



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM  
MUSEUM BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, November 2, 2017  
5:30 PM**

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

Student Members Present: Hanna Sandler

Members Absent: James Cunningham, Russ Dixon

Administration: Museum Director Leslie Pielack

Guests: Brian Devlin, Devlin Nagy Land Designs

**Approval of the Minutes  
Minutes of October 5, 2017**

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

To approve the minutes of October 5, 2017.

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

**Announcements**

None.

**Unfinished Business**

A. Historical landscape architect, Brian Devlin, shared his final draft concept plan for the landscape based on data and existing conditions drawing by Hubbell, Roth & Clark from the recently completed pond survey. The draft plan makes adjustments in the location of the path at the south end of the pool area to account for the HRC identified wetland boundary. It also has modified the location of the proposed chip path to the riverside overlook deck to better connect with the existing path. Mr. Devlin also provided another option for a cabled stainless steel fence that provides a barrier that has high visibility.

The walls of the former pool were located in sections below the water surface. The proposed boardwalk and close-fit flagstone terrace at the east and south edges of the former pool will, in effect, suggest the historic pool edges effectively. The west pool edge is either missing or has fallen into the pond. Mr. Devlin is looking into methods of suggesting the former concrete edge by using a floating material of some kind that will interpret its former location without actual construction or disruption of the pond.

Mr. Devlin expressed concern about the flagged location of the wetland boundary and indicated that it was identified differently by HRC than he had assessed. HRC's wetland boundary is higher in elevation by about 10 feet than the water surface of the pool. This is unusually high in Mr. Devlin's experience. At that demarcation, the wetland regulation zone extends beyond his original proposed location for the paths on the east and south side of the pond. This would require special permitting from the MDEQ. On the other hand, if the wetland boundary is actually lower, it may be possible to proceed with planning without the permit. To clarify the matter, the Museum Board agreed that a meeting between Mr. Devlin and HRC representatives would be in order. Ms. Rosso offered to represent the Museum Board at that meeting, and Museum Director Pielack will try to arrange the meeting as soon as possible.

Following that meeting, Mr. Devlin agreed that an informal meeting with city staff to discuss the project would be beneficial, with additional input from the Historic District Commission. If there are no modifications indicated, Mr. Devlin can prepare elevations and feedback from the public can be solicited before a final plan is developed. Because of the need for additional steps, the plan may not be prepared in time for combining with the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Regarding phased planning and construction, Mr. Devlin indicated that suggested phases roughly correspond with the four zones (Pond, Riverine, Transition, and Heritage).

Mr. Devlin will also suggest locations for planned replacement elm trees ('Valley Forge' cultivars) that the Parks department will be replacing after Thanksgiving.

With the completion of the concept master plan to this point, the Museum Board acted to finalize the plan.

**MOTION:** by Keefer, seconded by Rosso:

To approve the proposed Conceptual Landscape Master Plan proposed by historical landscape architect/consultant Brian Devlin of Nagy-Devlin Land Designs for the Birmingham Museum/John West Hunter Park.

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

### **New Business**

The Museum Board reviewed the letter provided by historical architect Jackie Hoist of H2A Architects about appropriate roofing shingles for the Allen House for planning purposes, going forward into the next budget cycle. The existing roof will need to be complete replaced, and Ms. Hoist indicated that the replacement shingles being used in the current siding project, Certainteed Landmark 30 year shingles, would be an appropriate choice for the remainder of the roof. The Museum Board agreed by consensus to plan for this material accordingly. At the next meeting, this discussion will be reviewed for the benefit of Mr. Dixon and Mr. Cunningham, who were not present this evening.

## Communication and Reports

- A. Joint Bicentennial Book Committee Report-the committee has completed its work and chair, Mr. Daniel Patton, will prepare a report and presentation for the next Museum Board meeting.
- B. Museum Director Pielack provided updates to her report. Fall programs have been getting lots of attention, and next week's presentation by Susan Whitall will also be featured with a radio interview at WDET. Director Pielack and the other museum staff will be presenting the 2018 exhibit to various groups in the community to solicit submissions for the crowd sourced exhibit. The museum's social media strategy was reviewed with the Museum Board. The social media work being done by Caitlin Donnelly is exemplary.
- C. There were no board comments.
- D. There were no public comments.

Ms. Krizanac adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.