



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM  
MUSEUM BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, December 6, 2018  
5:00 PM**

Members Present: Russell Dixon, Lori Eaton, Tina Krizanic, Marty Logue, Caitlin Rosso (arrived 5:15)

Student Members Present: Joy Tenjeras (arrived 5:15)

Members Absent: Jay Cunningham, Judith Keefer

Administration: Museum Director Leslie Pielack

Guests: Brian Devlin, Nagy Devlin Land Designs

Ms. Krizanic called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

**Approval of the Minutes  
Minutes of November 1, 2018**

**MOTION:** by Dixon seconded by Logue:

To approve the minutes of November 1, 2018, as amended.

**VOTE:** Yeas, 4  
Nays, 0

**Unfinished Business**

- A. Members discussed upcoming fund-raising efforts for the Heritage Zone and reviewed recent mailers/brochures from local organizations. The library's materials were similar in intent and laid out in a helpful and attractive manner that would provide a good working model. A planned giving brochure was also briefly reviewed. Members will be on the lookout for other sample brochures that may prove useful. The Friends-Museum Board joint meeting January 17 will feature Bill Dow and a discussion of strategies for approaching Heritage Zone fundraising with estimates provided by Brian Devlin.

**New Business**

- A. Brian Devlin of Nagy Devlin Land Designs shared existing conditions detail and reviewed recommendations for the trees and plantings of the Heritage Zone. In particular, to restore the Allen period landscape, existing trees in the front area of the site all along Maple Road should be removed; trees to be planted in that area should instead be elm trees. A variety of elm cultivars would offer some diversity for disease resistance while keeping the species consistent with the original landscape.

The Museum Board agreed by consensus that replacing the existing trees with elms was an important part of the landscape restoration plan following the landscape Master Plan. One of the existing trees in the area of the handicapped parking space is a Callery pear that was planted in 2010 as a memorial gift. The donor is on file with the Parks department and according to the record, did not specify any particular tree for the memorial. Callery pears have been banned from some nearby communities because they have escaped and are reverting to their invasive and troublesome growth habits. The city no longer plants them. The Museum Board would like to approach the donor in a sensitive way to inquire whether the family would be willing to honor the memorial by planting a new tree in its stead. Museum Director Pielack will look into following up on this suggestion. The planned intersection improvement at Southfield and Maple in 2020 was also reviewed. Some questions arose about whether there would be a planting island in the new configuration, and if so, what the planting plans would be as to how they would impact the museum visibility, signage location, etc. Director Pielack will follow up to find out more about final intersection layout. Mr. Devlin will prepare cost estimates and final plans for the January 3 meeting.

- B. An opportunity to pursue a CLG (Certified Local Government) grant for a paint analysis of the Hunter House and repair/rehabilitation of components of the porch has become available, requiring a 40% match if awarded. The deadline for submission is coming up very quickly, as HDC and city approvals have to be received before the application can be submitted. Museum Director Pielack explained the purpose of the grant and the importance of taking advantage of these available dollars to move forward with interpretive planning for the Hunter House.

**MOTION:** by Dixon seconded by Eaton:

To approve the application process by the museum for a Certified Local Government (CLG) shared expense 60/40 grant for the purpose of historic preservation/restoration projects at the Hunter House.

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

### **Communication and Reports**

In light of the need for some members' early departure, the Director's Report was acknowledged and there were no further member comments.

**Next Regular Meeting: January 3, 2019 at 5:00 PM.**

Ms. Krizanic adjourned the meeting at 6:35 PM