



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
MUSEUM BOARD
VIRTUAL MEETING
April 1, 2021
5:00 PM**

Members Present: Russ Dixon, Pat Hughes, Judith Keefer, Tina Krizanic, Marty Logue, Jacquie Patt, Caitlin Rosso

Members Absent: None

Student Members: Aidan Schoener

Administration: Museum Director Leslie Pielack

Guests: None

Ms. Krizanic called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

**Approval of the Minutes
Minutes of March 18, 2021**

MOTION: by Dixon, seconded by Hughes:

To approve the minutes of March 18, 2021.

VOTE: Yeas, 7
Nays, 0

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

Museum Director Pielack discussed the plan for the volunteer survey of Greenwood Cemetery and the purpose of the project, which is to assess the conditions of the grave markers in the oldest parts of the cemetery and create a baseline with photos and descriptive information. Although some of the data may dovetail with biographical information about the individuals buried there, the purpose is not to research or investigate the individuals buried there; it is to establish the condition and need for preservation, if any, of the actual markers. Director Pielack also presented members with Part I of the museum's Disaster Preparedness Plan. The intent of the plan is to have clear guidelines in place in the event of a major disaster at the museum. Part II of the plan will include detail about collection priorities, which will be complete after the collection re-structuring can be done. Beginning in May, the museum will be holding "Porch Pop Up" exhibits on the Allen House front porch, which will follow all social distancing guidelines and permit the public to view and handle selected artifacts (with

safety precautions in place) according to changing themes. Pat Hughes, Tina Krizanic, Marty Logue, and Jacquie Patt agreed to come on individual Fridays when the museum presents "Meet A Museum Board Member" opportunities (probably June).

Communication and Reports

Director Pielack reviewed the Director Report and updated members regarding a sudden failure of the HVAC unit at the Hunter House requiring complete replacement of the furnace. The proposal is over the usual threshold for going out for a public bid; however, it is within the range of the amount the City Commission can waive that requirement for. If waived, the unit can be replaced quickly. If not, an RFP has to be developed and a public bid sought, which can take approximately 60 days to accomplish. This would put the historic building and artifacts at risk of uncontrolled environmental conditions of heat, cold, moisture, and lack of ventilation. Director Pielack also updated the board on the process for the geotechnical study of the pond area, which is set to go forward in the next couple of weeks. Also, the city will be changing its website, and the museum has prepared a plan for the new site to help organize the content in a more logical and easier to navigate way.

Ms. Krizanic suggested that the Museum Board consider resurrecting the time capsule project with a new theme-"What Did 2020 Mean to You," to capture student reflections on the COVID-19 pandemic. Members agreed to take the matter up on the agenda at the May meeting of the Museum Board.

There were no public comments.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 6 at 5:00 PM, currently planned as a virtual meeting.

Ms. Krizanic adjourned the meeting at 6:03 PM.