



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
MUSEUM BOARD AGENDA
556 W MAPLE
Thursday, February 5, 2015
6:30 PM**

***Mission Statement:** The Birmingham Historical Museum & Park seeks to foster a greater appreciation and understanding of the City of Birmingham's unique heritage by collecting, preserving, cataloguing, exhibiting cultural material relevant to Birmingham's story, and by providing engaging and entertaining educational programs that promote this story to a diverse audience.*

1. Roll Call

2. Introduction of Guests

3. Approval of the Minutes

- A. Minutes of January 8, 2015

4. Unfinished Business

- A. Committee Reports
 - Joint Fundraising Committee
- B. Director Report
- C. New Museum Board Members
- D. Direction for 2015-2016, continued

5. Miscellaneous Business and Communication

- A. Board Member Comments
- B. Public comments

6. Matters Not on the Agenda

7. 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).

Help
the

Hill School Bell

Ring Out
Again!

Dear Neighbor:

Birmingham would not be the community it is without the exceptional quality of its schools. Our community has a long tradition of excellence in education, and committed citizens who value all that our schools stand for. We would like to offer you and your family a chance to participate in the effort to preserve an important symbol of Birmingham's school heritage—the Hill School Bell.

Before there was a Seaholm, before there was a Groves, there was the Hill School. It was originally built in 1869 on the site of the current Baldwin House Apartments, and proudly stood two stories high. At its summit was a bell tower (cupola) to house its large bronze bell, mounted in 1902. After 1917 it was used as an administration building until it was ultimately demolished in 1969. The bell was saved and in 2010, moved to the lobby of the Birmingham Historical Museum & Park to await a more permanent home. Formal plans have been drawn up to place it outside the museum in our park plaza, protected by a cupola-like open canopy and mounted so it can be enjoyed by pedestrians and passers-by.

The estimated cost of the project is \$40,000. A generous grant from the Rosso Family Foundation has been made available as matching funds, requiring that only \$20,000 be raised to complete the project. Successful fundraising efforts by the Friends of the museum have reduced that figure further to only \$14,102 remaining.

We're sure that Birmingham's residents would like to participate in this exciting opportunity to help the Hill School Bell ring out again! And yes, it does ring beautifully when sounded...we invite you to stop in to the museum any time and ring it for yourself!

Sincerely,

*The Friends of the Birmingham Historical Museum
& Park and the City of Birmingham Museum Board*



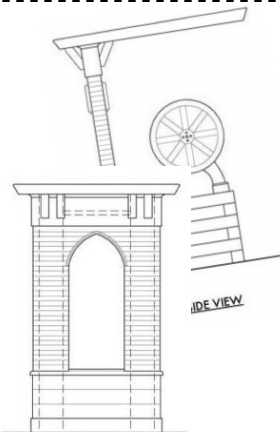
Please tear off, make check payable, and return to:

Friends of Birmingham Historical Museum & Park*
556 W. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009

Yes! We want to help the bell ring again! \$10 \$25 \$50 \$_____

I/we would like to be recognized as a donor to this project in any formal printed donor listings

***A 501 (c)3 non-profit corporation. Thank you! Your check is your receipt.** Or, call the museum at 248-530-1928 Wed-Sat., 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. to arrange for a credit card transaction.



FRONT VIEW

Winter 2014

In Focus



THE HILL BUILDING BELL WAS REMOVED WHEN THE FORMER SCHOOL / ADMINISTRATION BUILDING WAS DEMOLISHED IN 1969. HILL SCHOOL WAS BUILT IN 1889 AT CHESTER AND MERRILL STREETS.

BPS historical highlights

1822

A log school was built on the farm of Dr. Ziba Swan near Woodward and Quarton.

1834

Birmingham Public Schools became a school district.

1855

The first brick school on the north side of where Southfield Road ends was built.

1869

Hill School was completed.

1918

Baldwin was built as a high school.

1921

Adams was built.

1924

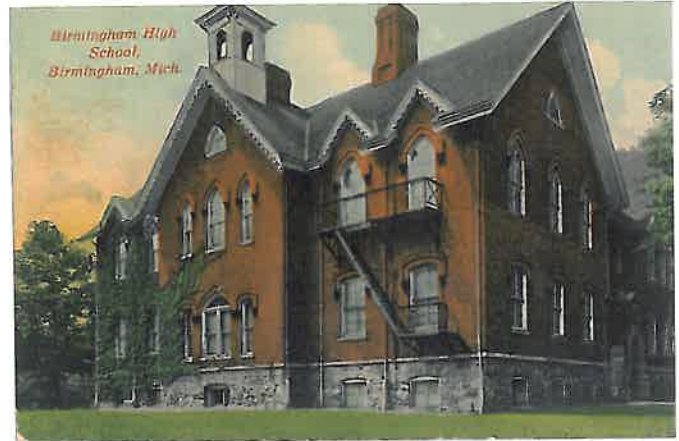
Pierce was built and still stands today as an elementary school.

1927

Quarton was built and still stands today as an elementary school.

Help the bell ring again

Nearly 150 years ago, Birmingham erected a school house that thrived for 100 years. In 1902, over 30 years after it was built, the Hill School received a bell – a bell that then rang out each school day, drawing K-12 students to the classroom. Even after Barnum High School, later an elementary school, was built in 1918, Hill School served as an auxiliary school, housing music programs and other additional classes. When Hill School, which sat at Chester and Merrill streets, was demolished in 1969, the bell was saved and relocated to the Birmingham Public Schools Administration Building.



The history of the bell

continued, with many students in the district having the opportunity to ring the bell on special class trips to the Administration Building. In 2008, as the district prepared to sell the Administration Building, the bell found a new home once more. Today, the bell sits, awaiting a more permanent home at the Birmingham Historical Museum.

“We want to preserve the bell and remind people of the history it brings of our city,” said Marty Logue, treasurer of the Friends of the Birmingham Historical Museum. “We want the bell to ring out again. We want students to connect to the area’s history.”

The Friends of the Museum are now on a mission to preserve the bell, hoping to place it in the center of a gazebo-like structure designed to house the massive piece of history. Already the organization has raised \$26,000, thanks in large part to a generous \$20,000 donation by the Rosso Family Foundation. Now the Friends of the Museum are hoping to find support from the community to accomplish their fundraising end-goal of \$40,000.

To help the Friends of the Museum accomplish their goal, donations can be made at the museum, located on W. Maple Road at Southfield Road, or by mailing donations to 556 W. Maple, Birmingham 48009. The Friends of the Museum will also be hosting a luncheon on Saturday, April 25, at 11:00 a.m. at the Big Rock Chophouse. Cost is \$40 per person.

**To learn more about the project contact
the Birmingham Historical Museum at
248.530.1928**

ALLEN HOUSE-FIRST FLOOR PLAN

Woodward Avenue Exhibit
Opens mid-March, 2015
through end of February, 2016

