



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
MUSEUM BOARD
VIRTUAL MEETING
June 4, 2020
5:00 PM**

Members Present: Russ Dixon, Dan Haugen, Pat Hughes, Tina Krizanic, Marty Logue,
Caitlin Rosso

Members Absent: Judith Keefer

Administration: Museum Director Leslie Pielack

Guests: None

Ms. Krizanic called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. Clarifications regarding the virtual meeting were reviewed. The meeting will be captioned and a roll call will be used to identify member votes and other comments.

**Approval of the Minutes
Minutes of March 5, 2020**

MOTION: by Dixon, seconded by Logue:

To approve the minutes of March 5, 2020, as amended.

VOTE: Yeas, 6
Nays, 0

Unfinished Business

- A. With the changes brought about by the COVID-19 public health crisis, changes in how the museum operates and its short term (and possibly long term) objectives may have an impact on our strategic plan review and update. The revised goals that were decided earlier in the year could be reviewed before continuing with laying out specific objectives and tasks in the coming months.
- B. The Heritage Zone project continues to be an important first phase in the historic landscape restoration. While the museum building is not accessible to the public, the grounds are. There may be good opportunities for calling attention to the project and generating interest and donations toward its completion this summer, but the means of structuring the events will depend on the public health environment at the time. The outdoor wine tasting event may not be possible as originally envisioned, but a modified version of it should be considered, as well as other potential outdoor events.

New Business

- A. The museum remains closed at this point; re-opening will need to be addressed as conditions allow, and coordinated with the city and public health issues. As those are still rapidly changing, details for re-opening are not finalized. It could be some weeks, or even months yet before the museum is open to public access, even limited. A significant challenge is that the recommended practice of sanitizing public buildings with vapor-based steramine 'fog' cannot be used here, as it would expose the building and collection objects to destructive chemicals and high levels of moisture. However, hand-sanitizing high-touch surfaces presents other difficulties and challenges. However, our virtual engagement and online content has been effective and our metrics across Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and our YouTube channel all demonstrate that. In particular, Facebook, which reaches our local community with a variety of content, seems to be meeting the needs and offering materials that are especially appreciated by our growing audiences. There is more room to expand our virtual materials and possibly connect with our community on the museum grounds.

Communication and Reports

Director Pielack reviewed the Director Report and provided updates on the Hunter House projects and anticipated timeline. Mr. Dixon commented that project architect Jackie Hoist is certified as a historical architect and is highly qualified. Also, the museum is awaiting final materials from a local photographer regarding his quarantine portraits of families in Birmingham at their windows. He has agreed to share copyright with the museum and provide his photo series to become part of the museum's permanent collection.

Mr. Hughes mentioned that the delayed re-opening of the museum will be concurrent with the Maple Road construction and may be a blessing in disguise. A fall event may be a good plan. Mr. Dixon shared that some research suggests not trying to expand donors but working to keep good relationship with current donors. Ms. Krizanic agreed with both points.

There were no public comments.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 9 at the regular time of 5:00 PM. Should the governor rescind the option of virtual meetings, all members agreed that they would be willing to meet on the open porch of the Allen House, where social distancing can be practiced. If virtual meetings are still permitted, all members indicated they would be amenable to a virtual format as well.

Ms. Krizanic adjourned the meeting at 5:43 PM.