



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM  
MUSEUM BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, February 5, 2015  
6:30 PM**

Members Present: Russ Dixon, Tina Krizanic, Marty Logue, Gretchen Maricak, Shawn O'Rourke  
(Member Kate Montgomery arrived 6:39 PM)

Members Absent: Jeff Wilmot

Administration: Museum Director Pielack

Guests: Robert Gibbs

Mr. Dixon called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM. Museum Board members introduced themselves and new members were welcomed.

**Approval of the Minutes  
Minutes of January 8, 2014**

**MOTION:** by O'Rourke, seconded by Logue:  
To approve the minutes of January 8, 2015

**VOTE:** Yeas, 5  
Nays, none

By consensus, the Board agreed to hear public comments from Mr. Gibbs as the next order of business.

**Public Comments**

- A. Mr. Gibbs discussed his concern that buildings that are being demolished within the city are only photographed from the front. He believes it would be very beneficial for historical and cultural reasons to create visual records of all four sides of the building. At the present time, owners applying for a demolition permit are only required to provide one photo. The planning department has indicated that they would not be able to provide that service internally. Mr. Gibbs asked for support from the Museum Board in communicating this concern to the city, in the hopes that the procedure can be changed. The museum board agreed to discuss the matter at the next meeting.

**Unfinished Business**

- A. The Joint Fundraising Committee is ready to mail an appeal letter for the Hill School Bell in the next week or so. A few edits were recommended on the letter before final printing. A stuffing and labeling meeting is tentatively scheduled for

- Wednesday, February 11. There were no committee reports from the Collections Committee or the Board Development Committee at this time.
- B. Director Pielack invited board members to attend the public presentation February 12 with Dr. Kroupa and his museum studies students from University of Detroit-Mercy. His class is coming to hear a repeat of the presentation given by Museum Assistant O'Hare and Director Pielack at a recent conference on sensitive display of Native American objects. Director Pielack stated that the museum's budget meeting with City Manager Joe Valentine is scheduled for next week, and briefly described the budget process. She also reported that progress is being made on the Archives Room and the enhanced WiFi and networking speed. Also, proposals are in process to develop a plan for management of the invasive plants in the pond area of the park. In addition, the Detroit Institute of Arts has selected the museum to display a reproduction of its painting, "Portrait of Sir William Brereton," at the museum entrance as part of its Inside Out summer program. The city's Hometown Parade this year has selected the theme of Woodward Avenue, in coordination with the museum's upcoming exhibition. The title of the exhibition will be "History's Highway: The Story of Woodward Avenue." Director Pielack gave a brief description of the planned layout and content, intended to open approximately March 15. The Board agreed to consider planning a reception, which will be discussed at the next board meeting.
- C. Mr. Dixon summarized his suggestions for the museum direction that included; museum's presence on the Facebook page "You Know You're From Birmingham...," reviewing the accession policy, developing a poster or banner specific to current exhibitions, naming the pond, developing a a schedule for site plan improvements, revisiting the kiosk proposal, a permanent building and/or site sign and a new name for the museum as they were discussed in the last Museum Board meeting. Mr. O'Rourke and Ms. Maricak emphasized their concerns with marketing the museum and broadening community awareness. Mr. O'Rourke also mentioned the need to better leverage the property assets the museum has, such as the park and the Hunter House. Ms. Krizanich emphasized the importance of reaching and retaining new audiences, perhaps through partnerships with local organizations, to provide broader educational experiences. Ms. Logue emphasized that the Hill School Bell project is an important priority that needs to be taken to completion and should continue to remain in focus. The Board agreed to revisit the various suggestions at the March meeting to discuss together and reach consensus on priorities for the coming year.

### **New Business**

None.

### **Miscellaneous Business and Communication**

- A. Ms. Logue announced the annual Friends' Festive Tables Luncheon, scheduled for Saturday, April 25, from 11:00 to 2:00 PM. This is the fourth annual luncheon. Mr. Dixon found a link to some concepts about creating a history museum relating to the Ferguson, MO events that he would like to share with the Board electronically. Director Pielack will forward the link.

### **Matters Not on the Agenda**

None.

Mr. Dixon adjourned the meeting at 7:39 p.m.