

**ILLINOIS STATE MUSEUM
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Minutes of the Meeting
March 10, 2014
James R. Thompson Center, Chicago**

1. Welcome and Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Illinois State Museum Board was called to order at 10:23 am on March 10, 2014 at the James R. Thompson Center in Chicago. Those in attendance were Board Chair Guerry Suggs, Dr. Brian Butler, Dr. Lorin Nevling, Dr. George Rabb, Jessica Jagielnik, Dr. David Sokol, and Rosemary Winters. Board Members Beth Penesis (representing Marc Miller) and Mary Jo Potter joined the meeting via telephone. A motion from Lorin Nevling to approve their participation in the meeting by telephone was seconded by David Sokol, and approved unanimously. From the Department of Natural Resources, Assistant to the Deputy Director Lindsey Evans attended, as well as Illinois State Museum Director Dr. Bonnie Styles and staff members Karen Everingham, Dr. Eric Grimm, Carolyn Patterson, Paul Stromdahl, Dr. Michael Wiant, and Jim Zimmer.

2. Approval of the Minutes

Guerry Suggs called for additions or corrections to the minutes. Hearing none, Brian Butler moved the minutes be accepted, Jessica Jagielnik seconded, and the motion was approved.

3. Personnel Committee Report—Jessica Jagielnik

Jessica Jagielnik reported the committee had reviewed Karen Everingham's resume and, in consideration of her substantial qualifications, recommended approval of her appointment as Assistant to the Director. The board voted to ratify the appointment.

4. Proposal to Re-elect Board Officers—Guerry Suggs

Guerry Suggs reported the current officers have served two terms and proposed the Board re-elect the current slate of officers. As background, he reported that the Board has three officers: Chair Guerry Suggs, Vice-Chair Brian Butler, and Secretary Loren Nevling each are eligible to serve two terms of two years. If the Board approves by two-thirds majority, they may serve a third term. He cited the convenience and efficiency of having a chair in Springfield for the staff as they deal with various issues. Rosemary Winters made a motion to re-elect the current Board officers, Jessica Jagielnik seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

5. DNR Report—Beth Penesis

Beth Penesis reported the Public Museum Grant program had \$25 million to distribute to applicants and that 64 applications had been received. She noted the process would be highly competitive, as they received just under \$59 million in requests. All grants are considered for the full request. Guerry Suggs inquired about the maximum award for each application. Penesis confirmed the maximum award is \$750,000.

6. Museum Advocacy—Bonnie Styles

a. National Museums Advocacy Day

Bonnie Styles reported that she attended the American Alliance of Museum's (AAM) Advocacy Day in Washington, D. C. on February 24 – 25. She was invited to speak at the congressional breakfast on behalf of the ISM and as president of the Association of Science Museum Directors. Styles addressed the importance of the diverse museum community coming together to advocate on behalf of all museums. Her comments were well received by AAM staff and those at the breakfast. She further reported that over 300 museum professionals attended Museums Advocacy Day.

The Illinois delegation asked Styles to coordinate the visits by the Illinois delegation. They met to plan visits, coordinate the collective message, and determine who would speak. Styles was also able to visit each of the congressional offices for the various ISM facilities and she met personally with Representatives Cheri Bustos and Rodney Davis. The three main messages the group emphasized with the congressmen were the importance of continued robust funding for IMLS, a major funder of museums, including signing of the “Dear Colleague” letter being circulated by Senator Gillibrand and Representative Tonko to support robust funding; keeping the value and scope of the charitable deductions as it is; and recognizing museums as partners in education when the Elementary and Secondary Education Act is re-authorized. One of the fall-outs from the last authorization was cuts to field trips related to an emphasis on teaching to the test. Museums across the county have seen a big drop in school field trip visits as a result. The group pointed out to congressmen that museums are critical centers for informal learning and can help teachers teach to the test and beyond. The group also stressed the need for strong funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the National Science Foundation.

