



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
MUSEUM BOARD MEETING
556 W. Maple
Thursday, February 1, 2024
5:00 PM**

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 PM by Chairperson Logue.

**Approval of the Minutes
Minutes of January 4, 2024**

MOTION: by Shell, seconded by Barrett:

To approve the minutes of January 4, 2024.

VOTE: Yeas, 4
Nays, 0

New Business

Brian Devlin, Historic Landscape Architect from Nagy Devlin Land Design presented his initial landscape plan for the pond area, including the boardwalk across the pond, a patio on the south side of the pool, and a paths around the pond and to the Rouge overlook. His plan incorporates the data provided by AEW Engineering regarding the boardwalk location, water level, and associated engineering issues. The movement of water at and below the surface is a significant consideration.

The historic features of the pool would be suggested by the existing remnant of the wall at the north, the boardwalk edge on the east, and the patio on the south. To help visually suggest the missing west wall, he suggested the use of a partial rectangular dressed (shaped) stone overhang on the north side. The site can be interpreted with QR codes rather than physical signage, which will be more sustainable and help maintain the natural appearance of the area. He is recommending the use of natural stone to complement the site and other improvements. Because of the overgrowth of invasive plants and trees, he is recommending that all existing trees and shrubs around the pond be removed, with the exception of a large bald cypress, Norway spruce, and white cedar.

He also presented his recommendations regarding landscape plant materials that are native or native-derived and would be aesthetically appropriate, lower maintenance, and more sustainable for the environment of the pond, which has both upland and wetland characteristics. Design goals include:

- referencing or suggesting original elm trees
- utilizing columnar trees at the street
- utilizing plant groupings to minimize maintenance and create harmonious companion plantings
- limited plant types and varieties to maintain visual and natural balance

Director Pielack suggested that the project will be easier to fund and install if done in logical phases; the first phase would include the landscape design elements along Willits and around the parking space, with later phases gradually completing the paths and work around the pond. Board members reviewed his recommendations and agreed by consensus with his plan, and provided suggestions and direction regarding trees and plant choices. Additional suggestions were made concerning providing drainage under the patio for the seeps and surface water. Mr. Devlin will return in April to share additional design detail and graphics with the board.

Communication and Reports

Museum Director Pielack reviewed the Director Report and shared the proclamation received from the Oakland County Board of Commissioners last night at the presentation by museum volunteer Joy Young. The proclamation will be displayed in the lobby with our other awards.

Member Comments

Board alternate member Barrett was unable to share the Black History month flyer with the School Board at a recent meeting and did not meet the newsletter deadline, but will be following up with Superintendent Robeson for other possible collaborations.

Public Comments

None.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 7, 2024, at 5:00 PM.

Ms. Logue adjourned the meeting at 6:30 PM.