



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

Members Present: Alexandra Harris, Pat Hughes, Judith Keefer (attending virtually for medical reasons), Marty Logue, Caitlin Rosso (attending virtually for medical reasons), Jay Shell

Members Absent: Bev Erickson

Student Members: None

Administration: Museum Director Leslie Pielack

Guests: None

Chairperson Logue called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM.

**Approval of the Minutes
Minutes of November 4, 2021**

MOTION: by Logue, seconded by Shell:

To approve the minutes of November 4, 2021.

VOTE: Yeas, 6
Nays, 0

Unfinished Business

Members further discussed aspects of the planned spring event, conceived as a community plant exchange, which would accomplish the following:

- Create a fun outside event with minimized pandemic risk for public attendance
- Promote the museum, its landscape history, and planned landscape improvements
- Reach potential new audience
- Increase Friends membership and donations/contributions
- Provide heritage perennials for the Heritage Zone historic perennial garden
- Manageable degree of resources needed to hold a successful event, since the activity primarily depends on individual efforts/contributions/participation

In addition, members discussed the value of utilizing this event to create an annual plant exchange event at the museum in the future that would reinforce the mission and potentially lead to additional financial support. Providing experts and master gardeners

to answer questions, generate revenue, etc. can be explored in the future. Ms. Harris will forward to Museum Director Pielack sample forms used in a similar program in Royal Oak.

New Business

Museum Director Pielack provided an update and explained the nomination process for the application to the National Park Service's Underground Railroad Network to Freedom for Greenwood Cemetery. This designation would elevate the cemetery at the national level.

Director Pielack also provided an update regarding the Long Range Planning meeting in January, and proposed that in the coming years, the museum would benefit the public through more effectively reflecting the diversity of our past. This would include establishing the importance of a broader story that includes people of color and their role and contributions to Birmingham. Other long range plans include greater public access to the grounds and collection through physical improvements as well as virtual enhancements, and continuing with the landscape master plan. The Museum Board agreed by consensus with these long range goals.

Communication and Reports

Director Pielack reviewed the Director Report, providing updates. The ADA parking off Willits will qualify for CDBG funding of \$25,839 in FY 2022/2023. To utilize these funds, some aspects of the project will be deferred, while others can be undertaken in 21/22 with existing funds and in 22/23 with next year's budget requests. The nature of the project lends itself to phased work because of the separate components of ADA parking space and paths, boardwalk and platforms, and proposed signage.

There were no board member comments.

There were no public comments.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 6, at 5:00 PM.

Ms. Logue adjourned the meeting at 6:10 PM.