



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
MUSEUM BOARD
VIRTUAL MEETING
July 9, 2020
5:00 PM**

Members Present: Russ Dixon, Judith Keefer, Tina Krizanic, Marty Logue

Members Absent: Dan Haugen, Pat Hughes, Caitlin Rosso

Administration: Museum Director Leslie Pielack

Guests: None

Ms. Krizanic called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM. Clarifications regarding the virtual meeting were briefly reviewed. The meeting will be captioned and a roll call will be used to identify member votes and other comments.

**Approval of the Minutes
Minutes of June 4, 2020**

MOTION: by Logue, seconded by Keefer:

To approve the minutes of June 4, 2020.

VOTE: Yeas, 4
Nays, 0

Unfinished Business

- A. Members reviewed the Strategic Plan goals and general objectives for each part of the plan that were modified early in 2020 before the COVID crisis to determine if any changes were needed in light of the pandemic and its impacts on museum operations. No changes were made to any of the goals and objectives, which remain as originally approved by the Museum Board on February 6, 2020.
- B. The evolving public health crisis of the pandemic continues to be unpredictable, making planning fund raising events and activities difficult. The museum has developed and defined three Heritage Zone projects and created a donation form for online payment, identifying the children's garden, the community perennial garden, and the tree planting as potential areas for targeted fundraising. A donation has already been received for the children's garden. Opportunities for creating a set of smaller outdoor events for specific targeted audiences are well aligned with current social distancing. Director Pielack will propose ideas for the board to discuss at its August meeting to consider as board-sponsored fundraising events.

New Business

- A. Re-opening the museum for public access indoors remains questionable in the near future. The steady increase in Michigan cases has delayed the governor's next phase for re-opening. The City's buildings remain closed to the public and efforts to do essential business online have been successful. In lieu of opening to the public directly, museum staff are planning a monthly "porch pop-up" exhibit through the warmer weather that would involve taking a select group of objects outdoors with a special theme for a day or possibly two, on to the back porch. There would be no admission charged but visitors would get information to explain the Heritage Zone project and how to easily use the touchless donation option. Flow would be one way up the ramp and social distancing and masking requirements would be maintained. To aim for the most successful event, the staff will likely wait until the construction of Maple Road is complete, which could be done by the end of July.

Communication and Reports

Director Pielack reviewed the Director Report and provided updates on the Hunter House projects. Bids have been received and the historical architect Jackie Hoist of H2A has recommended L.G.K. Building, Inc., for each project as the lowest qualified bidder. (L.G.K. completed the Allen House siding project in 2018.) The bids for both the drainage and the carpentry/painting were high because of the requirements to follow historic preservation practices as specified by the architect and the labor intensive work to be performed. L.G.K.'s bids are \$51,750 for the drainage and masonry project and \$62,950 for the carpentry repair and repainting project (to include replacing the shutters with appropriate historic shutters). Director Pielack also followed up on a request for information by the Museum Board last month about the large rock currently in the intersection of Southfield and Maple that would be removed with the construction project now underway. Board members agreed that the rock should be preserved if the Martha Baldwin Park does not want it, and Landscape Architect Brian Devlin should be consulted if it is to be moved to the museum grounds to determine the best placement. Mr. Dixon suggested that at the next Museum Board meeting, the board could discuss materials he has found online about fundraising during the pandemic. The board agreed to add this item to the next agenda and for Mr. Dixon to lead the discussion. The materials will be added to the agenda packet so the board can review and be prepared prior to the meeting.

There were no public comments.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 6 at the regular time of 5:00 PM, currently planned as a virtual meeting subject to the Governor's ongoing executive orders.

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