



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
MUSEUM BOARD MEETING
556 W. Maple
Thursday, July 10, 2025
5:00 PM**

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by consensus in the absence of a sitting Chair. An amendment to the agenda was proposed to include the annual election of Chair.

Amendment of the Agenda

MOTION: by Kirkman, seconded by Logue:

To amend the agenda for July 10, 2025 to include the annual election of Museum Board Chair.

VOTE: Yeas, 5
Nays, 0

Election of Chair

Nominations for Chair were considered.

MOTION: by Kirkman, seconded by Ableson:

To elect Marty Logue as Museum Board Chair for FY 2025-2026.

VOTE: Yeas, 5
Nays, 0

**Approval of the Minutes
Minutes of April 3, 2025**

MOTION: by Ableson, seconded by Harris:

To approve the minutes of June 5, 2025.

VOTE: Yeas, 5
Nays, 0

New Business

Kamala Cummings of In The Know Experiences discussed the ways the museum may be able to meet specialized interests of visitors to Birmingham. The ability to walk around town, enjoy the city and its culture are desirable characteristics. Ms. Cummings would like to offer information to clients about the museum, including Jacobson's, Creem Magazine, and our hyper-local focus on Birmingham's story. Opportunities to integrate the museum's mission with the Birmingham Shopping District's tourism-related goals would potentially reach a new audience for the museum.

Unfinished Business

Ms. Harris has another person in mind for 'What's Your Story,' and Mr. Ableson may have someone later this summer to interview. Members also reviewed potential survey items, size, and style, and offered helpful edits. Members agreed that a short survey, both in electronic form and in paper-pencil form is optimal. Methods of promoting the survey through a press release, Engage Birmingham, Facebook (Museum and City), and through the Around Town e-newsletter will give broad exposure to the Birmingham community. Potential physical locations for survey stations include the Museum, Municipal Building, Baldwin Library, the Ice Arena, Parks & Rec office, Ice Arena, Next, and the YMCA. Museum Director Pielack will complete the survey and inform the commission through the City Manager's report, and the survey period will be August 1 – September 15. After gathering public feedback, a report and proposed document can be prepared for the City Commission for their consideration toward the end of the year.

Communication and Reports

Director Pielack briefly reviewed the Director's Report, and shared a communication about the upcoming Historic Property Owner Roundtable Input Sessions coming up that the Planning Department will be holding to get input on its Historic Preservation Master Plan. Director Pielack also passed around some reproduction redware items that the Friends have provided the funds to purchase as use items for the Hunter House's updated interpretation. By having reproduction items on display, visitors will be able to handle some of them to get a better sense of life in that time period. Museum staff are looking for ways to provide tactile and sensory experiences as part of the storytelling of Birmingham's past. She also shared the City's official patriotic logo for 2026, and the board checked out the new carpet runner installed on the central staircase.

Member Comments

Mr. Ableson commented that he liked the topics for the fall program and hopeful that the programs will take place in the large room in the basement this fall. Director Pielack indicated that the museum did make that request.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 7, 2025, at 5:00 PM.

Ms. Logue adjourned the meeting at 6:09 PM.