



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
MUSEUM BOARD AGENDA
556 W MAPLE
Thursday, October 5, 2017
5:30 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 September 7, 2017
 - B. Minutes of September 21, 2017
- 5. Announcements**
- 6. Unfinished Business**
 - A. Master Landscape Planning-Brian Devlin
- 7. Communication and Reports**
 - A. Committee Reports-Joint Bicentennial Book Committee
 - B. Director Report
 - C. Member comments
 - D. Public comments
- 8. Next Regular Meeting: November 2, 2017**
- 9. 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, September 7, 2017
5:30 PM**

Members Present: Lori Eaton, Judith Keefer, Tina Krizanic, Marty Logue, Caitlin Rosso

Student Members Present: Hannah Sandler

Members Absent: James Cunningham, Russ Dixon

Administration: Museum Director Leslie Pielack

Guests: Brian Devlin, Devlin Nagy Land Designs

Guest and Board Members introduced themselves.

**Approval of the Minutes
Minutes of August 3, 2017**

MOTION: by Rosso, seconded by Keefer:

To approve the minutes of August 3, 2017.

VOTE: Yeas, 5
Nays, 0

Announcements

None.

Unfinished Business

A. Historical landscape architect, Brian Devlin, shared his concept plan for the landscape based on existing conditions and members' priorities for the four landscape zones. His recommendations include the following:

Heritage Zone:

- Replace inappropriate specimen trees, such as Norway maple, with hybrid elms
- Provide space on the front and side of the Hunter House for a parlor garden with low screening hedge
- Utilize garden space for educational gardens, possibly with vegetables and historically appropriate flowers
- Potential for crowd-sourced perennials and community engagement

Transition Zone:

- Plant new hybrid elms to reconstruct landscape elements from Allen period and earlier
- Repair historic stone wall as needed

- Retain mature spruce until/unless it begins to die
- Replace existing wood steps with wider concrete steps and rock walls; provide landings for rest areas with possible seating

Pond Zone:

- Provide at least 2 parallel parking spots along Willits (handicapped)
- Barrier free access with crushed limestone path on east side of pond and along south side
- Path to widen into seating area at existing light pole
- Path to extend across lawn to west edge of property for Rouge overlook with rock retaining walls
- At pond, reconstruct or reveal concrete edges of original pool. Add wood boardwalk along eastern edge across area for viewing pool and create garden on east side
 - A bog garden can support plants for birds, bees, butterflies and bats and provide unique natural environment
 - A rain garden of water tolerant natural plants could also be effective in that space
 - Actual requirements of railing along the boardwalk, if any, will depend on the final boardwalk location, nature of shoreline, etc.
- On south side of pond, path would meet a paved area at edge of former pool, requiring a railing. The railing would extend across historic pool edge and would optimize viewing, e.g., Plexiglas or cabled, etc. for high visibility
- Pathway will require grading and retaining rock walls to meet ADA slope requirements
- At old stairs to Willits, replacing or repairing existing stairs would be preferable to installing accessible path at that point due to steep grade.
- Remainder of existing lawn to remain lawn, with additional specimen hybrid elms.

Riverine Zone:

- Repair historic stone wall along west side of drive and below Allen House; add scatter boulders below west wall to help retain soil and protect repaired wall from future erosion
- Invasive species eradication program
- Add some new plantings

Access to river is part of the Rouge master plan, so any recommendations in that regard need to be made in the Parks master planning process.

Museum Board members discussed the opportunities for developing funding initiatives, e.g., buying a tree, bench, etc.; ADA construction may be grant-compatible or improve eligibility for other funding, and agreed that the pond zone has the greatest promise for getting community interest and grant funding.

Communication and Reports

A. Joint Bicentennial Book Committee Report-a public survey has been created that will be launched around September 15 electronically and on paper in four city locations to get public feedback about the form and content of a bicentennial publication. An article will appear in the Eagle on September 13, and the survey is now live.

- B. Museum Director Pielack provided updates to her report. The Allen House siding project is underway and may take about a month, depending on weather.
- C. Ms. Rosso will be checking on possible engineering contacts for finding out more about the pond survey, and Ms. Eaton offered to investigate how hydrotherapy may have been undertaken at the time of the pool as part of potential planning.
- D. There were no public comments.

Board members discussed the need for a Special Meeting before the next scheduled meeting. This would allow additional needed discussion to finalize the Museum master landscape plan within the expected time frame of the Parks master plan, to better coordinate joint planning. A Special Meeting will be scheduled for September 21, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. to review Mr. Devlin's recommendations.

Ms. Krizanic adjourned the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

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**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
MUSEUM BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, September 21, 2017
5:30 PM**

Members Present: James Cunningham, Lori Eaton, Judith Keefer, Tina Krizanic, Marty Logue, Caitlin Rosso

Student Members Present: Hannah Sandler, Carson Claar (arrived at 6:00 p.m.)

Members Absent: Russ Dixon

Administration: Museum Director Leslie Pielack

Guests: None

**Approval of the Minutes
Minutes of September 7, 2017**

Approval of the minutes will be deferred to the next scheduled board meeting in October.

Announcements

None.

Unfinished Business

A. Museum Board members were provided additional information regarding a survey for the pond and the ongoing Parks master plan process, as well as expected steps going forward for the Museum Landscape Master Plan. The survey could take as little as two weeks or as long as 60 days. The pond-related planning cannot go forward without the survey information, so it is possible that the Museum plan would not be ready at the same time as the Parks plan. However, the Parks plan will reference the 2018 Museum plan in its documents if that is the case. Also, the existing 2006 Rouge plan provides for a trail access path on Willits to the river, so the Museum plan can reference and make recommendations accordingly that would build on the existing recommendation.

