



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
MUSEUM BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, January 4, 2018
5:30 PM**

Members Present: James Cunningham, Russ Dixon (left meeting at 6:05 PM), Lori Eaton, Marty Logue, Caitlin Rosso (joined meeting at 5:43 PM)

Student Members Present: Hanna Sandler

Members Absent: Judith Keefer, Tina Krizanic

Administration: Museum Director Leslie Pielack

Guests: Brian Devlin (joined meeting at 5:48 PM)

Museum Board Chair Tina Krizanic not being present, the board took action to appoint a temporary chair.

MOTION: by Dixon

To nominate Marty Logue temporary chair.

VOTE: Yeas, 4
Nays, 0

Ms. Logue called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM. Due to a delay in the arrival of Mr. Devlin and the need for early departure by Mr. Dixon, the Museum Board agreed by consensus to defer discussion of Unfinished Business A., the final draft conceptual master landscape plan, under until his arrival.

**Approval of the Minutes
Minutes of November 2, 2017**

MOTION: by Dixon, seconded by Eaton:

To approve the minutes of December 7, 2017, as amended.

VOTE: Yeas, 5
Nays, 0

Announcements

None.

Unfinished Business

B. The Museum Board's discussion of potential Birmingham Bicentennial activities and events was deferred by consensus to the February 1 Museum Board meeting in light of the benefit of more board members available for the discussion.

New Business

A. Per previous consensus of the Museum Board, a Museum Board Special Meeting and Joint Workshop has been tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, January 16, 6:00 PM at the Department of Public Services meeting room at 851 S. Eton. The goal of the meeting is to present the draft conceptual landscape master plan and invite questions and comments from the Parks and Recreation Board, the Historic District Commission and the public. Mr. Devlin is available to make the presentation on behalf of the Museum Board. As a Special Meeting of the Museum Board, a quorum of board members is required. Museum Board members indicated their availability for the Special Meeting and Joint Workshop for that day and time, which will meet the required quorum.

MOTION: by Eaton, seconded by Dixon:

To hold the Museum Board Special Meeting/Joint Workshop on Tuesday, January 16 at 6:00 PM at the Department of Public Services for the purpose of presenting the draft conceptual landscape master plan to the Parks and Recreation Board, Historic District Commission, and the public, and to request that Mr. Devlin of Devlin Nagy Land Designs present the draft plan on behalf of the Museum Board.

VOTE: Yeas, 5
Nays, 0

Communication and Reports

B. Ms. Eaton expressed concern about the importance of the outcome of the Bicentennial Book Project Committee and the need to continue to pursue the project. The question of whether the former committee should be reinstated or a new committee formed to work on execution of a book project was briefly discussed, as well as the benefit of separating the book project from the bicentennial theme. The length of time needed for production suggests any potential book project be separated from the bicentennial theme so as not to be negatively impacted by that deadline. Members agreed by consensus that the issue of a book project committee should appear on February's agenda as a separate discussion item. Ms. Eaton also expressed the value of discussing fund raising as an agenda item at the February meeting, specifically for museum park projects. Mr. Dixon agreed that a project focus for fund raising would be more effective than generalized fund raising. The board agreed that this topic should be an agenda item for February's meeting.

Unfinished Business, continued

A. Mr. Devlin shared the final draft conceptual master landscape plan reflecting the specifics on materials and design determined by the Museum Board at its December 7, 2017 meeting. He verified that the Museum Board preferred the wood post and

horizontal cable design for the areas around the pool, and shared his detail drawing of the proposed rails descending to the Rouge reflecting the preferences of the Museum Board for metal top rail, wood posts, and cabling. The Rouge rails are open at the bottom to reduce the hazard to small animals while providing a sense of continuity with the rails around the pool.

MDEQ pre-application feedback not yet being available, the design of the boardwalk support has yet to be determined because of the seeps and uncertain depth to stable soil. Helical anchors may be an option when final design is complete, as they would permit construction of the preferred boardwalk level close to the ground and water level.

Mr. Devlin summarized the plan for each of the four zones, and clarified that cost estimates at final construction can vary by availability and cost of materials and other changing conditions. Some plant material has yet to be determined. The plan as presented is conceptual only, and when final specific design for each zone is undertaken, specifications would be more exact and modifiable. He also added notes about control of *phragmites* and garlic mustard on the plan detail drawing.

Estimated landscape construction costs are as follows:

A. Heritage Zone	\$ 21,665
B. Transition Zone	\$101,550
C. Pond Zone	\$172,480
D. Woodland/Riverine Zone	\$232,350 [amended from\$ 247,330]

In addition, should there be a future interest in restoring the pool, Mr. Devlin estimated that approximately \$180,000 may be needed for that project.

Mr. Dixon commented that he was uncertain about the symmetrical nature of the stone steps descending the lawn, but that he did not have a better option to suggest at this time. He also stated that he showed a preliminary draft of the plan to landscape architect and urban planner Bob Gibbs, and relayed Mr. Gibbs' comment that as a public property, the museum should avoid plantings that are too residential in favor of those that are more appropriate for civic sites.

MOTION: by Eaton, seconded by Dixon:

To approve the proposed draft conceptual landscape master plan design prepared by Brian Devlin of Nagy Devlin Land Design, as amended to reflect corrected calculation of cost estimates of railing in Woodland/Riverine Zone to be supplied by Mr. Devlin.

VOTE: Yeas, 5
Nays, 0

Mr. Devlin clarified in response to Mr. Dixon's comment about the stone steps that, as previously agreed, he was proposing to plan for a flat gathering spot at the base on the lawn for small informal gatherings or performances. He will prepare elevation sketches that will convey the proposed design in a more effective way before the joint

workshop/public meeting. Mr. Cunningham commented that the Pond Zone is of great historical interest and is likely to have broad public appeal and attract funding.

Communication and Reports, continued

A. Museum Director Pielack provided copies of her Long Range Planning Report which will go to the city commission. The Long Range Planning Meeting will be held on January 27, with the Museum time slot being 1:45 to 2:00 PM. The conceptual master landscape plan, bicentennial planning, and museum engagement will be highlighted. Over the past three years, the number of adult programs and contacts has increased substantially. Director Pielack underscored the importance of the museum's social media activity as an important component to improvements in community engagement as well.

D. There were no public comments.

Ms. Logue adjourned the meeting at 6:51 p.m.