Styles emphasized the prominent role that she played at the national level in reviewing and commenting on the STEM Education briefing document as well as the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The final draft of the Education Act briefing document incorporated comments from both Education Director Beth Shea and Styles.

She added all the congresspersons received copies of the Economic and Educational Impact Statement for the ISM System as well as information on the facilities in their districts. She further noted that the advocacy program was increasing the recognition of museum professionals who are now known as “the museum people” and that many were familiar with ISM. She stated it is important to go to the event and noted that the State of Illinois paid her way to national Museums Advocacy day and will pay for two Museum staff members to attend the Alliance's annual conference. So, there seems to be greater recognition of the importance of Illinois having a presence in these national meetings.

If you compare this year's Economic and Educational Impact Statement to last years you will note a significant drop in school group attendance. This is a national trend and ISM is working with the Museum Society Board on strategies to increase local school visitation. She noted this

trend is unfortunate fall-out from the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Chairman Suggs noted the Teacher's Recognition Event in September offers prizes of bus trips for schools. Society Board members have approached local schools about issues with funding for school field trips and have suggested that *1877 Funds* could be potentially used to support field trips. Styles noted this approach addresses the problem at the local level, but that it is a much bigger problem. She also pointed out that trips to Dickson Mounds Museum could be funded by DNRs biodiversity field trip grants as well as trips to the *Changes* exhibition. We need to find more ways to demonstrate the museum can help teachers teach their curriculum.

Dr. Wiant reported he and his staff had prepared a questionnaire for teachers to find out the major issues with field trips. David Sokol noted that the Chicago facility is in Representative Danny Davis' district. Styles reported visiting with him numerous times, but he was at Governor Quinn's event during this year's advocacy event. She commented that he is a huge supporter of the Museum system. He also signed on to the Dear Colleague letter in support of funding for IMLS. David Sokol reported that in a number of surveys, museums are ranked highest in terms of trust over libraries and schools. It is important to keep hammering this point home with funders. Chairman Suggs suggested that all the board members let Bonnie know what congresspersons they know.

b. Illinois Museum Day

Bonnie Styles reported Illinois Museum Day would be held on April 3. We will follow the same format as the national meeting. The schedule includes the legislative breakfast from 7:30 to 9:30 am, the program in the auditorium begins at 10 am, and advocacy training is at 11 am with Ra Joy and Karen Witter. After that groups are encouraged to head to the capitol to meet with their legislators. She further stated we would love to have as many board members as possible participate and that several Society board members planned to attend. We will try to get appointments with as many legislators as possible, so if you plan to attend let us know. We also hope Marc Miller or Beth Penesis will be available to welcome the group and talk about the Museum Grant Program.

7. Director's Report

a. Recent Accomplishments

Bonnie Styles reported that a planning grant proposal had been submitted to NEH for the renovation of the second floor history exhibits, and the Museum is partnering with the Illinois Humanities Council and the Illinois State Historical Society to host roundtables for public input. The first part of the plan is to do front-end evaluation, test ideas, and ask about what the public thinks should be included. We have had a good deal of dialogue with the senior program advisor at NEH, and should know in August whether we will receive the grant.

The Museum was approached to partner with the National Park Service and others on the Regional Route 66 Archive. The Museum has agreed to serve as a regional archive, and the signed agreement includes the Museum's right of refusal for acquisition of any archival collections. The Museum will be listed on the NPS website. This project provides an

opportunity for the Museum to build some collections on Route 66 that could be utilized in the new history exhibits.

Bonnie reported that the new Research eSeries has been published, and it was featured on the cover and a feature article in the *Illinois Times*. Copies are available for you on the table.

b. FY14 Budget

DNR mandated that all computers with the XP operating system linked to the Illinois Century Network had to be replaced (because this operating system is no longer being supported or upgraded), and we took advantage of that mandate and are getting replacements for all these machines. When we initially met with the DNR Fiscal Office, they told us they would give us some extra funds, about \$700,000, from the revenue generated by the Sustainability Bill. However they later told us virtually all that money would have to be used to cover union increases and CMS facility charges. That hasn't happened so we have been able to use those funds to invest in new equipment and support some out-of-state travel. We are also replacing the antiquated art van used to transport collections.

