



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
MUSEUM BOARD MEETING
556 W. Maple
Thursday, June 1, 2023
5:00 PM**

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

Members Absent: Pat Hughes, Judith Keefer

Student Members Present: Alexander Motea, Alexandra Schaufler

Administration: Museum Director Leslie Pielack

Guests: None.

Chairperson Logue called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM.

**Approval of the Minutes
Minutes of May 4, 2023**

MOTION: by Erickson, seconded by Barrett:

To approve the minutes of May 4, 2023.

VOTE: Yeas, 6
Nays, 0

New Business

Museum Director Pielack provided an update on the response to the RFP for the **Phase 1 and 2 ADA Parking and Path, John West Hunter Park/Birmingham Museum** project. Two bids were received, both from qualified bidders. The bid from Grit Services was \$97,812 and from Dave's Contracting, Inc., was \$72,460. The cost difference appears to be accounted for in large part by the use of subcontractors by Grit Services. In addition, Dave's Contracting has a positive history at the museum, as the firm installed CDBG-funded ADA concrete ramps for the Allen House in two previous projects. Therefore, Dave's Contracting provided the lowest qualified bid and will be awarded the contract. It is expected that work will take only a few days and will be done some time in July or August. The board was also made aware that the museum's strategic plan is due for a review and renewal for 2024-2027, and that we will be taking that matter up in the next several months. Each of the goals will be reviewed one at a time for updates at the goal and objective levels. In addition, the site work near the pond (Phase 1 and 2 Parking/Path) will help in developing an interpretive plan for the landscape and site. Interpretive planning provides structure and guidance on programming, projects, and budget planning and associated activities, and helps in grant applications and funding as well.

Communication and Reports

Director Pielack updated members as to the status of the window restoration project, which will take another 45-50 days to complete the actual window restoration before they are reinstalled. The 2nd grade school tour program was very successful and met expectations of providing a better experience for students. Plans are underway for Director Pielack to work with school administration apply for a grant to expand curriculum resources within the schools, hopefully in the next year. The museum has launched a portable Juneteenth exhibit at City Hall for recognize our local Underground Railroad history. A discussion clarifying the role of the Greenwood Cemetery Advisory Board in developing planning for the cemetery was briefly revisited. Members with interest in the process can attend the GCAB meetings to learn more and share their views. Museum staff are beginning the deaccession process on the yearbooks that were recently approved by the City Commission for removal from the museum's permanent collection.

Member Comments

Ms. Erickson inquired about other thematic and programmatic focus for the museum following the end of the current diversity exhibit in June of 2024. The Michigan Humanities grant funded activities will continue, and a second grant will be applied for to expand that multi-community project. Ms. Ashleigh inquired about whether our museum loans its exhibits; however, because our mission is specifically Birmingham-focused, it is unlikely we would ever get a request to loan an entire exhibit. The museum does make loans from time to time of individual objects to other institutions, but per our collection policy, not to individuals or private organizations.

There were no public comments.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 6, at 5:00 PM, returning to the Allen House. Ms. Logue adjourned the meeting at 5:52 PM.