

ILLINOIS STATE MUSEUM

BOARD MEETING

September 21, 2020, 1 p.m.
Zoom Meeting

Board Minutes

Attending: Board members Tamira Brennan, Andrea Carlson, Sarah Doherty, Lisa Yun Lee, Graham Peck, Donna Sack, Beth Shadur, Roger Taylor, and Nikhil Trivedi; Museum Society Board Chair Mark Pence and in-coming Chair Cinda Klickna; Museum Staff Cinnamon Catlin-Legutko, Karen Everingham, Dr. Meredith Mahoney, Dr. Brooke Morgan, Robert Sill and Department of Natural Resources Representative Rachel Torbert.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Cinnamon Catlin-Legutko welcomed attendees and board members to the meeting at 1:12 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Karen Everingham called the roll and a quorum was present. Board members and attendees introduced themselves.

III. Election of Officers

Personnel Committee Chairman Roger Taylor introduced the nominees for officer positions: Sarah Doherty, Secretary; Lisa Yun Lee, Vice Chair; Donna Sack, Chair. A discussion of procedures and with the candidates ensued. Tamira Brennan moved to approve the slate of officers, Beth Shadur seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

IV. Approval of the Minutes of August 3, 2020

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

V. Orientation Pt 2

a) DNR Overview

Rachel Torbert gave an overview of the divisions and activities of the Department of Natural Resources. She said that DNR is here to assist the ISM. If Board members have any questions she is happy to help.

b) ISM Collections Overview

A document was shared with narrative and photos from the ISM departments. Interim Director of Art & History Robert Sill provided an overview of the art and history collections. Robert noted that the art department of the ISM was established in 1928 and is the most extensive collection of works by Illinois artists in the state. The collection includes works from the Works Progress Administration program, Gertrude Abercrombie, Manierre Dawson, Julia Thecla, Carolyn Plochmann, Ted Halkin, and includes photographic work by Frank Sadorus and Bea Nettles. The history collection consists of more than 19,000 objects dating from 100 AD to 2013. The ISM has significant quilts, historic clothing, household objects, farm tools, and duck decoys.

Dr. Meredith Mahoney talked about the Zoology collections which include vertebrates, mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians. She noted the entomology collection includes an exceptional collection of dragon flies, butterflies, spiders, beetles and other insects. The ornithology section includes subsections of eggs and nests. The osteology collections are used for identification of animal remains as well as student training. The ISM also has a significant collection of taxidermy mounts some dating to the 1920s,

Dr. Brooke Morgan discussed the anthropology and botany collections. The Botany collection includes more than 111,000 vascular specimens housed at the Research and Collections Center. The anthropology collection consists of about 10M archaeological and ethnographic objects documenting roughly 12,000 years of human history in Illinois. The anthropology department curates objects from five federal agencies. The ISM has a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (St. Louis and Rock Island Districts) and serves as the first regional repository for artifact curation. The ISM also has an agreement with the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma to curate objects that were repatriated to the tribe. Also, in the collections are archaeological objects from the state historic sites and state parks, as well as 6,000 ethnographic objects from the Illinois State University.

Dr. Morgan also shared an update on NAGPRA (Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act). With the passage of the Act in 1996, the ISM created a database of all human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and unidentifiable human remains in the ISM's collections. Representatives of 6 tribal governments of groups once located in Illinois as well as Pueblo tribes were contacted for formal consultations on repatriation. An additional 184 tribes were contacted regarding sacred objects. An 18-volume report was produced as result. She added that she is working on developing relationships with numerous tribes to facilitate the required and morally right action. She and Dr. Duane Esarey have written letters to begin the consultation process with additional tribes.

VI. Museum Director's Report

a) Reporting Format

Cinnamon asked the Board members for feedback on the materials and kind of information they would like to see. The Board asked for a written, bullet point report that includes information on attendance, our audiences and how they are coming to the ISM, as well as information Cinnamon and the staff feel is important. Once the Board has a better understanding of the ISM, they may ask for additional items.

b) Strategic Plan Update

A written report was shared with the Board. Cinnamon reported that revisions to the strategic plan in light of COVID and other circumstances are underway as requested by the Board. The plan will be revised with an eye for clarity, transparency and feasibility with an 18-month timeline. There has been significant progress on the plan as it stands, but more emphasis will be placed on DEAI and decolonization initiatives as well as creating work that is visible to the people of Illinois.

VII. IDNR Report

Rachel reported that the Protection of Pollinators Act was recently signed at an event marking the occasion on September 24th. Director Colleen Callahan continues to meet with Central

Management Services (CMS) regarding various infrastructure projects they are responsible for including the Dickson Mounds HVAC system. DNR often tries to complete its own projects but not work that is high dollar.

VIII. Illinois State Museum Society Report

Cinda Klickna highlighted the Society's history and status noting that the Board will hold a retreat on September 28th to orient new board members and energize existing members. The Society has 10 employees including the two most recent hires of Jamila Wicks as Development Director and Stephanie Smith as Retail Manager. The Society administers grants awarded to ISM and receives donations to support the museum. A \$750,000 donation was recently received from the estate of former ISM Board member Dr. George Rabb who passed away in 2017. She said there is a lot of work to do to recover from the 2015 closure, but she is optimistic about the future.

IX. Old Business

Beth said she was concerned about the important work regarding a Chicago presence for the ISM. Donna noted the presence may look different moving forward and that it warranted discussion and evaluation.

X. New Business

Donna noted the date and time for the next meeting. Graham Peck said he has a conflict and wouldn't be able to attend until around 3 p.m. for the remainder of the semester. The Board changed the November 9th meeting time to 3 p.m.

XI. Public Comment

A member of the public inquired about a database of cave locations in Illinois. Cinnamon referred him to the DNR legal department.

XII. Adjournment

Donna asked for a motion to adjourn. Lisa moved to adjourn, Beth Shadur seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.