

# ILLINOIS STATE MUSEUM BOARD MEETING

December 9, 2019; 10:30 a.m.  
ISM-Research & Collections Center  
1011 E. Ash St., Springfield, IL

## Board Minutes

**Attending:** Chair Dr. Lorin Nevling, Vice Chair Leo Welch, Secretary Dr. Brian Anderson; Board members Mrs. Donna Sack, Ms. Beth Shadur, Dr. David Sokol, Mr. Roger Taylor; Mrs. Rosemary Winters participated by phone; Museum Staff Ms. Cinnamon Catlin-Legutko, Ms. Karen Everingham, Mrs. Elizabeth Bazan, and Dr. Brooke Morgan; and Department of Natural Resources Representative Ms. Rachel Torbert.

### I. Call to Order & Roll Call

Dr. Lorin Nevling called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m. The roll call was taken, and a quorum was present. Dr. Nevling asked for a motion to allow Mrs. Rosemary Winters to participate by phone. Dr. David Sokol so moved, Mr. Roger Taylor seconded, and the motion carried.

### II. Approval of the Minutes

Dr. Nevling asked for any corrections or changes to the minutes. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Dr. David Sokol moved to approve the minutes as presented, Ms. Beth Shadur seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

### III. Staff Spotlight

Mrs. Elizabeth Bazan discussed the Museum's social media presence and outlets. She noted that the communications team meets monthly to plan and discuss content development. She distributed written instructions for interaction with the Museum to Board members.

Dr. Brooke Morgan thanked the Board for their continued support of the Australian repatriation project. She reported that the group from Australia and the Aranda and Bardi Jawi representatives would be arriving on October 19<sup>th</sup> and return on October 26<sup>th</sup>. She added that the Museum was the first institution in the world to return objects as part of the Australian Government's Return of Cultural Heritage Project, which aims to return Australian Indigenous materials from overseas, followed by the Manchester Museum in England. She presented the schedule of tasks and events for the visit including a press conference that she hoped the Governor, or his representative might attend. Public comment and reception of the project has been overwhelmingly positive. She finished by noting she and the team working on the project would be submitting a peer-reviewed article to the journal *Curator*.

### IV. Director's Report

Director Cinnamon Catlin-Legutko distributed her written report to the Board. She has continued her focus on advocacy, sustainability, and developing inclusive practices. Since joining the Museum in September, she has met with staff individually and has made day-long visits to Dickson Mounds and the Lockport Gallery. These meetings will serve as context for developing goals for 2020.

Ms. Catlin-Legutko reported she has met several key stakeholders and partners, and she is working with staff to plan a series of “meet and greet” opportunities as well. Additional events will be planned, and she asked that Board members to consider hosting an event. She said a holiday event was planned for December 10<sup>th</sup> focusing on other area professionals.

Ms. Catlin-Legutko reported that the Museum has entered into an agreement with the Governor’s Mansion to create exhibits including art works. She met with the First Lady M.K. Pritzker to discuss what those exhibits might look like. Mrs. Pritzker has an extensive art collection and she has been working with Mr. Robert Sill to select art works. Ms. Catlin-Legutko added that she also had the opportunity to talk with Governor Pritzker who expressed strong support for the Museum.

Ms. Catlin-Legutko reported that she, Ms. Karen Everingham, and other members of the local museum community met with Representatives Tim Butler and Mike Murphy. Both Representatives encouraged further conversation, and Representative Butler suggested looking at a reorganization of the Secretary of State parking adjacent to the Museum. He said he would be happy to facilitate such a conversation. She added the local museum community meetings in Springfield were beginning discussions regarding the creation of a museum or arts and culture district for the area which might also move the parking conversation forward.

Department of Natural Resources representative Ms. Rachel Torbert reported that meetings were underway with Central Management Services to address the HVAC issues at Dickson Mounds. She hopes a plan to correct the issue will be forthcoming.

