



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
MUSEUM BOARD MEETING
556 W. Maple
Thursday, August 7, 2025
5:00 PM**

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by Ms. Logue. An amendment to the agenda was proposed to consider New Business Item "C" before Item "B," in order to accommodate Ms. Barrett's expected early departure from the meeting. Members agreed by consensus to consider Item C before Item B.

**Approval of the Minutes
Minutes of July 10, 2025**

MOTION: by Ableson, seconded by Kirkman:

To approve the minutes of July 10, 2025.

VOTE: Yeas, 6
Nays, 0

New Business

Members relocated to the Hunter House for an interpretive presentation by Museum Specialist Donna Casaceli featuring some of the newly acquired objects funded by the Friends of the Birmingham Museum. The reproduction and use objects have been added to help convey a pioneer-period kitchen and dining experience with sensory experiences (scent, touch, auditory, etc) for both children and adults. LED candlelight will be used to give more appropriate atmosphere and the plan is to tell more stories about daily life and the people of early Birmingham. Ms. Roush will be writing an article for the next issue of the Friends' Heritage.

Members considered the proposal to cancel the September meeting due to the holiday schedule and because the survey will not be completed and the data will not be available.

MOTION: by Ableson, seconded by Harris:

To cancel the September meeting of the Museum Board.

VOTE: Yeas, 6
Nays, 0

During 2026, the museum will be celebrating our local history for America's 250th by participating in two BSD events and tying them into our site.

- **September, 2026, Art Walk** – we will be featuring our Anishnaabek (Great Lakes tribes) basketry collection by known makers from in the Odawa, Ojibwe, and Potawatomi traditions. We are pursuing a collaborative exhibit with items from the Leelanau Historical Society's basket collection, and for Art Walk, will have museum staff on hand with demonstration materials to talk about the artistry of the baskets and their long traditions in quill work and split ash and died baskets.
- **April, 2026, Day on the Town**—this family-friendly event that focuses on young children takes place on Saturday and the museum will open the Hunter House and develop a "look and learn" activity for children and their parents to encourage them to find things in each room of the Hunter House with a one-way walk through and fun activity.

Unfinished Business

No updates to the 'What's Your Story' Museum Board project.

Communication and Reports

Director Pielack briefly reviewed the Director's Report. The EGLE permit has not yet come through, making it likely that the RFP for Phases 3 and 4 of the John West Hunter House won't be developed until later this fall or early winter, with possible construction in the spring.

Member Comments

Mr. Ableson asked that the board be able to visit the Hunter House again for another interpretive presentation by Donna Casaceli of another room, which will be planned potentially for the October or November meeting.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 9 , 2025, at 5:00 PM.

Ms. Logue adjourned the meeting at 6:05 PM.