



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
MUSEUM BOARD MEETING
556 W. Maple
Thursday, September 2, 2021
5:00 PM**

Members Present: Judith Keefer, Marty Logue, Bev Erickson, Alexandra Harris, Caitlin Rosso, Jay Shell (arrived at 5:07)

Members Absent: Pat Hughes

Student Members: None

Administration: Museum Director Leslie Pielack, museum staff Donna Casaceli and Caitlin Donnelly

Guests: Assistant City Manager/Planning Director Jana Ecker, Assistant to the City Manager Melissa Fairbairn; museum intern Sarah Sanders

**Approval of the Minutes
Minutes of August 5, 2021**

MOTION: by Logue, seconded by Keefer:

To approve the minutes of July 1, 2021.

VOTE: Yeas, 5
Nays, 0

Unfinished Business

Brief review and discussion of planned spring 2022 community garden event for Heritage Zone garden bed; Ms. Harris has a contact who is experienced at organizing plant exchanges and has offered to help.

New Business

Guests introduced themselves, and members shared their views about serving on the museum board and ways the museum can continue to effectively serve the public and fulfill its mission. The areas discussed included

- holding interesting and entertaining public events that help accomplish landscape plan elements, such as goats for clearing weeds in the Rouge corridor
- increasing and expanding use of dynamic social media, such as developing new video series and content

- exploring technology applications for on-site storytelling to enhance visitor experience
- outreach through simple printed media to build awareness, such as bulletin board placement of postcards and recipes.

Board members were given printed manuals with essential ordinance information and key documents for use in the next few years; the Birmingham Museum Strategic Plan, the Landscape Master Plan, and the Collections Policy. Director Pielack suggested that the primary challenges in the next year will be

- the ongoing COVID pandemic, and how to best serve the public if partially open, or if full closure occurs again
- implementation of the Collection Policy, e.g., deaccessioning objects through all layers of review and recommending to the city commission
- continued implementation of the Master Landscape Plan
- support of the Friends of the Birmingham museum in their efforts to grow

Communication and Reports

Director Pielack reviewed the Director Report and announced that the museum was just notified that it will be the recipient of an award by the Historical Society of Michigan for institutional excellence. This is a state-level recognition of our all-around achievements as a public history institution, including community engagement and professional scholarship. The formal award will take place in several weeks, and publicity will be forthcoming once the award is officially announced.

There were no board member comments.

Ms. Fairbairn thanked the Museum Board for the opportunity to attend the meeting.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 7, at 5:00 PM.

Ms. Logue adjourned the meeting at 6:19 PM.