



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
MUSEUM BOARD MEETING
556 W. Maple
Thursday, May 2 2024
5:00 PM**

Members Present: Kristy Barrett (Alternate), Alexandra Harris, Judith Keefer, Marty Logue
Members Absent: Bev Erickson, Pat Hughes, Jay Shell
Administration: Museum Director Leslie Pielack
Guests: Brian Devlin, Nagy Devlin Land Design

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

**Approval of the Minutes
Minutes of April 4, 2024**

MOTION: by Keefer, seconded by Barrett:

To approve the minutes of April 4, 2024.

VOTE: Yeas, 4
Nays, 0

Unfinished Business

Historic Landscape Architect Brian Devlin returned to finalize plans with the Museum Board. He provided a color perspective sketch showing the design from the northeast looking southwest, which included the appearance of the mature plantings he is proposing and the viewing platform and boardwalk.

The Museum Board appreciated the color sketch and asked some clarifying questions about the trees and plantings; placing two elm trees along Willits is not prohibited by the City. Also discussed was the visual suggestion of the former N/S wall across the pond with a partial retaining wall (which is functional) into the pond at the platform, and whether any further indication of the former wall is needed. Overall, the board consensus was very positive about the final design and appearance.

Mr. Devlin presented the inverted U bike rack used by the Parks Department for the bike rack area, and the board agreed with that option. Mr. Devlin indicated that a meeting is needed with AEW (engineers) to verify the water levels noted in the engineering plan and to identify options for installing the raised viewing platform and addressing the groundwater seeps. An EGIL permit is also going to be needed. Museum Director Pielack will follow up to schedule the meeting and with the City's Engineering Department to find out how to proceed with the permitting. Director Pielack reiterated the importance of breaking the project into discrete phases in order to plan for adequate funding. Federal funds have been approved for the ADA components of the project, and the City is planning funds in this year's recommended budget (not yet approved by the City Commission) to

be available to implement the next viable phase in the overall plan. (Park bond funds are not available for this project.)

MOTION: by Logue, seconded by Keefer:

To approve the phased landscape design for the John West Hunter Park as presented by Nagy Devlin Land Design, and to proceed with its phased implementation.

VOTE: Yeas, 4
Nays, 0

Communication and Reports

Museum Director Pielack highlighted portions of the Director's Report, and mentioned two displays in the new transportation exhibit that will be jointly designed with two area historical societies; the Rochester Hills Museum (The DUR light rail display) and the Southfield Historical Society (Harry Brooks and early aviation/the Ford Flivver).

Member Comments

Ms. Keefer acknowledged Museum Director Pielack's admission to the American Association for State and Local History's History Learning Institute in June, and thanked her for her hard work on behalf of the museum.

Public Comments

None.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 6, 2024, at 5:00 PM.

Ms. Logue adjourned the meeting at 6:36 PM.