

ILLINOIS STATE MUEUM

BOAD MEETING

June 14, 2021, 1 p.m.

Zoom Meeting

Board Minutes

Attending: Officers: Chair Donna Sack and Vice Chair Lisa Yun Lee; Board members: Leverne Backstrom, Tamira Brennan, Andrea Carlson, Graham Peck, Beth Shadur, Roger Taylor, and nikhil trivedi; Museum Society Advancement Director Jamila Wicks; Museum Staff Members: Cinnamon Catlin-Legutko, Amanda Bryden, Jennifer Edginton, Erika Holst, Meghan Lindstrom, Brooke Morgan, and Robert Sill; Department of Natural Resources George Sisk.

I. Welcome

Donna Sack welcomed attendees and the meeting commenced at 1:04 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Meghan Lindstrom called roll and a quorum was present.

III. Approval of the Minutes of March 1, 2021

The minutes were presented for approval. Beth Shadur moved to approve the minutes, nikhil trivedi seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

IV. Public Comment

None present.

V. Chair's Report

Donna thanked the DEAI committee for their work and for creating a presentation for later in the meeting. With Illinois's shift into Phase 5 it may be possible to hold the next board meeting in person. The first in-person meeting will be held on September 13th, 2021 in Springfield. It will be the first opportunity for the current museum board to tour the museum space in person. Future meetings may be held in other locations across the state at other locations.

VI. DEAI Committee Discussion

Andrea and nikhil presented a short powerpoint on the museum board and its duty for advocacy. It is important for the board to be aware of who it advocates for considering the museum should tell real people's lives and the collections hold real people's ancestors.

As the museum board is affiliated with state government there are very specific pathways for the board to advocate. Per George Sisk, the enabling statute for the museum board requires there to be no public knowledge of disagreement between the board and the agency. It is important to maintain a unified voice. Donna proposed for a workshop to be held at the September 13th board meeting on advocacy. nikhil alternatively proposed that resources about advocacy be shared in the September

meeting packet so the board can plan a workshop at that meeting instead. Cinnamon reminded the board that with a museum tour planned for the board they should stay aware of how full the agenda becomes before committing to a plan.

Donna inquired if there was a timeline in place for the museum to fill the positions of Director of Tribal Relations and NAGPRA officer. Cinnamon stated her hopes that the positions will be posted this summer. Since position posting is done by CMS instead of DNR it can be difficult to have a set timeline. Cinnamon will continue to push for the two positions to be filled since they will enable the museum to better meet NAGPRA standards.

VII. **Museum Director's Report**

Accession

Tamira asked who was responsible for approving museum accessions. Cinnamon explained that it was mainly the job of the curatorial staff. They are familiar with any gaps in the collections along with any space or upkeep limitations. The current procedure requires that Cinnamon, as Museum Director, sign off on the final title acquisition. Bob Sill, as the Director of Collections and Research, will in the future have a larger role in approving acquisitions before they reach the director.

Deaccession

Museum history curator Erika Holst presented the museum's deaccession request. After an independent consultation of the Koelling collection, 517 of the total 543 quilts were selected for deaccession. Each selected quilt lacked provenance connecting it to Illinois, was a duplicate of an item already in the museum's collection, or was not in good enough condition to survive storage.

Cinnamon clarified that deaccessioning items is a change in status and not a disposal. There are defined policies in place for the proper disposal of state property. George Sisk, from DNR Legal, will assist in defining how to dispose of deaccessioned museum property as maintaining accreditation does require specific procedures be met.

Graham Peck moved to approve the deaccession of the proposed quilts, Tamira seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Policy—research and NAGPRA

Cinnamon introduced the need for the ISM to approve a research moratorium to stop all research requests for NAGPRA eligible individuals. The proposed moratorium would place a hard stop on all research requests. Any new requests made after the moratorium would require the approval of the individual's affiliated tribe. This moratorium would only affect new requests. Researchers who were previously approved to work on NAGPRA eligible individuals may retain research documents or photos. Museum staff

can reach out to try and retrieve them but legally the moratorium would not force the return of such photos or documents.

Roger moved to approve the research moratorium on NAGPRA eligible individuals, Beth seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

VIII. DNR Report

Cinnamon spoke for Rachel Torbert. The Illinois State Fair has been confirmed to be open after its cancellation in 2020. The Illinois State Museum will be present at the fair and is looking for volunteers.

IX. Illinois State Museum Society Report

Jamila provided an update on Museum Society work. There is a current effort to work on advocacy ideas to engage legislators, along with work with Dina Bailey on DEAI and decolonization efforts. The Museum Store is still run online but the brick-and-mortar location is projected to be open for the holiday season. The most immediate work is in sending invitations for the Noir art reception and securing funding sources for the Human I Nature exhibit that will open in Springfield in July.

X. Old Business

Donna reminded the board that the next meeting on September 13th will be the first board meeting to be held in person at the museum at 10:30 a.m.

XI. Adjournment

Donna asked for a motion to adjourn. Tamira moved to adjourn, nikhil seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:47 p.m.