



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
MUSEUM BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, February 2, 2017
5:30 PM**

Members Present: James Cristbrook, Russ Dixon, Tina Krizanic, Marty Logue, Caitlin Rosso

Student Members Present: None

Members Absent: Judith Keefer, Gretchen Maricak

Administration: Museum Director Leslie Pielack

Guests: None

Mr. Dixon called the meeting to order at 5:38 PM.

**Approval of the Minutes
Minutes of January 5, 2017**

MOTION: by Logue, seconded by Krizanic:

To approve the minutes of January 5, 2017, as amended.

VOTE: Yeas, 5
Nays, 0

Announcements

None.

Unfinished Business

A. Ms. Logue summarized the Friends' plan for a museum celebration of the permanent CREEM exhibit. It is tentatively scheduled for Saturday or Sunday, June 10-11. The Friends are considering a two-part event that would have a private component for the CREEM staffers to have time together to reminisce, followed by a public component with a brief presentation by a former CREEM staff, including formal recognition of our collection. This would not be a fund-raising event, but rather an informal celebration that allows our CREEM followers to 'come home' to our museum for a people-friendly reunion. The June time period would permit use of the porch and lawn. The plan is to promote through former CREEMsters to reach their 1000+ network in addition to ours, thus expanding our reach and creating a memorable event for all. Mr. Cristbrook noted that we could look into updating the Wikipedia CREEM entry to include references to our museum and the collection as well to promote our collection.

B. The Museum Board discussed the bicentennial city-wide commemoration subject briefly as well as received an update on the book project committee. Although the book committee has yet to formally meet, ideas are taking shape about possible formats for the book. The committee's meeting agenda will be announced and all interested parties encouraged to attend to share their ideas with the committee. The museum board will review some other communities' approach to celebrating centennials in links to be sent by Museum Director Pielack. Each member will send 5 ideas to Director Pielack before the March board meeting to facilitate discussion.

New Business

A. Brian Devlin of Devlin Landscape Design will be on the April agenda for the Museum Board to share his findings regarding the historic landscape and begin the planning for next steps. These could include where, when and how to incorporate public input, specific and general treatment planning guidelines for the historic and natural resources of our site, current ADA guidelines, city requirements, and more. Museum Board members are encouraged to bring their ideas and thoughts to the next meeting as this process begins.

Communication and Reports

- A. Joint Bicentennial Book Committee Report-none at this time.
- B. Museum Director Pielack reviewed the Director Report and is expecting three items to go before the city commission for approval, tentatively on February 27; a) the Museum Board recommended 2017-2020 Strategic Plan, b) the Allen House siding contract, and c) the CREEM digitization agreement.
- C. The Museum Board discussed the value of board members sharing their visions and understanding of the Museum Board role and their contribution to the museum. In addition to reviewing the ordinance language, members agreed by consensus that it would be valuable to set aside time at an upcoming meeting to clarify this understanding as a group. An expected upcoming vacancy on the Museum Board would be an ideal time to revisit this issue, as it will have a direct impact on the Master Landscape planning and other business this year.

Additional member comments centered on individual board member reactions to recent public comments made by former board member George Stern, especially relating to his remarks at the November 3, 2016 and January 5, 2017 Museum Board meetings. Mr. Stern's negative characterization of the museum and staff and other commentary left members feeling discouraged and uncomfortable. Some members expressed concern about ongoing negative impact on the museum of his recent inappropriate conduct. Open Museum Board discussion of shared board vision going forward would be an important way to strengthen the board and support the museum.

D. There were no public comments.

Mr. Dixon adjourned the meeting at 6:48 p.m.