



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
MUSEUM BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, February 7, 2019
5:00 PM**

Members Present: Jay Cunningham, Russell Dixon, Tina Krizanic, Marty Logue

Members Absent: Lori Eaton, Judith Keefer, Caitlin Rosso

Administration: Museum Director Leslie Pielack

Guests: Brian Devlin, Nagy Devlin Land Designs

Ms. Krizanic called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

**Approval of the Minutes
Minutes of January 3, 2019**

MOTION: by Dixon seconded by Cunningham:

To approve the minutes of January 3, 2019, as amended.

VOTE: Yeas, 4
Nays, 0

Minutes of January 17, 2019

MOTION: by Dixon seconded by Cunningham:

To approve the minutes of January 17, 2019, as amended.

VOTE: Yeas, 4
Nays, 0

Unfinished Business

A. Brian Devlin of Nagy Devlin Land Designs shared recommendations regarding fencing and signage for the Heritage Zone. Changes from previous design recommendations are:

- Layered plantings at Allen House instead of yew hedges
- A dogwood variety (ex: 'Little Princess') instead of redbud
- 'Drift' landscape roses instead of boxwood in children's garden

Mr. Devlin also reviewed his recommended planting list for perennials, trees, and evergreens based on further study of what was commonly being used in residential gardens of the period of the Allen House. He shared an Eccentric article on gardening and discussed materials from contemporary nursery catalogs and design trends, including the Coryell Nursery that was located just west of the Allen House on the south

side of Maple Road. He also shared an analysis of garden design magazines and plant materials of the early 20th century and will be able to share a copy with us for ongoing reference. Many varieties are still available, or suitable modern replacements can be used. The perennials suggested can be transplants from local gardens as part of the community perennial garden area. Mr. Devlin also presented options for suitable wood fencing commonly used at the time for the Allen and Hunter House areas. After discussion, the Museum Board agreed by consensus that leaving the existing picket fence in place was preferred; adding a baseboard front to the pickets around the Hunter House garden would differentiate it from the Allen House and be more historically accurate. A gate will be needed at the entrance to the Hunter House; Mr. Devlin suggested an arched gate with wood posts. The museum logo could be incorporated into the gate, and a matching version of the logo placed on the fence at the driveway end of the property. Further discussion regarding options for sign design ensued, centered around the physical location of the sign, its height, material and best type of design. The allowable size and placement of the sign per the ordinance has yet to be clarified. Museum Director Pielack will follow up with the planning department by the next meeting. The board decided to wait until the March meeting to finalize the sign design and location. Mr. Devlin will provide additional concepts and examples of signage for consideration before the next meeting.

B. Members reviewed the fundraising discussion from the recent special meeting. The costs of the revised list for the Heritage Zone bring the anticipated amount to raise to just over \$13,000. After the Heritage Zone design is finalized and reviewed by the HDC and commission, the board can revisit the fundraising goals and process. Mr. Dixon requested more information on whether it would be ethical for 100% of the museum board to donate to the project, in order to show potential donors that the board as a whole are behind the project. This was suggested by Mr. Dow at the fundraising meeting.

Communication and Reports

Director Pielack highlighted portions of the Director Report, especially some new information that has come to light in the course of preparing the National Register nomination for the Allen House. This includes more information about the architect, Rupert W. Koch, and other features of the house and the previous existence of a playhouse, modeled on the Allen House but demolished when the John West Hunter House was relocated in 1970.

Ms. Krizanic shared her participation in a Parks and Recreation Parks Priority public meeting and that the various park projects being discussed (including Rouge corridor improvements that would impact the museum). All had a similar amount of support from the public, with survey results still coming in. Mr. Dixon provided a copy of a recent article about censorship and Dearborn's history and asked that a copy be distributed to the board members.

Due to scheduling conflicts, the next Regular Meeting will be held on March 14, 2019 at 5:00 PM instead of March 7, 2019.

Ms. Krizanic adjourned the meeting at 6:33 PM