

**ILLINOIS STATE MUSEUM
BOARD MEETING
August 7, 2023, 10:30 a.m.**

**David Davis Mansion Visitor's Center
1000 Monroe Dr, Bloomington, IL**

Attending: Officers: Chair Donna Sack, Vice Chair Lisa Lee (via Webex), and Secretary Sarah Doherty; **Board Members** Leverne Backstrom, John Barker, Tamira Brennan, Chris Pappan, and Beth Shadur; **Illinois State Museum Society** Board Chair Bryan Finn and Staff Member Jamila Wicks; **Illinois State Museum Staff** Jenn Edginton, Meghan Lindstrom, Heather Miller, and Brooke Morgan; **Department of Natural Resources (DNR)** Director Natalie Phelps-Finnie (via Webex).

I. Welcome

Chair Donna Sack welcomed attendees and the meeting was called to order at 10:51 am.

II. Roll Call

Meghan Lindstrom called the roll, and a quorum was present.

III. Approval of the Minutes of May 1, 2023

Secretary Sarah Doherty presented the minutes for approval. Beth Shadur moved to approve the Minutes, Leverne Backstrom seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

IV. New Business

Chair's Report

Donna welcomed new ISM Board member John Barker. Board members and Museum staff gave brief introductions of themselves.

Donna shared that Cinnamon Catlin-Legutko, late Director of the Illinois State Museum (ISM), has received another posthumous national award. The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) is scheduled to give Cinnamon the AASLH Award of Distinction at their upcoming annual conference in Idaho. This is the second award Cinnamon has received, following the American Alliance of Museum's Award for Distinguished Service to Museums in May. Jenn Edginton shared that the Association of Midwest Museums recognized Cinnamon at their annual conference as well.

Donna thanked everyone who had worked to support the Burial Law update, which was signed into law the previous week. She also thanked everyone

involved in the timely response given to the US Senate in June. Decolonization will be a vital component in the search for a new Museum Director.

Director search

Chris Pappan asked if there had been any progress in bringing in a hiring firm to assist with the search for a new Museum Director. Donna reported she had contacted several search firms and gathered quotes and projected timelines for Director Finnie, but they had not yet spoken to determine the next steps before reporting to the Board.

Lisa asked when the job description draft would be ready. Donna said that this was another topic for Director Finnie. Donna believes the job description used in 2019 would be a good beginning. A major difference would be the portfolio change with the State Historic Sites merger. Donna planned to meet with every Board member to determine their expectations for a new director and how that would shape the job description and duties.

Director Finnie shared that the Museum Director position would be considered Non-Code in the State system due to its unique duties. She will research this process and its requirements for the Board.

Lisa expressed concern that the salary for the Director position would not reflect the increased workload with the historic sites merger. Director Finnie said this was being discussed at the Governor's office with Deputy Governor Andy Manar. One topic has been the disparity in pay between the Director of the Illinois State Museum and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, which is also run by the State of Illinois.

Beth asked if there would still be a Director Search Committee if a search firm was hired. Donna confirmed that a committee would still be needed but it would not be as labor intensive with a search firm shouldering most of the work. Donna shared the cost estimates she had gathered from several search firms. Director Finnie advised that hiring a search firm had not been planned in DNR's current budget.

John asked what role the Society would play in the Director's search and if they would provide financial support. Society Chair Bryan Finn shared that the Society was discussing their relationship with the Museum with DNR Legal. There is no active Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and they are working to clearly define the working relationship between the Society and the State.

Until that is defined, the Society will not commit to funding to avoid any potential issues.

Board Meeting Logistics

Donna shared that the Board's lunch was funded previously and today by anonymous Board members. Options for funding future Board meeting lunches needs to be explored.

V. Director's Report

Jenn shared that ISM leadership attended the Governor's signing of the amended Human Remains Protection Act, commonly known as the Burial Law. The rewrite was a long-term project that was started under Cinnamon's leadership and completed with Tribal partners.

She reported that she and Curator of History Erika Holst worked with the Department of Human Services to rename one of their hospitals. Originally named after a doctor who employed very oppressive practices, it will be renamed next week to the Elizabeth Packard Hospital. Elizabeth Packard was once institutionalized by her husband against her will, mistreated by the doctor the hospital is named after, and she later became an advocate throughout the Midwest and helped pass laws to protect women and people who were institutionalized. Jenn will speak at the renaming event on the Museum's behalf.

Jenn shared that the ISM was once again invited to be in the First Lady's Tent at the Illinois State Fair. The theme will be based on ISM's *Growing Up X* exhibit and the Macoupin Art Collective will once again be partners. Due to museums staff shortages the ISM will not have a presence in DNR's Conservation World this year.

