



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
MUSEUM BOARD MEETING
556 W. Maple
Thursday, August 5, 2021
5:00 PM**

Members Present: Judith Keefer, Marty Logue, Jacquie Patt, Bev Erickson, Alexandra Harris (Alternate)

Members Absent: Pat Hughes, Caitlin Rosso

Student Members: None

Administration: Museum Director Leslie Pielack

Guests: None

The first order of business was to elect a Chair.

MOTION: by Keefer, seconded by Erickson:

To appoint Marty Logue as Chair.

VOTE: Yeas, 5
Nays, 0

**Approval of the Minutes
Minutes of July 1, 2021**

MOTION: by Erickson, seconded by Keefer:

To approve the minutes of July 1, 2021.

VOTE: Yeas, 5
Nays, 0

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

The Board discussed the community garden component of the Heritage Zone project. The Heritage Zone components of sign, fence modifications, and tree removal are scheduled for early September; new trees will be planted in October. The location of the sign is in a rectangular bed that is located between the Hunter and Allen Houses. The concept plan for the Heritage Zone calls for a community perennial garden to be established there. The idea is to gather donations of plants from Birmingham residents

and gardeners. In the spring, gardeners are often dividing perennials, and some of these could be planted in the garden bed, with the added bonus of increased community engagement. It is important for our historic landscape restoration objectives to utilize plants that are typical of early twentieth century gardens, according to guidance from the landscape architect, Brian Devlin. Other considerations for this project would be timing and promotion; members made several suggestions to help in planning. The project will take some time to finalize, and Director Pielack will bring some of the ideas back to the board in writing for further discussion at the September meeting.

As we have a number of new members, all agreed that a discussion next month with all board members present would be helpful in establishing and clarifying member roles and expectations. Members play a key role in policy, oversight, and direction, and especially as ambassadors of the museum in the community. It has been very helpful in the past to have an open discussion to help members communicate and collaborate effectively.

Communication and Reports

Director Pielack reviewed the Director Report and explained how she uses the Director Report to give the board an overview of the previous month's activities at the museum in various categories. These include preservation and construction, exhibits, engagement (programs and events), operations, and object donations, with updates in other areas from time to time. The report also is directed at the general public, to give a sense of what is happening at the museum for those who might be interested.

Ms. Patt explained that this is her last Museum Board meeting. She will be stepping down from the board as she will be moving this month out of Birmingham and will no longer be able to serve. She will continue to work to help the museum and Greenwood Cemetery with research as she is able. Ms. Patt has been instrumental in locating important documents related to many of those buried at Greenwood, especially in the research on the Taylor and Harris/Jackson families.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 2 at 5:00 PM.

Ms. Logue adjourned the meeting at 5:39 PM.