



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

Members Present: Bev Erickson, Alexandra Harris, Pat Hughes, Marty Logue, Jay Shell
Members Absent: Caroline Ashleigh, Kristy Barrett (Alternate), Judith Keefer
Student Members Present: None
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 October 5, 2023**

MOTION: by Shell, seconded by Hughes:

To approve the minutes of October 5, 2023.

VOTE: Yeas, 5
Nays, 0

New Business

Museum Director Pielack presented three proposals received for repair of the porch roof, and explained the historic preservation and restoration issues involved. Butcher and Butcher Construction Co., Inc. has the lowest and most qualified proposal, and a budget amendment will be sought from the city commission to cover the cost of the project that exceeds the available funds. If the budget amendment is approved, the contractor will be able to schedule the work before winter. Museum Board members were in agreement that this plan was appropriate.

Communication and Reports

Director Pielack provided updates to the Director's Report. The storm windows were just installed the other day, completing the Allen House window restoration project. The ADA parking space is delayed due to encountering unforeseen conditions that will require additional work, and the need to get a budget amendment for additional funds that exceed the budget in order to complete the project. The George and Eliza Taylor marker has been installed, and all donors to the fundraising campaign have been notified with a photo of the marker in place. Several special tours have taken place within the museum as well as two downtown tours; one was a Next auction item, and one was for attendees at a Michigan Downtown Association gathering in Birmingham, given on behalf of the Birmingham Shopping District. The museum has received notification that the Michigan Humanities Council has awarded funds to extend the current UGRR research and exhibit to include all of Oakland County and provide grade school lesson plans and a book about

the UGRR in Oakland County in 2024. However, the uncertainty of funding through the federal government to the Arts and Humanities makes it unclear when/if the project will actually receive the grant award. The museum is considering an exhibit of Anishnaabe work centered on our recent basket donations. We hope to seek grant funding to bring tribal experts from all three Michigan tribes to curate the exhibit, and possibly to help coordinate artifacts for loan. Presentations by tribal members to the public would also hopefully be possible. In lieu of a physical exhibit for November/Native American Heritage Month, the museum has created a virtual exhibit highlighting the Indigenous people who occupied this area before white settlement. It features articles on local Indigenous archaeology and artifacts in our collection, and our recent donation of Anishnaabe baskets:

https://www.bhamgov.org/about_birmingham/city_history/birmingham_museum/virtual_exhibits/birmingham_s_indigenous_peoples.php.

Member Comments

Ms. Ashleigh was not able to be present, but Director Pielack shared a possible 'harvest feast' menu based on foods available and commonly served in the period of the so-called 'first Thanksgiving.'

Public Comments

None.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 7, 2023, at 5:00 PM.

Ms. Logue adjourned the meeting at 5:31 PM.