



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM  
MUSEUM BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, February 1, 2018  
5:30 PM**

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

Student Members Present: None

Members Absent: Russell Dixon, Caitlin Rosso

Administration: Museum Director Leslie Pielack

Guests: None

Ms. Krizanic called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM.

**Approval of the Minutes  
Minutes of January 4, 2018**

**MOTION:** by Cunningham, seconded by Logue:

To approve the minutes of January 4, 2018.

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

**Minutes of January 16, 2018  
Special Meeting/Joint Workshop**

**MOTION:** by Keefer, seconded by Eaton:

To approve the minutes of the January 16, 2018 Special Meeting/Joint Workshop.

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

**Announcements**

Ms. Eaton's provided notes for the bicentennial brainstorming meeting on December 18 and a book proposal outline example will be addressed under unfinished business, as both relate to those agenda items.

**Unfinished Business**

A. The board discussed Ms. Eaton's suggestion that a book committee be re-convened in order to pursue the book project. Members agreed that the timeline and cost suggest

a project separated from the bicentennial with perhaps a two-year timeline. Ms. Keefer expressed additional concern about timeline and cost, as did Ms. Logue. Mr. Cunningham suggested it may be helpful to connect with a local author who may already be working on a similar historical work about Birmingham. Ms. Krizanic suggested a joint effort with other city entities may be in order to form a working committee that will broadly represent the community and have a better chance of success. For the bicentennial theme, Ms. Eaton suggested that a shorter-term strategy might be to print a booklet composed of the museum's current exhibit panels that can be more inexpensively produced but yield an interesting publication. Ms. Krizanic suggested to explore the possibility of forming a book committee with former members of the book committee as well as others in the community.

B. Museum-focused celebration of the bicentennial theme for the Celebrate Birmingham parade in May and a possible summer outdoor event at the museum to highlight the landscape planning, the bicentennial, and perhaps conduct targeted fundraising for the landscape. Stations could be set up with tents that highlight the landscape plan's four zones. Special sponsors could be solicited. It would be beneficial to create an invitation list, but charging an admission fee would be difficult to manage. Having old time games, possibly performers, and family-friendly activities such as a scavenger hunt were discussed. Cutouts of bicentennial characters could be displayed in the landscape, and participants could receive a special stamp at each one as part of the activity. Regarding bicentennial awareness, a letter could be sent by the Museum Board to other city boards and local civic organizations (such as the Chamber of Commerce) announcing the museum events and also inviting participation in the bicentennial and/or the book committee. A coordinated city-wide bicentennial celebration is perhaps better managed and/or promoted from City Hall/the communications director, Kevin Byrnes. Museum Director Pielack will explore further with Mr. Byrnes.

C. Brian Devlin of Nagy Devlin Land Designs is working with Museum Director Pielack on a draft document of the Museum Board-approved Conceptual Master Landscape Plan. The document will provide goals of the project, contextual history and findings, existing conditions, and Mr. Devlin's description and analysis as well as historic photos and drawings. The Museum Board re-iterated that the Pond Zone is the highest priority item for the landscape plan and that the document should reflect that. The Museum Board could convene a special meeting to review and potentially approve so the final draft could go to the commission on February 26. With that timeline in mind, the Museum Board agreed by consensus to hold a special meeting on Thursday, February 15, at 9:00 a.m. at the museum for review and approval of the draft master landscape plan document.

### **New Business**

B. In consideration of the need to adjourn the meeting to accommodate two board members with other commitments, the Museum Board considered the matter of pursuing a National Register individual nomination for the Allen House and grounds at the local level of significance. Currently the Allen House is located within the City of Birmingham local historic district, governed by local ordinance, but is not on the National Register. The nomination process can take many months to a year or more, so it would be important to pursue as soon as possible. If designated, the Allen House's listing on the National Register would make Certified Local Government grant funds available for some anticipated preservation projects, including possibly portions of the landscape

plan. Other preservation grant monies may also become available that currently are not. Listing on the National Register is honorary only. The City of Birmingham would retain the right to do as it wished with the property, which at most would be de-listed from the Register if it was no longer maintained in a historic manner. The nomination would be handled by Museum Director Pielack, who has successfully nominated other properties in the past.

**MOTION:** by Eaton, seconded by Keefer:

To support the pursuit of the nomination process to list the Allen House and grounds on the National Register of Historic Places through application with the State Historic Preservation Office.

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

D. There were no public comments.

The remainder of the agenda items will be deferred to the Special Meeting planned for February 15 or the regular meeting scheduled for March 1, 2018.

Ms. Krizanic adjourned the meeting at 7:01 p.m.