



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
MUSEUM BOARD MEETING
556 W. Maple
Thursday, March 6, 2025
5:00 PM**

Members Present: Mike Ableson, Kristy Barrett (Alternate), Alexandra Harris,
Eva Kirkman Marty Logue
Members Absent: Pat Hughes, Judith Keefer
Student Representative: Mercy Wisecup
Administration: Museum Director Leslie Pielack

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 PM by Chairperson Logue. Members introduced themselves and welcomed Mercy Wisecup, the newly appointed student representative.

**Approval of the Minutes
Minutes of February 6, 2025**

MOTION: by Ableson, seconded by Harris:

To approve the minutes of March 6, 2025.

VOTE: Yeas, 5
Nays, 0

Unfinished Business

Using examples and a brief demonstration, board members revisited the 'What's Your Story?' Oral History Project to discuss conversation starters, techniques for keeping the conversation focused on the subject, and clarifying what the intent of the project is. Members are ready to begin the project. Museum Director Pielack will send out the Deed of Gift form and the guidelines for those who wish to get started.

Members reviewed the strategic planning (working) goals and agreed on the following first drafts:

1. Priority: Observe professional standards, ethics, and best practices for long-term preservation and care of the museum collection in the public trust.

Goal: Maintain, preserve, and enhance the museum's collection of artifacts, archives, digital content and buildings to make these resources available to the public in accordance with established professional museum practice.

2. Use the museum and its collection to encourage greater equity and inclusion and to humanize history for the benefit of the community.

Goal: Utilize best practices to engage the whole community and encourage empathy and understanding of our diverse cultural and personal experience.

3. Establish and strengthen collaborative relationships in the community to implement the museum's mission.

Goal: Leverage collaborative relationships to expand the museum's sphere of influence and provide beneficial outcomes for the community.

The board will review these draft goals at the April meeting to make final refinements, and will consider specific objectives for each goal. We will also begin to consider the best way to get public input.

Communication and Reports

Director's report: Director Pielack noted that there is a position opening on the Museum Board that has been posted by the Clerk's office for possible appointment by the City Commission on March 24. As of today, there are no applicants.

Member Comments

Ms. Logue mentioned that the former Big Rock restaurant in the 1929 Grand Trunk RR depot is adding an outdoor seating area on the east side of the building, and that things are moving along. Mr. Ableson inquired whether the Quarton materials were able to be digitized fully and expressed interest in learning more about them.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 3, 2025, at 5:00 PM.

Ms. Logue adjourned the meeting at 6:22 PM.