Styles reported she and a group of ISM staff attended the American Association for the Advancement of Science pre-meeting on international public science events. It was a terrific meeting that benefited the Museum's interest in hosting a community-wide science festival in Springfield. Styles has a colleague at the Moorehead Planetarium and he is part of a National Science Foundation grant to help other organizations launch community science festivals. He invited the Museum to come to the event, and it provided access to great information on hosting these festivals. We hope to host a festival in June on 2016. The grant will also pay for Museum staff to attend other festivals and we are looking at going to a science event in the summer or fall. The Moorehead Planetarium has a huge, statewide science festival, but we are looking at a smaller community event that would stimulate public interest in science.

c. FY15 Budget

The FY15 budget numbers are good at this point—slightly higher than last year. However that is often the case at this point in the process. We are filing positions and are down to only two unfilled critical positions and they are in the works. Thus far, the budget looks good for next fiscal year, but if the income tax is not renewed in January 2015, then it could take a turn for the worse.

Chairman Suggs asked if anyone had other questions of Bonnie. David asked about the role of the Chipstone Foundation. Bonnie noted that that is a parallel planning initiative for the new history exhibition at ISM-Springfield. Chipstone has agreed to fund a Think Tank for conceptual planning for the second floor history exhibits. We are targeting the end of July to host the Think Tank to bring in outside thought leaders to discuss presentation of history in ways that will be engaging and relevant. We are excited about the planning process and hearing from the public. We have been talking internally about the stories we need to tell and what collections we have to support them.

8. Dickson Mounds Museum Update — Michael Wiant

Mike Wiant reported this is the first year DMM is trying to have a major event each month. This January, the Winter Gathering, which is an event encouraging locals of native ancestry to join us for a day of reflection and a supper, was well attended. In February, we hosted Eagle Day, which is always popular. The Nature Conservancy, our Emiquon partners, collaborated and largely underwrote the event. The auditorium was filled twice with about 270 people. The 29th Annual Artifact ID Day was affected by the poor weather. We added a group of flintknappers to the event this year, which proved successful. The knappers came from around the Midwest to demonstrate their craft on Saturday. They stayed the night at the Museum and stayed for the Artifact ID day.

The summer program series are geared to attract younger people. Among these are the Nature Trek Experience for adults; a Taste of Archaeology program for young adults that will do some work at the Morton site, Nature Adventure Camp for young people grades 6- 8 for a week accompanied by our expert partners; and the Tot Time event. The last Tot Time had 70 attendees. The attendees were treated to various activities, and Krista engaged one of our partners from Forbes Biological Station. The Station brought over two live mallards. The mallards were a big hit.

We met with Robert Mazrim, the curator of the Under the Prairie exhibit, to discuss moving it from Lincoln's New Salem to the Museum. Construction of an abstract log cabin and a series of exhibit pieces on the inside will be underway soon.

We met with our Emiquon partners and everyone is working to give us a portfolio of label copy and images. The story line is laid out to talk about the importance of Illinois River, and wetland ecology in particular, the long history of scientific inquiry on that stretch of river, and then restoration. H. T. Wilson and the WTBE crew have been out and we've seen clips of some of their work. They are doing final winter shots this week and will do more in the spring. We also have the bow of a research vessel that plied the Illinois River in the early 20th century. We harvested the bow to build into the exhibit. We've also collected pump parts from an engine used to drain the Thompson Lake basin. We think we will have something for everyone.

Michigan University will be back for the field school to begin excavation at the Morton site. Staff met to discuss targets for the research

Doug Carr, Alan Harn, and Jean Hampton have finished the photo archive of all artifacts in the Dickson cemetery.

