



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

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

Members Absent: Judith Keefer

Student Members Present: Alexander Motea, Alexandra Schaufler

Administration: Museum Director Leslie Pielack

Guests: None.

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

**Approval of the Minutes
Minutes of March 2, 2023**

MOTION: by Erickson, seconded by Shell:

To approve the minutes of March 2, 2023.

VOTE: Yeas, 7
Nays, 0

Minutes of April 13, 2023, Collections Subcommittee

MOTION: by Logue, seconded by Barrett:

To approve the minutes of the Collections Subcommittee for April 13, 2023.

VOTE: Yeas, 7
Nays, 0

New Business

The Museum Board reviewed the proposed school yearbook deaccession recommended by the Collections Subcommittee at their recent meeting. 85 yearbooks dating from 1919 to 1958 are being proposed to deaccession due to redundancy, poor condition, mold infestation, and storage issues. Removing these items from the permanent collection will permit efficient digitization for preservation and research purposes, provide copies for browsing, and reduce exposure of the remaining collection to mold deterioration. The remaining items are in the best condition, are the most appropriate to be maintained by the museum staff, and will benefit from improved storage, thus enhancing the collection.

MOTION: by Erickson, seconded by Logue:

To approve the yearbook deaccession recommended by the Museum Board Collection Subcommittee on April 13, 2023 and recommend final approval by the City Commission.

VOTE: Yeas, 7
Nays, 0

Communication and Reports

Several Museum Board members are up for renewal in July, and all intend to re-apply. Director Pielack updated members as to the status of the window restoration project and closure of the Allen House until June 15. She also provided an update regarding the Willits Street ADA Parking and Path project. Three contractors attended the pre-bid meeting and it is hoped that there will be two or three bids at the opening on May 19. The 2nd grade school tour program begins May 11 at the museum. It has been updated and other collaborations are planned with both public and private schools to provide content, resources, and presentations related to local history, especially diversity and area Underground Railroad heritage. Members discussed their interest in seeing the Greenwood Cemetery Advisory Board take up the matter of long term planning for cemetery marker preservation to prevent deterioration of the historic markers.

Member Comments

Ms. Harris shared her final watercolor portrait of George and Eliza Taylor, which is a rendering of a blurry sketch of the Taylors that was reproduced from an 1898 newspaper. The portrait is a fitting acknowledgement of their presence and importance to Birmingham history. Many thanks to Ms. Harris for her efforts, generosity, and expertise.

There were no public comments.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 1, at 5:00 PM at the Hunter House. Ms. Logue adjourned the meeting at 5:47 PM.