



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
MUSEUM BOARD
VIRTUAL MEETING
June 3, 2021
5:00 PM**

Members Present: Russ Dixon, Pat Hughes, Judith Keefer, Tina Krizanic, Marty Logue, Jacquie Patt

Members Absent: Caitlin Rosso

Student Members: Aidan Schoener

Administration: Museum Director Leslie Pielack

Guests: Bev Erickson, Elyse Germack, Alexandra Harris

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

**Approval of the Minutes
Minutes of May 6, 2021**

MOTION: by Dixon, seconded by Logue:

To approve the minutes of May 6, 2021.

VOTE: Yeas, 6
Nays, 0

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

Members resumed discussion of a "pandemic project" to collect materials and memories from the public for preservation at the museum. The objective would be to solicit contributions of 'what the pandemic means to me' for the museum's collection, emphasizing the preservation of objects (e.g., hand-made signs, masks, personal letters, etc.), thoughts, reflections, statements, creative productions, and other representative items. Materials would be preserved in the museum's permanent collection as a form of documentation of Birmingham's experience. September was suggested as the best timing. The event would potentially include:

1. the complete reopening of the museum with a public reception
2. free admission to the reception and exhibit
3. two opportunities: Thursday evening Sept 2 and Saturday, Sept 4
4. collect mementos and material donations from visitors

5. The Thursday evening reception could include the September Museum Board meeting so that the public could participate and meet board members.
6. Additional suggestions for promotion were briefly discussed, which would include social media, press releases, newsletters, and more. Advance notice earlier in the summer would help prepare people to set aside items so they are not discarded.

Guests Bev Erickson, Elyse Germack, and Alexandra Harris were invited to comment on their interest in possibly serving on the board. There are three positions that will open after June 30: two regular board member positions and one alternate position. The alternate member would step in to vote, should a regular member be absent. Otherwise, the alternate member is an important functioning member of the board, and can participate on subcommittees.

Communication and Reports

Director Pielack reviewed the Director Report, emphasizing the just recently determined phased reopening of the museum, beginning June 15, with a return to full public schedule after Labor Day. Members were supportive of the plan and the phased approach. Director Pielack updated the board as to the status of the landscape project, the anticipated paint study and analysis, and a lighthearted competition for 'beet parrot' memorabilia that is current on social media as a commemoration of our 100th Twitter follower. Board members Hughes, Krizanic, Logue, and Patt commented on their participation in May's Friday Porch Pop Ups, which all felt were positive experiences for them as well as the public. The museum continues to conduct research and follow leads relating to Birmingham's Black history as well as other stories, with help from volunteers and local historians, including Board Member Patt. This is timely in regards to June's Pop Up theme, which is Birmingham's Black history.

Ms. Krizanic thanked the Museum Board for six and a half years of working with them and complimented them on their hard work and ability to work as a team to accomplish so much for the museum. She thanked Mr. Dixon for his long service to the city and the museum. Mr. Dixon pointed out that although his term is expiring, he believes the ordinance provides for a member continuing to serve until their position is filled, which he plans to do. Director Pielack reminded the Board that the July meeting is where they would choose a chair for the year, and briefly described the chair's role.

There were no public comments.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 1 at 5:00 PM, currently planned as an in-person meeting at the museum.

Ms. Krizanic adjourned the meeting at 6:02 PM.