On March 27, the annual Emiquon science meeting will be held at DMM. This meeting will serve the public well. A group of us were invited to an international gathering on ecology in Wisconsin. We presented papers on Emiquon, and in the process, the group realized the synergies that are going on biologically in terms of water quality, re-entrainment of sediment, plant communities, and duck and fishery behavior. At the end, we had an impromptu seminar

that will be recreated at the meeting on March 27 to examine the insights and synergies. We will set the stage for a new enterprise of science to find out what re-connection means.

9. Research Update — Eric Grimm

Eric Grimm reported he discovered a valley glacier lake in 2006 while he was on a family trip in Utah. He discussed the lake, Fish Lake, with colleagues who were also interested in the lake for research. The Ocean Drilling program and other efforts have told us most of what we know about paleo-environmental history, long-term climate change, and glaciation. These types of projects require very large equipment and a major collaborative effort. The International Continental Drilling program can provide funds for these types of projects. Fish Lake is about 8 miles long and 2 miles wide at an elevation of 9000 feet. Its geology tells us the basin has been there between 5 and 8 million years. It is 150 feet deep. About three weeks ago, Grimm participated in fieldwork to collect a sediment core from Fish Lake. Seismic work indicates at least 100 m of sediment, but it could be thicker. Gravimetric surveys will tell us the total sediment depth. Fish Lake is of particular interest not only because it has a long sedimentary record, which appears undisturbed in the section penetrated by seismic studies, but also because it may potentially yield a record of mountain glaciation and mid-latitude climate change rivaling the marine-core records of continental glaciation. Although the lake basin was never completely glaciated, a mountain did extend into the northwest portion of the basin during the last two ice ages and probably during previous glaciations. There is about a year's worth of preliminary work to be done, before application to the International Continental Drilling Program.

10. Art and History Update — Jim Zimmer

Jim Zimmer reported the grant proposal submitted in January was a planning grant for the second floor history exhibition renovation and we will follow up with an implementation grant. We are also planning to apply for a grant from IMLS. The in-house Concept Team for this project has been meeting and discussing strategies for a year and a half, discussing approaches to meaningfully distill the vast amount of content into an 11,000 square foot exhibition. The Chipstone Foundation of Milwaukee has agreed to host a Think Tank in Springfield in July to support the development of this project. They will fund a convening of internationally recognized scholars and experts from various fields to brain storm ways in which the project can meet its fullest potential. We have submitted a list of potential scholars. We plan to offer the Think Tank a tour of the Museum in preparation for the Think Tank meeting.

The temporary | PERMANENT Gallery on the 2nd floor opened in December, to show items from the permanent collection on a short-term basis. We opened up with the George Peter Alexander Healy collection and Portraits from the Collection. Currently on view is Recent Acquisitions, which includes a stunning Tree of Life hooked rug, NESCO graniteware gifted from the Lee Niedringhaus estate, a rare Misch Kohn painting on silk with gold leaf, a Daniel Folger Bigelow landscape painting from the Powell Bridges collection, the first Mickey Mouse telephone designed by Mike Ferris, whose son worked on Rusty Finnigan. The exhibition will close on April 27, at which time the space will close down for reconfiguration and renovations. The renovations will define the space. The gallery will reopen on June 22 with Photographs of

Frank Sadorus in celebration of the Year of the Family Farm. Following that we will show John James Audubon prints focusing on endangered or extinct species. 2015 marks the 150th anniversary of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln and the funeral train that brought him back to Springfield for burial. The Museum will mark that event with representations of Lincoln in the gallery to coincide with the 2015 Lincoln Funeral Coalition. The new space doubles the number of exhibitions we have on the schedule.

Two new exhibitions are scheduled to premiere in the next few months in Chicago. The first is the *Focus 4* exhibition that will feature Barbara Aubin, Chicago (Jane Stevens, Curator); Guy Benson, Chicago (Doug Stapleton, Curator); Julia Haw, Chicago (John Lustig), Thom Whalen, Chatham (Bob Sill). The exhibit will run April 17 through August 15, 2014. The opening reception will be on Friday, April 25, 2014.

