



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
MUSEUM BOARD MEETING
556 W. Maple
Thursday, December 1, 2022
5:00 PM**

Members Present: Kristy Barrett, Bev Erickson, Alexandra Harris, Pat Hughes, Marty Logue,

Members Absent: Judith Keefer, Jay Shell.

Administration: Museum Director Leslie Pielack

Guests: None.

Chairperson Logue called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

**Approval of the Minutes
Minutes of November 3, 2022**

MOTION: by Erickson, seconded by Logue:

To approve the minutes of November 3, 2022.

VOTE: Yeas, 5
Nays, 0

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

Members were apprised of the conflict in the approved Museum Board meeting schedule and the Passover holiday in April of 2023.

MOTION: by Harris, seconded by Hughes:

To change the planned Museum Board meeting from April 6 to April 13 due to the Passover holiday occurrence on April 6.

VOTE: Yeas, 5
Nays, 0

Museum Director Pielack shared the final drawings from AEW for the Pond Zone, and discussed the four phases within the plan and the funding and costs associated with them. Phase 1 and 2 would create a sidewalk and seating area along Willits at the pond and an ADA-compliant parking space. They are already funded, primarily with Community Development Block Grant funds (final approval later in December will make them

available). CDBG are federal funds that can be used to remove architectural barriers, and have requirements for contractors that are more involved than standard contracts. Phase 3 in particular has several elements that are desirable, and will be included in the city's anticipated application for a Michigan Spark grant for the overall Rouge Trail Concept Plan to strengthen the application. Sustainable materials and landscape design, historic preservation, and educational opportunities within Phase 3 offer unique features to be incorporated into the overall Trails plan, and total approximately \$63,000 in expected construction costs. Phase 4, a pathway across the lawn to a Rouge overlook, would be considered for future funding in later years. The Museum Board has an opportunity to identify elements in Phases 1, 2, and 3 that lend themselves to fundraising efforts, such as tree planting, a bike rack, and benches. Additional funding can support expanding the museum's tour app to develop content for visitors in that area of the park that would be accessible via WiFi. The board agreed to take the matter up again in January to decide what to focus their fundraising efforts on during 2023.

Communication and Reports

Director Pielack provided an update to the Director Report. The museum is moving forward with plans to develop a podcast to feature Birmingham history in a bi-weekly format to reach a broader audience. The costs are moderate, and there is a chance we can apply for a cable board grant for some funding. Also, the Taylor marker application is in the last stages of approval, and hopefully will be ordered by January 1 when prices increase. Two signs will be installed at the cemetery gates recognizing the Michigan Freedom Trail/National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom designation.

Ms. Barrett asked about video availability of museum lectures and also expressed interest in the process for the recently awarded Michigan Humanities grant, and interest in the format and receiving a copy of the narrative. Chair Logue asked if the city could change the Friends membership on its WuFoo page so that people could indicate their preference of receiving *The Heritage* newsletter.

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

Ms. Logue adjourned the meeting at 5:51 PM.