



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
MUSEUM BOARD AGENDA
556 W MAPLE
Thursday, August 1, 2019
5:00 PM**

***Mission Statement:** The Birmingham Museum will explore meaningful connections with our past, in order to enrich our community and enhance its character and sustainability. Our mission is to promote understanding of Birmingham's historical and cultural legacy through preservation and interpretation of its ongoing story.*

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Introduction of Guests**
- 4. Approval of the Minutes**
 - A. Minutes of July 11, 2019
- 5. Unfinished Business**
 - A. Hunter House Interpretive Plan
 - B. Heritage Zone Fund Raising Plan-Update
- 6. Communication and Reports**
 - A. Director Report
 - B. Member comments
 - C. Public comments
- 7. Next Regular Meeting: September 5, 5:00 PM**
- 8. Adjournment**

NOTICE: Individuals with disabilities requiring accommodations for effective participation in this meeting should contact the city clerk's office at (248) 530-1880 (voice), or (248) 644-5115 (TDD) at least one day in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance. *APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MUSEUM BOARD MEETINGS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE AND ON THE CITY WEBSITE AT www.bhamgov.org.* City of Birmingham, 151 Martin, Birmingham, MI 48009; 248.530.1800. Persons with disabilities that may require assistance for effective participation in this public meeting should contact the City Clerk's Office at the number (248) 530-1880, or (248) 644-5115 (for the hearing impaired) at least one day before the meeting to request help in mobility, visual, hearing, or other assistance. *Las personas con incapacidad que requieren algún tipo de ayuda para la participación en esta sesión pública deben ponerse en contacto con la oficina del escribano de la ciudad en el número (248) 530-1800 o al (248) 644-5115 (para las personas con incapacidad auditiva) por lo menos un día antes de la reunión para solicitar ayuda a la movilidad, visual, auditiva, o de otras asistencias.* (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964).

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**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
MUSEUM BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, July 11, 2019
5:00 PM**

Members Present: Jay Cunningham, Russ Dixon, Dan Haugen, Tina Krizanic, Marty Logue, Caitlin Rosso

Members Absent: Judith Keefer

Student Members Present: Meredith Weddell

Administration: Museum Director Leslie Pielack

Guests: None

Ms. Krizanic called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM

Election of Chair

Nominations: Ms. Logue nominated Ms. Krizanic to serve as Chair for 2019-2020. There were no other nominations.

VOTE: Yeas, 6
Nays, 0

**Approval of the Minutes
Minutes of June 13, 2019**

MOTION: by Dixon, seconded by Logue:

To approve the minutes of June 13, 2019.

VOTE: Yeas, 6
Nays, 0

Unfinished Business

- A. Board members reviewed proposed timeline to complete Hunter House interpretive plan, and recommendations for Interpretive Objectives. The proposed timeline will have the document completed in November of 2019 for final board approval.

The Hunter House Interpretive Objectives were identified as follows:

1. Enhancement of visitor experience
 - a. Engagement opportunities
 - b. Educational experiences
2. Enhancement of collection and historical resources

- a. Artifacts
- b. Information
- 3. Increased community support
 - a. Manpower/volunteer resources
 - b. Financial donations
- 4. Civic engagement and partnerships

MOTION: by Cunningham, seconded by Rosso:

To approve the Hunter House Interpretive Objectives as proposed.

VOTE: Yeas, 6
Nays, 0

Board members reviewed and discussed the Hunter House Priority Interpretive Themes and identified the following priorities:

- 1. Pioneer settlement of Oakland County
 - a. War of 1812
 - b. Early settlers and community
 - c. Early territorial environment
 - i. Saginaw Trail
 - ii. Rouge River/Landscape
 - iii. Native American occupation and relationships
 - d. Building technology
 - e. Greenwood Cemetery
- 2. Civil War period
- 3. Building of Birmingham
 - a. Agricultural
 - b. Commercial
 - c. Government
- 4. 19th to 20th century culture and everyday life
 - a. Foodways
 - b. Roles of men, women, and children
- 5. Preservation/conservation movement; how a community's needs change over time

MOTION: by Haugen, seconded by Logue:

To approve the Hunter House Priority Interpretive Themes as identified.

