



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM  
MUSEUM BOARD MEETING  
556 W. Maple  
Thursday, January 2, 2025  
5:00 PM**

Members Present: Mike Abelson, Kristy Barrett (Alternate) Alexandra Harris,  
Marty Logue, Judith Keefer  
Members Absent: Bev Erickson, Pat Hughes Eva Kirkman  
Administration: Museum Director Leslie Pielack  
Museum Assistant Chelsea Hunter

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

**Approval of the Minutes  
Minutes of December 5, 2024**

**MOTION:** by Keefer, seconded by Abelson:

To approve the minutes of December 5, 2024.

**VOTE:** Yeas, 5  
Nays, 0

**New Business**

Members all confirmed that they would like to pursue the idea of a board-led oral history project. Details will be determined at an upcoming meeting. "What's Your Story?" is the proposed title for the project.

Members also agreed that bringing in City department heads from Planning and the Library, and Next Director Cris Braun at the February meeting would be valuable in the museum's strategic planning process.

Members reviewed the strategic planning materials and whether to develop a values statement for the museum. Board consensus was to skip the values statement, and in reviewing the existing mission statement, members decided it continues to represent the museum's mission very well and needed no revision.

**MOTION:** by Logue, seconded by Barrett:

To continue to use the current mission statement for the Birmingham Museum.

**VOTE:** Yeas, 5  
Nays, 0

Members also reviewed proposed priorities to the goals of the museum's strategic plan. Three priority concepts emerged from the discussion by consensus agreement, to be further refined at the February meeting:

1. Maintain and enhance professional standards, ethics, and best practices to preserve and maintain information and the collection in the public trust
2. Use the museum to achieve greater equity and inclusion through humanizing history and its interpretation to benefit the community
3. Establish and strengthen relationships within and outside the community to build collaborative approaches to enhance the museum's collection and influence

The museum's current budget, data on visitation (physical and virtual), and social media reach was reviewed and discussed. Questions about how the museum budget is planned and detail about personnel and projections were addressed. This provides context for the interaction between the museum's strategic plan and the City's municipal goals and related objectives for the museum.

### **Communication and Reports**

Museum Director Pielack provided a verbal Director's report with updates on the ceiling project and City's Long Range Planning.

### **Member Comments**

Ms. Harris commented that she thought a lot was accomplished in the meeting today. Ms. Logue corrected the dates of our next meeting which were inaccurate on the agenda.

### **Public Comments**

None.

**The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 6, 2025, at 5:00 PM.**

Ms. Logue adjourned the meeting at 6:25 PM.