



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
MUSEUM BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, April 4, 2019
5:00 PM**

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

Members Absent: Jay Cunningham, Russ Dixon, Judith Keefer

Student Members Present: None

Administration: Museum Director Leslie Pielack

Guests: None

Ms. Krizanic called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM.

**Approval of the Minutes
Minutes of March 14, 2019**

MOTION: by Logue seconded by Eaton:

To approve the minutes of March 14, 2019.

VOTE: Yeas, 4
Nays, 0

Unfinished Business

A. The Heritage Zone final design was approved by the Historic District Commission/Design Review Board on March 20. It will be presented to the City Commission for acceptance on May 20. Pending final acceptance, members reviewed options and approaches that could be used to identify potential donors and to create a special event at the museum to invite them to learn more about the Heritage Zone project in particular and the landscape goals in general. It could also be an opportunity to promote awareness of long term goals of the museum and help form sustainable connections. Based on timing for commission review, any such reception would likely occur in the summer or early fall. Various ideas about the kind of reception and its approach were discussed. Board members agreed that it should combine a type of introduction to the museum and grounds with some kind of celebration or presentation and have identified project components identified with costs and donor opportunities. The goal of the reception would be to make attendees aware of opportunities and be available to answer questions, not to pressure attendees. After general discussion, members agreed on the following:

- Prepare printed materials and graphics to communicate the Heritage Zone project donor funding options (essentially a project component list with descriptions and costs) and planned future projects ('coming attractions')

- Identify those potential donors most likely to be interested in the project/s
- Time the event potentially with other special celebration or program, e.g., final approval for the National Register; special exhibit-related event, etc. and tie into the exhibit theme of 'Before and After' in the landscape
- Use the event as an opportunity to provide behind-the-scenes tours of the museum (collections areas) and especially the landscape
- Bring out especially interesting objects from the collection for the event, such as artifacts found under Woodward or other interesting items
- Consider a special presentation of some kind, e.g., the history of the Allen House, its landscape and the Allen Family
 - Use recent findings and historic photos from the nomination to tell the story of the house and grounds
 - Contact Allen family descendants to see if they might be available to be on hand to share stories or comment on old photos
 - Possible opportunity to record as oral history
 - Possible opportunity to create a later documentary video or higher value production about the family and the house

Museum Director Pielack will follow up with the Allen descendants to see if there would be a way to coordinate their involvement in a possible event. Particulars will be determined following city commission acceptance of the plan.

Communication and Reports

Director Pielack reviewed a MSHDA grant opportunity that may help fund the relocation of the above-ground utilities underground to remove them as an eyesore in the park landscape. In addition, the invasives that obscure the pond from the sidewalk and neighborhood will be included as a neighborhood enhancement activity. Estimates for the line relocation were obtained last year and would fall within the grant cost guidelines. These activities would not interfere with any planned landscape work. A permit would be required if funding is received that would be reviewed by the Engineering department for the underground utilities work. Board members were in agreement that this would be a worthwhile grant to pursue. Director Pielack announced that this year's Government Day breakfast will be at Hazel Ravines at 7:30 AM on Thursday, May 9. Board members for the various city boards and commission are acknowledged for their service, and departing members receive special thanks and recognition.

- B. Ms. Krizanic thanked Ms. Eaton for her service to the Museum Board and especially her role in successfully nominating the museum for the 2018 Michigan Museums award for excellence in Community Engagement. Ms. Logue and Ms. Rosso also thanked Ms. Eaton for her contributions and expertise.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on May 2, 2019 at 5:00 PM.

Ms. Krizanic adjourned the meeting at 6:16 PM