



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM  
MUSEUM BOARD MEETING  
556 W. Maple  
Thursday, September 7, 2023  
5:00 PM**

Members Present: Caroline Ashleigh, Bev Erickson, Alexandra Harris, Judith Keefer,  
Marty Logue, Jay Shell  
Members Absent: Kristy Barrett (Alternate), Pat Hughes  
Student Members Present: Alexandria Schaufler  
Administration: Museum Director Leslie Pielack  
Guests: None

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by Chairperson Logue.

**Approval of the Minutes  
Minutes of August 3, 2023**

**MOTION:** by Keefer, seconded by Harris:

To approve the minutes of August 3, 2023.

**VOTE:** Yeas, 6  
Nays, 0

**Unfinished Business**

The final sections of the Museum Site Interpretive Plan were reviewed by members based on museum staff recommendations. The following implementation methodologies and evaluation plan were finalized by the Board:

Methodology and Implementation

- Physical features of site and Allen House
  - Preservation/restoration/reconstruction
  - Public access development/expansion
- Themes and story-based content
  - Interactive media and virtual content
    - Social media
    - Video/audio materials/podcast
    - Exhibits and online materials and resources (incl digital access)
  - Programs/lectures/tours-adult and children, on and off-site, virtual and physical
  - Print (e.g., brochures, educational materials, booklets)
  - Traveling exhibits and off-site displays

## Evaluation

- Review data and adjust plan regularly; every 3 to five years, as conditions change.

The Board also reviewed the components that will be included in the Birmingham Museum Interpretive Plan, and determined that it complies with the following best practices that make a historic site interpretive plan effective:

- Identify physical improvements or budgetary needs
- Clarify some of our site's main stories
- Tell our stories more effectively
- Identify opportunities for programming
- Seek potential new audiences
- Help audiences form connections to the museum, Birmingham, and its stories
- Demonstrate preparedness and planning to potential funders

**MOTION:** by Harris, seconded by Ashleigh:

To approve the Birmingham Museum Site Interpretive Plan, including objectives, themes, historic and cultural resources, methodology, implementation, and evaluation components as established by the Museum Board.

**VOTE:** Yeas, 6  
Nays, 0

## **New Business**

Director Pielack summarized the proposed deaccession. Personal items were unintentionally released by a local family after the death of a family member during the COVID pandemic, and a third party acquired them at an estate sale. They were donated to the museum and accessioned into the permanent collection. When the family discovered the situation, they requested that some items be returned. The original items have been digitized and are considered redundant, and therefore museum staff recommended the deaccession. The Collections Subcommittee met on August 30 and voted to recommend to the Museum Board that the deaccession move forward. Ms. Keefer and Mr. Shell of the Collections Subcommittee reiterated their support.

**MOTION:** by Erickson, seconded by Shell:

To approve the deaccession of selected items from the 2020.37.1 family collection as recommended by the Museum Board Collection Subcommittee on August 30, 2023 and recommend final approval by the City Commission.

**VOTE:** Yeas, 6  
Nays, 0

## **Communication and Reports**

Director Pielack provided updates to the Director's Report and reviewed the 2024 calendar in anticipation of finalizing the Museum Board schedule next month. She also shared information regarding an upcoming City Commission discussion workshop regarding flooding and sewer issues in Birmingham. In response to member questions, she provided a brief history of Creem Magazine in Birmingham, and how the museum became the repository for the unique collection of corporate papers, art director files, and other archives from the rock magazine.

### **Member Comments**

Members briefly mentioned upcoming scheduling issues for the remainder of 2023.

### **Public Comments**

None.

**The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 5, 2023, at 5:00 PM.**

Ms. Logue adjourned the meeting at 5:46 PM.