After that the *Pro-Text Art: When Words Enter Visual Art* curated by Robert Sill, will open on September 8, 2014, and run through February 6, 2015, ISMCG. This exhibition will explore the use of the written word in visual art. The primary focus will be on contemporary artists finding new ways to integrate writing, incorporate letters, add narrative layers, or use letters graphically to supplement, enhance or re-orient the viewer's relationship with the visual content. This exhibition will consist of works by 25 emerging and established contemporary artists. It will also include a small selection of works drawn from the ISM Fine Art Collection that will serve as a supplemental section showing that this impulse to incorporate words has a history in Illinois. The scope of the art will range from Graffiti-inspired work to folk inspired artists like Tony Fitzpatrick, illustrative narrative artist and writer Audrey Niffenegger, as well as more conceptual artists such as Deb Sokolow, Kate Ingold and Jason Lazorus.

During 2012, the Art and History Section acquired 112 donated works and 14 purchased works of fine art and 304 donated decorative arts objects.

A number of objects were loaned for exhibits at other institutions. Among those were the "The Blacksmith", by Leon Garland. The piece was included in *The Art of Leon and Sadie Garland* at the Koehnline Museum of Art, Oakton Community College. The exhibit was curated by David Sokol.

A WPA piece by M. Jean McLean entitled "Virginia and Stanton" was shown as part of *The Armory Show at 100: Modern Art and Revolution* that was put on by the New York Historical Society Museum and Library.

Another WPA piece by Joseph Stella entitled "Smoke Stack" was part of *Cercle et Carré and the International Spirit of Abstract Art* at the Georgia Museum of Art.

Christina Ramberg's "Black Widow" was shown at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston and three works by Ray Yoshida, gifted to the ISM by the Raymond K. Yoshida Living Trust and the Kohler Foundation were exhibited at the John Michael Kohler Arts Center in Sheboygan, Wisconsin.

We also had a request from the Mingei International Museum in San Diego for their September 2015 exhibition entitled *Made in America*, which is one of a series of exhibitions that will be featured during the City-wide, year-long Centennial Celebration of Balboa Park's hosting of the Panama-California International Exposition.

Zimmer reported some unusual publicity had been garnered recently. The Lockport Gallery was featured in *The New Lenox Patriot* crossword in March. The first question asked the name of an artist on exhibit at the Lockport Art Gallery and *The Art of Description* was covered by Chicago Life Magazine published by the *New York Times*.

Staff research new acquisitions, however the Museum has far more works than it has time to research. The new temporary | PERMANENT gallery is intended to provide impetus to further the research of our objects.

11. Illinois Artisans Program and External Affairs Update — Carolyn Patterson

Carolyn Patterson reported The Governor's Creative Economy roundtable initiative held its first meeting and represents the public, private and non-profit sector in the arts throughout Illinois. Two more meetings are scheduled and then the committee is to have policy recommendations by June for support for the Creative Economy to the Governor's office. This is being led by the Center for Government Studies at Northern Illinois University. A \$75,000 grant was given by the Arts Alliance Illinois to support this initiative. Patterson was appointed to the roundtable and secured appointments for downstate representatives.

The Daley Center Law Library and the Chicago Gallery have continued their collaborations and will present another five artists on March 20. The Cook County Board has provided another stipend to fund the honoraria for the artists. A seminar on the law as it applies to artists in Illinois will also be held from 4 to 5 pm.

The Museum received an invitation to Sculptural Objects and Functional Art show to submit a proposal for exhibition inside the front entrance of the show. You must show art works of interest to Illinois collectors and include artist talks and workshops on the works. The Museum is planning to apply.

Carolyn attended the Governor's Conference on Tourism and discovered funding that might be available to Museum for music presentations, which have been part of the First Friday events.

