



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
BICENTENNIAL BOOK PROJECT COMMITTEE
556 W MAPLE
Thursday, April 27, 2017
6:00 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. Roll Call**
- 2. Introduction of Guests**
- 3. Unfinished Business**
 - A. Book Project Process and Concepts
 - B. Hour Media Publishers
- 4. New Business**
 - C. Draft Public Survey
- 5. Adjournment**

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draft



CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
MUSEUM BOARD
BOOK PROJECT COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, March 23, 2017
6:00 PM

Members Present: Caitlin Rosso, George Getschman, Tina Krizanic Dan Patton
Members Absent: None
Administration: Museum Director, Leslie Pielack
Guests: Library Director Doug Koschik, Friends former President Pam DeWeese, Museum Intern Lori Eaton

Appointment of Committee Chair

Dan Patton was nominated as chair.

MOTION: by Krizanic, seconded by Getschman:

To appoint Dan Patton as chair.

VOTE: Yeas, 4
Nays, 0

Mr. Patton called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM

Introduction of Guests

Mr. Koschik, Ms. DeWeese, and Ms. Eaton introduced themselves.

Approval of the Minutes

MOTION: by Krizanic, seconded by Getschman:

To approve the minutes of February 16, 2017, as amended.

VOTE: Yeas, 4
Nays, 0

New Business

The committee continued the brainstorming process and added detail to the discussion about the various formats and channels that could be used to feature historic content in some type/s of publication for the 2018 bicentennial. In addition to varied formats under discussion, the planned audience could be very diverse, ranging from traditional local

history audiences who like classic local history printed books, to coffee table publications, to younger audiences who prefer electronic content, and everything in between. A Birmingham history app could be developed. Special events tied to a publication could include a celebratory fundraiser. Both providing an accurate historical record and engaging the community were deemed important. An additional question was raised about copyright issues regarding the McMechan Book of Birmingham, and whether digitizing the book would be an option at some point.

The committee decided to construct an electronic survey (e.g., SurveyMonkey) to get input from the public to help identify preferences that could be used to guide planning. Members will send their suggestions for survey content to Director Pielack, who will create a draft survey for the next meeting.

Mr. Patton adjourned the meeting at 7:00 PM. **Next committee meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2017 at 6:00 PM.**

BIRMINGHAM’S BICENTENNIAL is COMING!

200 YEARS AGO...what we know now as Birmingham was a vast wilderness—the Michigan Territory. After ceding the lands through Indian treaties, parcels became available for sale to settlers who were willing to carve out a life in the forest. On **December 1, 1818**, Elijah Willits became the first person to purchase land between Detroit and Pontiac, soon to be followed by others who eventually made Birmingham a truly great place to live.

That makes **Birmingham’s Bicentennial December 1, 2018**. To do something really special will take a lot of planning, beginning now. The Birmingham Museum Board is exploring various ways the community can celebrate our history together through various means. In particular, we would like to explore sponsoring a possible book or publication that would coincide with the bicentennial. We do not want to duplicate other books out there—this would be something new. It could be long or short. It could include stories from the present day or our earliest history. It could have lots of photos or very few. It could be designed for local residents or for visitors. It could be like a magazine or it could be a hard cover book. There are many different ways to go about this; your feedback can help.

So, we want to know your thoughts! You can fill out this paper survey or go online to [https://www.surveymonkey.com/\(survey number\)](https://www.surveymonkey.com/(survey number)). It’s quick, online, completely secure, and your responses will remain anonymous. **Please note: the survey process has a short lifetime and is over quickly, so don’t delay.** Survey period is **May 1-June 15, 2015**. (You do not have to live in Birmingham resident to answer the survey.)