Community outreach is occurring to inform the 1908 Race Riot exhibit which will be situated in Springfield's future Transportation HUB. ISM is working with consultants Dina Bailey, Richard Josey, and Jackie Peterson to engage directly with the Springfield community to determine the best way to create this exhibit. The future exhibit is challenged being in a public space and interpreting traumatic events. Jenn hopes to connect with NAACP state representatives in Springfield during the State Fair to discuss this project. Two more days of community conversations are scheduled to be held later in September. After the input is received, the exhibit will begin development. It is scheduled to open late 2024 or early 2025.

Donna asked who was funding the 1908 exhibit. Jenn shared it is being funded by Sangamon County and Hanson Professional Services Inc., the construction company on the project.

Exhibit changes

Jenn reported that the *Growing Up X* exhibition will close on September 4th and will be reinstalled at the Lockport Gallery in November, replacing the Philip Juras show.

Jenn said that the *Violins of Hope* program would be coming to Springfield and the Museum would hold a small exhibit as well as securely store the violins between performances. This project is a partnership with the Jewish Federation of Springfield. The program will run from September 7th to the 13th with performances throughout the Springfield area. Jamila Wicks shared that the Society would hold a private reception at the Museum on September 7th followed by a public performance.

Plumbing

Legionnaires Disease was found on the Capitol Complex years ago. As a result, all buildings in the Capitol Complex are receiving updated plumbing. While no evidence of the disease has been found in the Museum its plumbing will be updated, resulting in an anticipated five to six months with no water. Jenn is working with DNR's Chief of Staff John Teefey and the Secretary of State's Office to determine how this will affect the Museum and its visitors. If the Museum remains open to the public, there would be a trailer of bathrooms available for workers and visitors. Jenn is also looking into displaying Museum exhibits at offsite locations. The Museum previously partnered with the Governor's Mansion to display the winning artwork from the NOIR exhibit. There is ongoing work with the UIS Diversity Center and Hispanic Ladies of Springfield to move the annual Ofrendas exhibition downtown or possibly in a rented fairgrounds building. Jenn is working to keep the Museum active in the community and is working with Labor Relations to plan to relocate staff.

Sarah asked if the trailer would be ADA compliant. Jenn said the trailer holds one ADA compliant stall, along with 3 each of gendered stalls.

Donna asked if the Museum would remain open to the public for the duration of the project. Jenn said that the decision to close or remain open would be decided by the Governor's Office. Director Finnie added these are ongoing conversations with the current projection is that the Museum will be closed for part of the project but not for the full duration. Jenn said that the Play Museum will definitely be closed while there is no running water in the

building. There may be a pop-up Play Museum on the second floor or located offsite.

Beth asked if there were commercial loft spaces in Springfield that could house smaller exhibits. Jenn said she would pursue that as the Museum has a good relationship with Downtown Springfield.

Jenn shared an update on the future Terra grant exhibition. ISM Curator of Art Douglas Stapleton is project manager and brought in two outside curators to analyze the Museum's collections and identify weaknesses and absences. The exhibit was initially scheduled to open in the fall but will be delayed due to the plumbing project. The current plan is to open it in the spring as a part of the reopening celebration.

Burial Law

Heather reported that the bill signed last Friday officially changed how the State works with human remains. Any disturbed burials, commonly found during construction projects, could now be reburied on State land with Tribes fully involved in deciding what happens to their ancestors' remains. This has been a long-term project to ensure that Tribal voices were involved from the beginning of a reburial process. The Act highlights consultation, language changes, and decolonization. Heather is hopeful that this will mean ancestors will be cared for in the best way possible and set the tone bar for Tribal Relations moving forward.

Internally, the Administration Codes of Illinois dictates how the law will be put into practice. All proposed changes to the Code to make it compliant with the new Burial Law are currently at DNR Legal for review. Once approved, the proposed changes will be open to receive public comment.

Sarah asked if there was an established timeline for the completion of the Administration Code changes. Heather said there was not a timeline and guidance for the next steps would come from DNR Legal, but since the law was signed it is in effect and reburials can already take place.

Lisa asked if there was a way for the communications team to share information like this with the public. Jenn confirmed she is working with Jayette Bolinski from DNR to find ways to make Museum information more visible to the public. Heather is developing a page on the ISM website dedicated to educating the public on Native matters which would include a list

of Frequently Asked Questions and a list of Tribes historically present in the state.

Donna shared that a new ProPublica article states that only 15 museums in Illinois are required to be compliant with NAGPRA. Chris confirmed that many smaller institutions do not receive federal funding and are therefore not required to be compliant. Jenn said that Brooke Morgan has worked with smaller institutions not subject to NAGPRA but interested in repatriation and that ISM has taken on the responsibility for them. Once ISM has established a Field Service Branch in the Interpretation Department Jenn plans for the ISM to offer training to smaller museums on repatriation and being compliant with NAGPRA. ISM has inquired if COVID relief funds qualify as federal funding as it pertains to NAGPRA and if any museum which accepted those funds would be required to be compliant.

