



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
MUSEUM BOARD MEETING
556 W. Maple
Thursday, March 3, 2022
5:00 PM**

Members Present: Alexandra Harris, Pat Hughes, Marty Logue, Caitlin Rosso

Members Absent: Bev Erickson, Judith Keefer, Jay Shell

Student Members: Jordan Snyder-Phillipoff

Administration: Museum Director Leslie Pielack

Guests: Kristy Barrett

Chairperson Logue called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM.

**Approval of the Minutes
Minutes of February 10, 2022**

MOTION: by Rosso, seconded by Logue:

To approve the minutes of February 10, 2022.

VOTE: Yeas, 4
Nays, 0

Unfinished Business

The event permit has been approved by the commission. There will be charges for the permit and installation of the two tents and three trash barrels, totaling \$330. These are handled internally by the City through the museum's existing budget. There is a distinct advantage to having DPS set up the tents and take them down. The layout was reviewed and should be adequate for the planned event. Museum neighbors have received their notices about the upcoming event. Next month, the board will continue with planning for volunteers and the activities of the day.

New Business

Members considered the current public health situation regarding COVID and holding hybrid Museum Board meetings that permit the option for the public to attend Museum Board meetings via Zoom instead of in person. The board has been required to attend in person since December 31, 2021. A drawback to the hybrid Zoom/in-person format is that if the meeting has been posted as a hybrid meeting, and if there is a technology problem and the Zoom is not functional at the time of a scheduled meeting for any reason, the

meeting would have to be canceled and rescheduled. This could potentially delay important business and create a hardship for board members. In light of the lack of public attendance via Zoom in the past several months and the diminishing public health risk, the board discussed suspending the hybrid format at this time. If a public health risk re-emerges, the hybrid meeting format can be reconsidered.

MOTION: by Hughes, seconded by Harris:

To suspend the hybrid meeting format in favor of in-person attendance for future meetings of the Museum Board, beginning with the April, 2022 Museum Board meeting, currently scheduled for April 7, 2022.

VOTE: Yeas, 4
Nays, 0

Members discussed the role the board might play in any upcoming commemorative event for the expected designation of the Taylor and Fish burial sites to the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom listing. The museum has led the process thus far, and there are no other city entities as natural a fit to coordinate a public event as the Museum Board. Any such event is likely to be well attended by local officials, educators, and the general public and will bring additional recognition to the museum for its efforts to explore this important American story. Student representative J. Snyder-Phillipoff indicated that involvement among her peers at Seaholm would be significant and help create a greater positive experience for all. The timing is not certain, but approved designation is expected this month and planning for a Museum Board-led event would need to begin fairly soon thereafter.

MOTION: by Hughes, seconded by Logue:

That the Museum Board accept the responsibility to coordinate planning for a public event to celebrate the expected upcoming designation of the Taylor and Fish burial sites at Greenwood Cemetery, in collaboration with the city and other partner organizations, as appropriate.

VOTE: Yeas, 4
Nays, 0

Communication and Reports

Director Pielack provided updates to the Director Report. The commission approved the next step of final design services for the Parks' Rouge River trail improvements in association with park bond funding. These trail improvements will include, in addition to other trail improvements, the pathways and Rouge improvements as conceptualized in the museum's Master Landscape Plan along the museum's west border and adjacent

Rouge shoreline. Specialized trailheads will also be designed, and one is planned for the trail access just west of the museum's driveway. This project is for design only; construction would be expected at a later time. The Allen House window project has been posted for bidding, and potential bidders are expected for review at the next Museum Board meeting in April. If a Contractor is identified, the work is expected to take place this summer. The Greenwood Cemetery Board is taking up the formal evaluation and refining of the cemetery's rules, including a process whereby non-deed holders could apply to install a marker for historical reasons. When all the revised rules and regulations are ready, they will go to the commission for final approval. The museum is adding directional signage to guide visitors more effectively to the visitor door from the front porch, and to direct them to park in the Chester Street parking deck.

Chairperson Logue announced that the Friends' Heritage newsletter will be mailed out presently and includes a memorial article about Hartland Smith, who was instrumental in establishing the museum in 2001. Mr. Smith is responsible for a great number of significant items in the museum's collection.

There were no public comments.

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

Ms. Logue adjourned the meeting at 5:56 PM.