PUBLICATION CONTENT Please rate the following to show how you feel about the <u>content</u> of any publication(s) you think would be most appropriate to coincide with our bicentennial.					
The content should include:	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Strongly Agree</u>
1. Birmingham’s earliest history up to about 1900	1	2	3	4	5
2. Birmingham’s history from 1900-1950	1	2	3	4	5
3. Birmingham’s history from 1950-present day	1	2	3	4	5
4. How Birmingham fits in to the larger picture of U.S./Michigan history	1	2	3	4	5
5. Stories of historically important local citizens	1	2	3	4	5
6. Stories of everyday people	1	2	3	4	5
7. Images of historic people and events	1	2	3	4	5
8. Images of historic places and sites	1	2	3	4	5
9. Images of Birmingham in the present	1	2	3	4	5
10. Include walking/driving/cemetery tours	1	2	3	4	5
11. Maps (old)	1	2	3	4	5
12. Maps (new)	1	2	3	4	5
13. Focus on factual/reference information	1	2	3	4	5
14. Focus on stories and oral traditions	1	2	3	4	5
15. Curiosities about Birmingham	1	2	3	4	5
16. Legends, ghost stories and tall tales about Birmingham	1	2	3	4	5

LENGTH & DEPTH Which of the following would be of greatest interest to you in any publication/publications we sponsor? (Choose as many as you wish)

- Shorter, with brief narrative that hits the highlights and is a quick read
- Longer, with more detail and specifics
- Emphasis on images and photos with less narrative
- Emphasis on information with less photos
- A set of individual works that create an entire series
- A format that allows for brief reading as well as optional in depth content

SOURCE of CONTENT Which source/s of content would you like to see in any publication/publications we sponsor? (Choose as many as you wish)

- Research from Historical Society/Museum
- Research from outside experts
- Contributions from the public (crowd-sourced)
- Writing by local historians/writers
- Writing by outside historians/professionals
- One author/co-author team
- A collection of pieces by various contributors

PUBLICATION FORM & FORMAT Please rate the following to show how you feel about the form and format of publication(s) you think would be most appropriate to coincide with our bicentennial.

	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Strongly Agree</u>
1. Print booklet, stapled soft cover, no color	1	2	3	4	5
2. Print book, soft cover, color	1	2	3	4	5
3. Print book, hard cover, color	1	2	3	4	5
4. Electronic book, 50 pages or less, in .pdf format or similar	1	2	3	4	5
5. Electronic booklet, more than 50 pages, eBook (e.g., Amazon)	1	2	3	4	5
6. Blog-type web content (downloadable/printable)	1	2	3	4	5
7. Informational content organized in an encyclopedia-like format	1	2	3	4	5
8. Essay-like profiles of individuals and their stories	1	2	3	4	5
9. Crowd-sourced stories and images that are organized/written/edited by a professional writer	1	2	3	4	5
10. Crowd-sourced content at a dynamic, interactive web portal to capture community stories and images with less outside editing (like blogs or Facebook)	1	2	3	4	5
11. Create an app that provides enhanced virtual experience in real time, e.g., downloadable walking tour, etc.	1	2	3	4	5

PUBLICATION AUDIENCE If we produce one or more publications, who should we try to reach?
(Choose as many as you wish)

- Children and families
- General audience (local residents)
- Businesses
- Educators
- Non-Birmingham audiences

PUBLICATION COST Which of the following best reflects your preference/s? (Choose as many as you wish)

- I think any electronic publication should be free
- I think any print publication should be free
- I would likely pay \$5 or less for an interactive app for Birmingham history
- I would likely pay less than \$10 for a print booklet or similar publication
- I would likely pay \$10 or more for a better quality soft cover publication
- I would likely pay \$20 or more for a quality hard cover publication

ABOUT YOU—please check any/all that apply to you and/or your family.

I/we:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> enjoy the local library | <input type="checkbox"/> visit museums in other communities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> enjoy the arts, music, & culture | <input type="checkbox"/> am/are resident(s) of Birmingham |
| <input type="checkbox"/> enjoy educational programs | <input type="checkbox"/> have been/am, a member of the <i>Friends of the Birmingham Museum (Birmingham Historical Society)</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> enjoy park-related activities and programs | <input type="checkbox"/> or the <i>Friends of the Baldwin Public Library</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> enjoy outdoor activities in general | |

A LITTLE MORE ABOUT YOU—please check any/all that apply to you and/or your family.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 0-12 yrs. Old | <input type="checkbox"/> 40-54 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13-17 | <input type="checkbox"/> 55 and older |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18-25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Female (total) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 26-39 | <input type="checkbox"/> Male (total) |

We want to thank you for giving us your time and sharing your opinions. Please feel free to call us at the museum if you have any questions or additional comments; 248-530-1928.