The Museum Board agreed to review and finalize Mr. Devlin's recommendations with the exception of the immediate area adjacent to, and over, the pond, until such time as the final survey data is available. The Museum Board agreed by consensus on the following to be incorporated in the final concept plan:

Heritage Zone:

1. Replace inappropriate specimen trees, such as Norway maple, with hybrid elms
2. Provide space on the front and side of the Hunter House for a parlor garden with low screening hedge

3. Utilize garden space for educational gardens, possibly with vegetables and historically appropriate flowers
4. Explore opportunities for collaborating with adjoining property owners to the east regarding boundary fencing and/or treatment; suggest appropriate fencing appearance and material

Transition Zone:

1. Plant new hybrid elms to reconstruct landscape elements from Allen period and earlier
2. Repair historic stone wall as needed
3. Retain mature spruce until/unless it begins to die
4. Replace existing wood steps with wider hard surface/natural material steps and rock walls; provide landings for rest areas with possible seating

Pond Zone:

1. Provide at least 2 parallel parking spots along Willits (handicapped)
2. Barrier free access with crushed limestone path on east side of pond and along south side. Material and appearance of path to be consistent with that to be used by Parks, and with Rouge access trail path
3. Path to widen into seating area at existing light pole
4. Path to extend across lawn to west edge of property for Rouge overlook with rock retaining walls
5. At pond, reconstruct or reveal concrete edges of original pool
6. Bury overhead electrical and other cables
7. At old stairs to Willits, replacing or repairing existing stairs would be preferable to installing accessible path at that point due to steep grade.
8. Remainder of existing lawn to remain lawn, with additional specimen hybrid elms.

The following recommendations will be deferred for discussion when pond survey data is available:

- *Add wood boardwalk along eastern edge across area for viewing pool and create garden on east side*
 - *A bog garden can support plants for birds, bees, butterflies and bats and provide unique natural environment*
 - *A rain garden of water tolerant natural plants could also be effective in that space*
 - *Actual requirements of railing along the boardwalk, if any, will depend on the final boardwalk location, nature of shoreline, etc.*
- *On south side of pond, path would meet a paved area at edge of former pool, requiring a railing. The railing would extend across historic pool edge and would optimize viewing, e.g., Plexiglas or cabled, etc. for high visibility*
- *Pathway will require grading and retaining rock walls to meet ADA slope requirements*

Riverine Zone:

1. Repair historic stone wall along west side of drive and below Allen House; add scatter boulders below west wall to help retain soil and protect repaired wall from future erosion
2. Invasive species eradication program
3. Add some new plantings
4. Trail access safety rails for existing and new paths
5. Access to river is part of the Rouge master plan, so any recommendations in that regard need to be made in the Parks master planning process.

Next regular meeting is October 5, 2017.

Ms. Krizanic adjourned the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

DATE: October 5, 2017
TO: Museum Board
FROM: Leslie Pielack, Museum Director
SUBJECT: Director Report

Allen House Siding—siding is in process; condition of wood under siding is very good. Roofing shingles are being replaced and repairs of roof at dormers and eaves are part of project. Architect has made site visits and is pleased with progress. Project should be completed soon pending weather.

Eagle Scouts and Picket Fence—Our Eagle Scout project is now complete. The picket fence in front of the Allen House was power washed, scraped, primed, and painted. The portion in front of the Hunter House was completed by a contractor.

2018 Exhibit—The museum plans to incorporate a unique idea into its 2018 exhibit that will also integrate well with the Birmingham Bicentennial. A working title is “200 Years of Stories: Celebrating the People of Birmingham.” Submissions will be solicited and also open to the public.

Parks and Recreation Master Plan Process—Is proceeding. A survey is available online, the public input meeting was held on October 3. Parks has an informational box now installed near our visitor door, and we will be able to use it after the survey period is over.

Fall Programming—The museum is teaming with the Baldwin Public Library to present a three-part series, “Art and Activism,” featuring speakers in the fields of theater, music, and finally, visual arts. Victor will be hosting the last presentation here at the museum explaining his approach to activism and some of his work on display. Victor is also holding two programs in September here at the museum. September 9, 2 to 4 PM, kids ages 2-10 are invited to work with Victor’s guidance to create sidewalk art. September 16, Victor will be hosting a workshop on creating landscapes, using the backdrop of our beautiful park.

Bell Paver Sales Renewed—The Friends were able to sell enough pavers to cover costs and generate a small amount of revenue.

Credit Card and Gift Shop Merchandise—The Friends have decided to transfer all their merchandise to the Museum for future sales. The Gift Shop is in need of reevaluation for ongoing marketing. We are in the process of arranging for credit card payment options which will allow us to accommodate patrons for admission, donations, and other sales.

Creem collection images in Punk Rock Book—Staff has been working with a researcher on images of punk rock bands for an upcoming book on Detroit’s punk rock history.

U-D Mercy Museum Studies Class Visit—We hosted a class from U-D Mercy and are considering collaboration on a U-D Mercy exhibit using some of our objects as a class study opportunity.

Replacement of Elm Trees—The Parks Dept will be planning the replacement of the 2 removed elm trees from 2016 with 2 hybrid elms as part of their fall tree planting schedule.