VOTE: Yeas, 6
Nays, 0

- B. The city has not yet finalized its logo selection process. As soon as it has been completed, the final Heritage Zone design can be taken to the city commission for review.

Communication and Reports

Director Pielack highlighted portions of the Director Report. The historical architect has completed a review of the Hunter House exterior and identified areas that need intervention to prevent damage to the building. Emergency repairs are being undertaken at the 1970s-era porch and the original façade door trim. The remaining work can be considered for a state CLG grant once the architect's specifications and cost estimates are available, approximately August 1st. With or without grant funds, it may be necessary to wait until next construction season to complete all the exterior repair work and painting, pending architect recommendations. The window evaluation is complete, and a scope of work finalized for restoration of the Allen House windows and treatment of the Hunter House windows. Paint analysis by a historic finishes expert is also in process for the Hunter House. Director Pielack discussed an unexpected complicated inventory project underway for Hunter House furnishings dating back approximately fifty years, and played a brief draft video about the project being prepared for the museum's Facebook page.

Russ Dixon thanked Jay Cunningham for his participation on the Museum Board, and was joined by all members in recognizing him for his contributions during the time he has served. Mr. Cunningham indicated he would like to stay in touch and shared his disappointment that he can't continue and his enjoyment of serving as board member and the important work being done by the Museum Board.

There were no public comments.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on August 1, 2019 at 5:00 PM.

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

Interpretive Planning, Part II (August): Cultural and Historic Resources for Hunter House Interpretive Plan (Proposed)

This component of the plan addresses the major physical objects and the primary stories associated with them to build a conceptual timeline for virtual and site visitors. It is the framework that will tie the physical space to the themes that have been identified.

1. Building and Site

- a. Interior
 - i. Heritage room for visual 'scrapbook timeline' and display case; other rooms interpreted functionally
 - ii. Wall exposure
 - iii. Birmingham-related objects and artifacts whenever possible, with other furnishings as support for period interpretation
 - b. Exterior
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2. Artifacts and Objects-displayed and directly interpreted (unlabeled)

- a. Hunter-sleigh bells
 - b. Hamilton-folding fork and knife
 - c. White pine slab
 - d. Swan desk (replace existing secretary)
 - e. Raynale portrait
 - f. Randall portrait
 - g. Fouracre oil lamp
 - h. Clizbe Melodion
 - i. Period garments, household items, and furnishings from collection as needed to support thematic objectives
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3. Collection Photos/Maps/Architectural Drawings/Illustrations-virtual and physical literature and displays

- a. Building
 - b. Site
 - c. People (see list below)
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4. Other Illustrations not in collection

- a. First surveyor and original parcel maps and documents
 - b. Museum-generated illustrations and maps
 - c. Period illustrations
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5. Priority Stories/People

- a. **Hunter/Willits/Hamilton families**, various
 - b. **Imri Fish, Ziba Swan** and the **Utter** murders; the **Fish** family
 - c. **Ebenezer Raynale**, early Birmingham, pioneer communities and roles
 - d. **Henry Randall**, the Civil War and post-war Birmingham, moving the Hunter House
 - e. **The Fouracres**-Alice, Albert, Edna; the Titanic, DUR, Spanish flu
 - f. **Wallace Frost** at Hunter House
 - g. **Rosemary Barnhardt**, Great Depression and rental period
 - h. **Flacks** and the preservation of the Hunter House
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DATE: August 1, 2019
TO: Museum Board
FROM: Leslie Pielack, Museum Director
SUBJECT: Director Report

Museum Staff-Led Summer Adult Lecture Series--July's program was well attended and very entertaining. Caitlin Donnelly discussed how Shetland ponies became so important in Birmingham's history. The audience was enthusiastic and appreciative, and the library staff mentioned several times that our upbeat and creative programs are very well received. Our final summer program will feature museum staff Kyle Phillips. We continue to make arrangements with Bloomfield Cable TV to video record our presentations.