In an effort to get the word out, the Illinois Artisans Program will attend the Chicago Creative Expo on March 14 and 15 and will also present artists demonstrations at the UIC Forum.

12. ISMS Report — Guerry Suggs

Guerry Suggs reported the Trustees and the Society Board met on January 30. The trustees passed funding for First Fridays with two goals to bring awareness to adult audiences and to highlight the reality that ISM is a part of the downtown. The request covers \$6,500 for the

events in 2014. Carolyn Patterson reported that the April First Friday event, The Art and Science of Craft Beer, will highlight beer making and feature brews from Rolling Meadows Brewery. *The Art and Science of Drink* exhibit will be unveiled in the new Hot Science Gallery as part of the April First Friday. It will feature the history of the Black Drink, beer, and whiskey in Illinois. Eric Grimm noted the Black Drink is a highly caffeinated tea used for rituals and purification made from holly that grows in Arkansas, but was used as far north as Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site.

Carolyn Patterson stated that the estimated \$48,000 sale from the Chicago Artisans shop over the holidays, turned out to be over \$54,000. This is the largest sale the program has ever had, and the staff worked more than a week and half overtime to pull it off.

Carolyn also reported the *1877 Fund* is at about \$48,000 in committed funds and is the highest amount we have ever had for the fund. She expects we will be over \$50,000 based on outstanding pledges. The photos used in the *Illinois Times* article on the birds of Sangamon County were taken with a camera purchased with *1877 Funds*.

13. Old Business

a. Visitors Count Executive Summary (informational attachment)

Guerry Suggs reported the executive summary of the Visitors Count survey was enclosed in the board packets. Discussion will be held until the next meeting awaiting input from Beth Shea. If anyone has questions we will try to answer them, but would prefer to address at a later date.

b. Acquisition Strategies for Green Parking Lot (Board and staff)

Suggs reported the strategies for parking have included conversations with Leslie Sgro. Sgro has not found any funds for this project. The seller wishes to sell a much larger plot than ISM is interested in and there have been no negotiations because funds are not available. It will not likely happen in the immediate future. Bonnie asked Beth Penesis for comment. Beth agreed she doesn't see it happening in the near future and is not encouraged by anything that has happened to date. Suggs stated an overview of the strategy was distributed for the board review and was submitted at the last meeting as well.

c. Board Appointments—Guerry Suggs and Bonnie Styles

Guerry Suggs reported that Bonnie has had some communication with the Governor's office about board appointments, and he encourages board members to apply on line. Suggs and Brian Butler have both applied online and received a verification number. Bonnie asked board members to forward this information to Karen Everingham. Suggs encouraged members to apply, and we understand that members seeking re-appointment will be honored. David Sokol asked about vacancies on the board. Bonnie stated there is one vacancy, and we are looking at options for filling it. She noted that the board needs more diverse representation and asked for ideas from the board.

d. Ethics Training Form (attachment)

Guerry asked Board members to review the ethics training materials and video, sign the form indicating the work was done, and give it to Karen.

14. New Business

Guerry Suggs suggested board members watch a couple of bills in the General Assembly. Bonnie Styles noted that she and Carolyn Patterson reviewed SB2804 for DNR, and asked Carolyn Patterson to report on it. Patterson noted the bill would amend the DNR Act to provide that only materials manufactured in the United States be sold in the museum shops and parks. It also amends the historic preservation act in the same way. Bonnie noted that the directive is not workable in the museum stores, and we hope it will not get out of committee. Suggs again asked board members to be aware.

Bonnie reported DNR also asked her to review HB5466 regarding the loan of artifacts. It states that artifacts are not to be loaned for political purposes or to locations that are not environmentally secure and that all artifacts should be held under strict environmental controls. Language was later added to indicate that the requirements applied to all state agencies under the governor, but would not override an agency's existing policy. Addition of this language made it of less concern because the Museum has existing collections management policies.

15. Adjournment

Guerry adjourned the meeting at 12:10 pm.