



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
MUSEUM BOARD MEETING
556 W. Maple
Thursday, January 12 2023
5:00 PM**

Members Present: Caroline Ashleigh (Alternate), Kristy Barrett (left at 5:45), Bev Erickson, Alexandra Harris, Judith Keefer, Marty Logue, Jay Shell

Members Absent: Pat Hughes

Administration: Museum Director Leslie Pielack
Planning Director Nicholas Dupuis
Museum Intern Justin Koch

Guests: None.

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

**Approval of the Minutes
Minutes of December 1, 2022**

MOTION: by Keefer, seconded by Shell:

To approve the minutes of December 1, 2022.

VOTE: Yeas, 7
Nays, 0

As a courtesy to Mr. Dupuis, members decided by consensus to address New Business item A, Presentation and discussion, Birmingham Heritage Home Certification Program before Unfinished Business.

New Business

Mr. Dupuis shared the history of Birmingham's 'Heritage Home Program' and the intent of the Historic District Study Committee to renew the program. The community continues to lose eligible homes and hopes that reviving the program and potentially developing incentives would strengthen the efforts to preserve more of them. Members discussed the concept and were supportive of the program, but verbalized the need for financial incentives as well as education to draw interest, help promote preservation of eligible homes, and add some protections against demolition.

Unfinished Business

Director Pielack updated the board on recent success in raising funds for Pond Zone improvements and a recent donation to help purchase benches and trees. In all, outside funding options for Phases 1-2-3 include:

- \$51,000 Community Development Block Grant Funds (for ADA components)
- \$63,000 MI Spark Grant Funds (application pending)
- \$ 7,000 Donation for benches and trees (committed)

A clearer picture of committed funding should be available by the next meeting, and Director Pielack will provide a more specific plan for targeted fundraising at the February Museum Board meeting. Mr. Shell noted that a nearby business may be interested in helping fund some of the Pond Zone project items.

Museum Director Pielack provided an update on four potential landscape architects who have provided proposals on designing the landscape components in the Pond Zone, to include native plants in the wetlands area and a rain garden to manage storm water on the property. All the firms had a background in native plants and/or rain garden design. Brian Devlin, of Nagy Devlin Land Designs, however, has additional qualifications as a historical landscape architect, as well as being quite familiar with the landscape, and is the preferred firm for the project.

New Business, (con't)

Director Pielack shared the Long Range Plan with the board, highlighting the importance of public access in three different areas of emphasis in museum operations. Some of the recent developments include new digital projects, such as online and searchable school yearbooks, the ramped up activity in expanding public access to the park, and community engagement through a new podcast, whose title will be 'Birmingham Uncovered.' Another potential grant request of the Birmingham Area Cable Board of approximately \$8,000 will be discussed in January to help fund 24 episodes for the next year. Additional opportunities are being explored for creative collaboration with the Birmingham Public Schools for student activities at the secondary level.

Communication and Reports

Director Pielack provided an update to the Director Report with additional projects that she plans to include in her budget request for 23/24. These include

- repair/replacement of picket fence in front of Allen House
- repair of front porch and side balcony roofs and repair and reinstallation of metal railing

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

Ms. Logue adjourned the meeting at 6:22 PM.