Ms. Catlin Legutko stated that the Dickson Mounds monograph has been printed and copies were sent to the Peoria Tribe for review and then it will be reviewed by other professionals. She said she learned that the Museum doesn’t send its publications out for peer review, which concerned her greatly. Henceforth, all Museum publications will be peer-reviewed. The monograph will not be shared until the reviews are complete. Dr. Nevling asked if it was a Museum publication and how it was funded. Ms. Catlin-Legutko said it is a Museum publication and has the Board members listed. Ms. Karen Everingham noted that the publication was privately funded by donations to the Museum Society. Ms. Catlin-Legutko said she is working to get a full picture of the contributions for the publication.

Ms. Catlin-Legutko reported in Mr. Mark Pence’s absence that she had worked with the Society Board to develop a *pro forma* budget to begin planning for staff needs, ramping up development and fundraising, and reopening the Museum shop. The job of Shop Manager was posted just prior to Thanksgiving and is on the various museum job boards. She added that she took advantage of the Association for State and Local History (AASLH) and American Alliance of Museums (AAM) job board options to emphasize reaching diverse candidates. On the State side four positions are in process including the Curator of Geology, Curator of Anthropology for Dickson Mounds, Director of Interpretation, and Director of Operations. She said the average time for state hiring is 269 days. She also said the Museum is not near essential staffing levels, nor was it prior to the closure. This will be her focus. She hopes to get the Senior Director of Collections, Marketing, and the Manager of Visitor Services in the cue soon. Mrs. Donna Sack asked where the Advancement Director would be based and suggested it be near Chicago. Ms. Catlin-Legutko said the position would be based in Springfield due to staffing shortages.

The Director said she was reviewing the Strategic Plan and shared the copy of the plan with the Board. She said she and staff have added updates and timelines. She said she plans to add metrics to the plan so the Museum can evaluate progress. She asked that the Board approve the changes and adjustments presented. Mrs. Sack asked when the next Board meeting would be held. Dr. Nevling responded it would be March and that perhaps the Board would consider it at that time. Dr. Sokol agreed that would be an ideal time.

Dr. Nevling asked if the Public Capital Grants program has been reinstated and what role the Museum would play in the process. Mrs. Sack said it was reinstated. Ms. Everingham noted it was funded at 40-50 million. Ms. Catlin-Legutko said the Museum would help develop and the application and processes as well as advise on recommendations. The grant applications will be sent out in March.

Ms. Catlin-Legutko reported a list of capital needs for the Museum is underway and will be submitted to DNR.

#### **V. DNR Report**

Ms. Rachel Torbert reported that the chiller at the Research & Collections Center experienced issues but has been repaired. She said the Governor's office has been watching social media and other publicity on the Australian repatriation. They are very pleased with the project. DNR is also working on a new Strategic Plan as well. She said Ms. Catlin-Legutko is on the team leading that process. She said DNR is currently working on reopening the Southern Illinois site. The site will host the Conservation police, lands personnel, and will provide tourist and cultural displays as intended previously. Museum staff member Mr. John Furlow continues to maintain the grounds.

#### **VI. Committee Reports**

Dr. Sokol reported the Metropolitan Outreach working group continues to explore ideas for a Museum presence in the greater Chicago area. He said he hoped to reach out to DNR Director of Outreach Mr. Ted Penesis. Ms. Shadur is opening an exhibition in Chicago at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art.

Ms. Catlin-Legutko reported that the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEAI) and the Advocacy committees were created at the joint Board meeting in November. Work is underway to determine chairs and meeting times. She said the DEAI and Decolonizing staff committees have also been launched. Ms. Everingham will chair the DEAI committee and Dr. Morgan will chair the Decolonizing Committee.

#### **VII. New Business**

Dr. Nevling reminded the Board that the work plan would be up for consideration at the March meeting and that Board officers will be nominated and approved at that meeting as well. Dr. Sokol asked about the status of potential Board appointments. Ms. Catlin-Legutko said the Governor's office is beginning to move on the vacancies. They have finalized the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum & Library Board, so we are next on the list.

#### **X. Adjournment**

Dr. Nevling asked for a motion to adjourn. Dr. Brian Anderson so moved; Mr. Leo Welch seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:58 p.m.