



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
MUSEUM BOARD MEETING
556 W. Maple
Thursday, January 8, 2026
5:00 PM**

Members Present: Mike Ableson, Kamala Cummings, Eva Kirkman, Marty Logue, Robert Moll, Kristy Barrett (Alternate)
Members Absent: Alexandra Harris
Student Representative: None
Administration: Museum Director Leslie Pielack
Guests: None

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by Ms. Logue.

Approval of the Minutes

Minutes of November 6, 2025

MOTION: by Kirkman, seconded by Ableson:

To approve the minutes of November 6, 2025.

VOTE: Yeas, 6
Nays, 0

New Business

Members reviewed the museum’s planned special events for 2026, and Museum Director answered questions and discussed the important role the museum is playing in the city’s overall recognition of America’s 250th.

The board agreed that participating in the 2026 Birmingham Hometown Parade was an important way for the Museum Board to be visible and show support for the museum. Members agreed that marching in or with an antique vehicle would be a great way to underscore our role in preserving Birmingham’s history. After discussion, the board decided by consensus that it would be ideal to march with the Fire Dept’s antique fire engine, with a back-up plan being trying to seek a community member who owns a classic/antique car who would agree to drive it in the parade. Also discussed was carrying poster face cut-outs and the need for a banner with the 2026 logo, and perhaps handing out free passes to visit the museum. All members expressed willingness to march and bring others with them, with estimates of at least 20 people who could march in the group. Director Pielack will follow up with Chief Bartalino about the availability of the antique fire engine and with the Clerk’s office about other particulars relating to the parade and will communicate with board members in advance of the next meeting.

Unfinished Business

Ms. Barrett is waiting to do an interview with a friend who has been ill, and Mr. Moll has a couple of people he intends to interview soon. All members agreed to continue to report on the project at every meeting.

Communication and Reports

Director Pielack answered questions about the Director Report. The budget item for the porch slab repair is rather high because it was the recommendations of the consulting architect to allow for unanticipated conditions when the porch foundation is excavated. Director Pielack also mentioned a possible theme for 2027's exhibit, "Birmingham's Lost Architecture," which was enthusiastically supported. Members discussed the Historic Preservation Plan going before the commission next week and the data presented in it about the number of demolitions that have occurred in Birmingham. Mr. Ableson is working on his research for an article on Wallace Frost, and recently connected with Frost's granddaughter as well as Bruce Brooks, who conducted research on Frost for a possible book in the 1990s.

Member Comments

None.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 12, 2026, at 5:00 PM. Director Pielack also suggested that museum archivist Donna Casaceli would be available before the next planned meeting to give members a tour of the basket and quillwork exhibit, which was of interest to several members.

Ms. Logue adjourned the meeting at 6:06 PM.