



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
MUSEUM BOARD MEETING
556 W. Maple
Thursday, February 2, 2023
5:00 PM**

Members Present: Caroline Ashleigh (Alternate), Bev Erickson, Alexandra Harris, Pat Hughes, Marty Logue, Jay Shell

Members Absent: Kristy Barrett, Judith Keefer

Administration: Museum Director Leslie Pielack

Guests: None.

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

**Approval of the Minutes
Minutes of January 12, 2023**

MOTION: by Erickson, seconded by Harris:

To approve the minutes of January 12, 2023.

VOTE: Yeas, 6
Nays, 0

Unfinished Business

The Board discussed planned Pond Zone improvements and opportunities for fundraising. The cost for benches, bike rack, and trees has been donated for Phases 1 and 2 already. Remaining elements of Phase 1, 2, 3 that lend themselves to fundraising include wetlands plants and in Phase 4, more benches, native trees and wetlands/native plants. However, Phase 4 is not anticipated until 2025-2026, so those more tangible elements cannot realistically be targeted until we get closer. For 22/23 and 23/24, therefore, the garden plantings are really the only features not funded. Due to construction and ability to plan, the fall is better for timing. Several ideas were suggested for consideration for fundraising campaigns this year:

- An invitation-only private reception at the museum when potential donors can see progress on the grounds/renderings of garden designs for specialized fundraising
- Seeking a sponsorship or partnership from a local new business that may also be able to host a reception
- A public event in the fall such as:
 - "Picnic for Plants," plant exchange and hosted picnic
 - General Open House when Phase 1 and 2 construction are complete
 - Incorporating a seed exchange with the plant exchange if in the fall
- Reminder that planning a public event needs 90 day lead time, and that no alcohol should be planned for a reception at the museum

New Business

Director Pielack reviewed the museum's Collection Policy and the anticipated need to begin deaccessioning activities later this year. At least one member of the previous Collections Subcommittee is no longer on the Board, so members revisited the role of the Collections Subcommittee, to be composed of up to three members of the Museum Board, and considered nominations for the following members:

- Caroline Ashleigh
- Judith Keefer
- Jay Shell

MOTION:

To approve the Collections Subcommittee as nominated.

VOTE: Yeas, 6
 Nays, 0

Subcommittee members will not need to schedule a meeting until museum staff have prepared deaccession paperwork on items for consideration. The process begins with staff identifying collection items that need to be removed from the collection, and then initiating the process. After the Collections Subcommittee has met and reviewed the potential deaccessions, they make a recommendation to the Museum Board for further review. The Museum Board, if in agreement, sends the recommendation to the City Commission for formal review and/or approval. The Collections Subcommittee is subject to the Open Meetings Act and therefore will be a public meeting. Due to the number of other projects and upcoming construction and closure of the museum, no deaccession activity is expected for at least a few months.

Communication and Reports

Director Pielack shared the framed Congressional Record from Rep. Haley Stevens' office of the Underground Railroad designation of the Fish and Taylor burial sites at Greenwood Cemetery. The Taylor grave marker, which has now been ordered and has a 6 month timeframe. There is one interested bidder in the Allen House Phase II Window Project, and it is L.G.K. Construction, Inc. The Museum Board indicated its approval of L.G.K.'s involvement in the project, should the bid be in line with budgeted funds.

Ms. Erickson commented that she thought the museum's Collections Policy was well-written. Members also discussed meeting in the Hunter House in June when the Allen House has to close to the public for the window restoration project.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 2, at 5:00 PM. Ms. Logue adjourned the meeting at 5:56 PM.