August 8 **Birmingham at the Movies** Museum Staff Kyle Phillips
Actors, directors, film professionals and television producers have looked to Birmingham as a source of inspiration. Kyle Phillips will show some clips and talk about how Birmingham has appeared 'in the movies.'

Fall Lecture Series—despite the planned disarray of the library and reduced meeting space over the next year, the library staff has reserved the Jean Lloyd Room upstairs (seating 45-50 people) for our fall series because our programs have become so popular. The lineup for the fall is as follows:

September 19 **The Allens and the New City**

It was 1933 when the Village of Birmingham officially became a city, but the road that ended there began decades earlier. It led from a humble farm on Maple Road to the doorstep of the village council, and later wound through the politics of the town's struggle to face dramatic change and family tragedy in the early 20th century. Marion Clizbe and Harry Allen shaped Birmingham's government as well as its character, and left behind a cultural and architectural legacy to the city they loved.

October 17 **The Levinsons-First Jewish Family in Birmingham**

In 1896, the village of Birmingham welcomed an immigrant Jewish family to set down roots. Although he started with little more than a tinker's wagon and the will to make a new start, the remarkable Morris Levinson and his descendants changed the town in the 19th century and changed the nation in the 20th century. Family members have worked to improve the lot of others locally as well as globally, and include lifelong political service of icons Sander and Carl Levin.

November 14 **A Reunion with Birmingham's 'Favorite' Family – The Peabodys-**

Spanning generations, Birmingham's Peabody family left its mark and formed lasting relationships on the entire Birmingham community. But it was Peabody's Restaurant that became the social anchor and 'home away from home,' for the city's residents. When it closed for good in 2016, the city mourned the loss of this place and the people that had become so much a part of everyday life. Join **Library Director Doug Koschik** and members of the Peabody family and staff to share memories and create a video record of the legacy of this very special place.

Oakland County History Coalition Meeting—July's meeting was held here at the museum with 27 representatives from nearby historical organizations and museums in attendance. Visitors toured our facility and the Hunter House, and participated in a lively discussion about effective ways for historical groups to utilize social media. We received many compliments on our content, our exhibit, and our site.

Collections Update—Museum staff and summer interns have been working on a comprehensive inventory and record updating project regarding the objects and materials associated with the first acquisitions of the Friends (Birmingham Historical Society) in the 1970s. Many of these items displayed in the Hunter House have errors in the accession or object records, for example being accessioned twice with two sets of identification numbers for the same object. When complete, the project will make it much easier to utilize these objects within the updated Hunter House Interpretive Plan.

Roofing project— the Allen House roofing project has now been completed, and includes new gutters. The Hunter House has also been completed. Both roofs should have a lifespan of at least twenty years.

Hunter House Exterior Evaluation and Repairs —The urgent repairs have been completed at the original entry door of the Hunter House and the porch addition emergency masonry and carpentry repairs are in process. The entry door trim was replaced with mahogany custom made to match, and a coated copper drip edge installed and disguised to prevent moisture entry over the door.

Exterior Architectural Specifications for Restoration and Re-painting of the Hunter House and CLG Grant (October cycle)—Jackie Hoist of H2A Architects will be completing her final specifications and cost estimates for the Hunter House exterior restoration. Depending on the final recommendations, this project may be appropriate for grant funding through the State Historic Preservation Office's Certified Local Government grant program. The next grant deadline is October 1 and, if funded, the project would go out to bid in the fall for completion next spring.

Pond seepage—DPS is working with engineering consultants HRC to assess the seepage below the pond and determine the best approach to address it.

SHPO Update—There has been no word yet on the Allen House nomination; in all likelihood it will not be on the schedule for the Board of Review in September. The next board meeting is in December.

Greenwood Tours September 21 at 1 PM—The Friends will be hosting the annual Pioneer Greenwood Cemetery tours in September. Please consider helping out and supporting this valuable program. Send me an email at lpjelack@bhamgov.org and I will forward your message to George Getschman, who coordinates the program.