Brooke Morgan thanked the Board for their support and for voting to repatriate the ISM's vigango in May 2022. Her travel to the country to witness the final steps of repatriation was delayed due to Customs and other events in Kenya. In addition to Brooke, colleagues from the Denver Museum, the Indiana Museum of Art, and the University of Wyoming were also on the trip. A return ceremony was held in a sacred forest and five vigango that were held at the ISM were brought to the forest to symbolize their return. Many officials including the county governor and UNESCO representatives were in attendance. The vigango were later returned to the National Museums of Kenya which will house the vigango until they find a safe way to permanently return them. Beth asked how secure the vigango were and if there was a risk they could be stolen again. Brooke confirmed that theft is still a systemic problem and the market for vigango is still strong in Europe and possibly east Asia.

Donna recommended that an AAM article be written on this subject.

Repatriation Requests

Jenn said that deaccession requests had formerly been submitted to the Board as part of the repatriation process. DNR Legal has now cleared the Museum to create 'Repatriation requests' for any collections subject to NAGPRA. Brooke will identify these requests by Nation instead of by accession numbers, as was previously practiced. Donna asked if the request forms would change to include 'Repatriation' instead of 'Deaccession.' Heather confirmed they would change as part of a larger project revising the collections policy and other internal documents.

Brooke presented a repatriation request for the Osage Nation of human remains of two individuals and four associated funerary objects. They came to the ISM from the Ralph Foster Museum at College of the Ozarks in Arkansas in the 1990s. Notice had been published in the Federal Register and there were no competing claims. Donna called for a motion. Beth moved to approve the repatriation request, Leverne seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Brooke presented a second repatriation request for the Quapaw Nation. The ISM received an inquiry from them last summer about human remains of nineteen individuals and one associated funerary object from various locations in Arkansas. A virtual consultation was held, and they have been culturally affiliated with the Quapaw Nation. Notice had been published in the Federal Register and there were no competing claims. Donna called for a motion. Sarah moved to approve the repatriation request, Beth seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

VI. DNR Report

Director Finnie provided the DNR report. She shared that the Governor's budget was passed in May, and it secured the best funding for DNR in 20 years. The ISM operating lines have been re-established. With the improved budget she will work to address issues such as the staffing shortage and the deferred maintenance on historic sites. Director Finnie recently visited the DNR sites in the northwest region of the state, where there is roughly 1 billion dollars of deferred maintenance, leaving several sites in disrepair. The Illinois Conservation Foundation has offered fundraising support. Director Finnie also plans to hire a fundraiser marketer for all DNR.

Director Finnie praised the good work ISM has completed under the leadership of Jenn, Heather, and Brooke. With the passing of the updated Burial Law, DNR has started to plan the first Native burial on State land.

Director Finnie shared that Heather is convening a meeting at DNR for Tribal Nations. In the future, she anticipates that DNR will host an annual meeting to foster better relationships between the Department and Tribal partners.

Director Finnie said that the DNR is focused on two major capital projects: Cahokia Mounds and Dickson Mounds Museum (DMM). Deputy Governor Andy Manar is involved in the discussions around DMM, including a proposal to create a new building to replace the existing structure.

Donna congratulated Director Finnie on the new budget and thanked her for her support. She expressed hope that this would help fill roles at the Department and Museum more quickly.

Sarah asked if there was an established timeline for the State Historic Sites merger. Director Finnie reported that there was not yet a timeline but there has been progress and a Union issue had been resolved. She reported the next major issue to be addressed pertained to supervisory roles.

The Board broke for lunch at 12:36 pm.

John left the meeting at 12:36 pm.

Lisa left the meeting at 1:10 pm.

The Board reconvened at 1:15 pm.

VII. Society Report

Bryan Finn provided the Society report. He restated that the Society's accountant left last spring and that Jamila Wicks had stepped in to continue necessary processes such as payroll. An accounting firm had been hired to assist with recovering files and completing the Society's 2022 taxes.

The Society budget for fiscal year 2024 has not yet been completed. Per DNR Legal, no State staff can work on the Society budget. Jamila will prepare the Society budget, after which it can be reviewed by State staff.

The Society Board approved Devin Softley's promotion to Shop Manager.

The Society Board established two committees. The first will review the Society bylaws and employee handbooks. The goal is to review and update these policy documents every 2 years. This is on hold until an MOA is established between the State and Society. The second is the nomination committee which will identify and cultivate potential Board Members. There are currently 2 vacancies on the Society Board and Bryan anticipates 2 more openings soon. He asked the ISM Board members to recommend good candidates, especially if they have a finance or accounting background. Donna asked if the Society needed recommendations of people primarily from Springfield and the surrounding area. Bryan said the Board has typically been filled with people from Springfield, but since the Society Board can meet virtually, Board members can be from anywhere in Illinois.

VIII. Old Business

Donna asked for old business. There was none.

IX. Public Comment

None present.

Director Finnie left the meeting at 1:26 pm.

Ann Grider, Illinois State University intern, led the Board on a tour of the David Davis Mansion.

X. Adjournment

Donna asked for a motion to adjourn. Sarah moved to adjourn, Leverage seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.