krizanic, Marty Logue, Caitlin Rosso

Student Members Present: Hannah Sandler, Carson Claar (arrived at 6:00 p.m.)

Members Absent: Russ Dixon

Administration: Museum Director Leslie Pielack

Guests: None

**Approval of the Minutes
Minutes of September 7, 2017**

Approval of the minutes will be deferred to the next scheduled board meeting in October.

Announcements

None.

Unfinished Business

A. Museum Board members were provided additional information regarding a survey for the pond and the ongoing Parks master plan process, as well as expected steps going forward for the Museum Landscape Master Plan. The survey could take as little as two weeks or as long as 60 days. The pond-related planning cannot go forward without the survey information, so it is possible that the Museum plan would not be ready at the same time as the Parks plan. However, the Parks plan will reference the 2018 Museum plan in its documents if that is the case. Also, the existing 2006 Rouge plan provides for a trail access path on Willits to the river, so the Museum plan can reference and make recommendations accordingly that would build on the existing recommendation.

The Museum Board agreed to review and finalize Mr. Devlin's recommendations with the exception of the immediate area adjacent to, and over, the pond, until such time as the final survey data is available. The Museum Board agreed by consensus on the following to be incorporated in the final concept plan:

Heritage Zone:

1. Replace inappropriate specimen trees, such as Norway maple, with hybrid elms
2. Provide space on the front and side of the Hunter House for a parlor garden with low screening hedge

3. Utilize garden space for educational gardens, possibly with vegetables and historically appropriate flowers
4. Explore opportunities for collaborating with adjoining property owners to the east regarding boundary fencing and/or treatment; suggest appropriate fencing appearance and material

Transition Zone:

1. Plant new hybrid elms to reconstruct landscape elements from Allen period and earlier
2. Repair historic stone wall as needed
3. Retain mature spruce until/unless it begins to die
4. Replace existing wood steps with wider hard surface/natural material steps and rock walls; provide landings for rest areas with possible seating

Pond Zone:

1. Provide at least 2 parallel parking spots along Willits (handicapped)
2. Barrier free access with crushed limestone path on east side of pond and along south side. Material and appearance of path to be consistent with that to be used by Parks, and with Rouge access trail path
3. Path to widen into seating area at existing light pole
4. Path to extend across lawn to west edge of property for Rouge overlook with rock retaining walls
5. At pond, reconstruct or reveal concrete edges of original pool
6. Bury overhead electrical and other cables
7. At old stairs to Willits, replacing or repairing existing stairs would be preferable to installing accessible path at that point due to steep grade.
8. Remainder of existing lawn to remain lawn, with additional specimen hybrid elms.

The following recommendations will be deferred for discussion when pond survey data is available:

- *Add wood boardwalk along eastern edge across area for viewing pool and create garden on east side*
 - *A bog garden can support plants for birds, bees, butterflies and bats and provide unique natural environment*
 - *A rain garden of water tolerant natural plants could also be effective in that space*
 - *Actual requirements of railing along the boardwalk, if any, will depend on the final boardwalk location, nature of shoreline, etc.*
- *On south side of pond, path would meet a paved area at edge of former pool, requiring a railing. The railing would extend across historic pool edge and would optimize viewing, e.g., Plexiglas or cabled, etc. for high visibility*
- *Pathway will require grading and retaining rock walls to meet ADA slope requirements*

Riverine Zone:

1. Repair historic stone wall along west side of drive and below Allen House; add scatter boulders below west wall to help retain soil and protect repaired wall from future erosion
2. Invasive species eradication program
3. Add some new plantings
4. Trail access safety rails for existing and new paths
5. Access to river is part of the Rouge master plan, so any recommendations in that regard need to be made in the Parks master planning process.

Next regular meeting is October 5, 2017.

Ms. Krizanic adjourned the meeting at 6:57 p.m.