



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

Members Present: Kristy Barrett, Alexandra Harris, Judith Keefer, Marty Logue, Caitlin Rosso, Jay Shell

Members Absent: Bev Erickson, Pat Hughes

Student Members: Jordan Snyder-Phillipoff

Administration: Museum Director Leslie Pielack,

Guests: None

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

**Approval of the Minutes
Minutes of April 7, 2022**

MOTION: by Keefer, seconded by Harris:

To approve the minutes of April 7, 2022.

VOTE: Yeas, 6
Nays, 0

Unfinished Business

Updates for the status of the Heritage Plant Exchange included the following:

- Promotion
 - Mr. Shell has sent 200 postcards and the press release to the Birmingham Farms Neighborhood Association
 - Ms. Harris has been distributing flyers to the Sunday Farmer's Market
 - The City's Engage Birmingham site now has an event page for the plant exchange; members viewed the page and were supportive of its content and utility for the next month and hope to use it for future plant exchange events
 - Press releases and newsletter articles have promoted the event; the museum's Facebook page also has information about it.
- Staffing/personnel
 - Mr. Shell confirmed that he will be in attendance and will be returning from out of town to be present; Ms. Harris will create a hat for him for the event to identify him as the master gardener to visitors

- Ms. Harris and Ms. Barrett will be stationed in the tents and will help visitors with plant labeling as needed
- Ms. Keefer may not be able to participate due to a conflict
- Ms. Snyder will be on hand to assist and take photos
- All four museum staff will be on hand for Allen House and Hunter House visitors and to assist outdoors as needed
- Other
 - Mr. Shell will take any leftover plants for the BFNA island garden on Northlawn
 - Donated plants for the museum grounds will be stored on the north side of the Allen House and DPS will plant them on the Monday following
- Director Pielack will send email follow up to the board for final staffing and other arrangements

The Board addressed additional details about the commemorative event for the Network to Freedom designation now confirmed for Saturday, Sept. 17, 11 AM to 1 PM:

- Name of Event—“Underground Railroad Commemoration/Greenwood Cemetery/Birmingham, MI” with additional text clarifying Elijah Fish and George Taylor burial sites and outlining program/speakers with text about tour at cemetery to follow
- Program—confirmed components as follows:
 1. Museum Board chair **Marty Logue** will act as emcee
 2. Researchers **Getschman, Patt,** and **Casaceli** will be recognized and give brief remarks
 3. Commission representative (e.g., mayor) will speak
 4. (Possible: Michigan Freedom Trail Commission representative, e.g. Rachelle Danquah)
 5. **Snyder-Phillipoff** representing Seaholm Black Student Union and perspective
 6. **Pastor Adam Kuehner** from the historic Southfield Reform Presbyterian Church will speak to the historic UGRR connection between J.S.T. Milligan of the church and George Taylor and their lifelong relationship
 7. (Possible: descendants)
- Cemetery Walk—following program, as previously determined
- Participation—create opportunities for students, local historical groups, etc. to participate in other ways, such as set-up, helping with tours, etc.

New Business

The board considered the upcoming application process for installing a historical marker at Greenwood Cemetery for the Taylors, following a procedure currently being finalized by the Greenwood Cemetery Advisory Board. In consideration of the importance of timing

and the need to act as quickly as possible, the board acted to recommend that the Taylors meet the requirements of historic significance in advance of future procedural activities to approve the installation of a marker according to the anticipated new rules for the installation of historical markers by non-deed holders.

MOTION: by Shell, seconded by Logue:

To assert that George and Eliza Taylor's gravesites are historically significant to Birmingham, that any future grave marker for them is an appropriate form of recognition, and to recommend approval to the Greenwood Cemetery Advisory Board for future marker installation.

VOTE: Yeas, 6
Nays, 0

Communication and Reports

Director Pielack provided updates to the Director Report. Members downloaded the new Birmingham Museum app and explored how it worked, especially the two tours. The board was enthusiastic about other tour opportunities.

Ms. Barrett complimented Director Pielack on a recent interview she gave.

Ms. Rosso announced that she will be unable to participate in board meetings for the foreseeable future but will be available to help with projects and will stay in touch with museum activities.

There were no public comments.

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

Ms. Logue adjourned the meeting at 6:07 PM.