

**Illinois State Museum
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
10:30 a.m., March 11, 2019
Research & Collections Center**

Attending: Chair Dr. Lorin Nevling, Vice Chair Leo Welch, Secretary Dr. Brian Anderson; Board members Ms. Beth Shadur, Dr. David Sokol, Mr. Roger Taylor, Mrs. Rosemary Winters, and by phone Mrs. Donna Sack; Society Board Chair Mr. Mark Pence; Museum Staff members Interim Director Mr. Robert Sill, Ms. Karen Everingham; Dept. of Natural Resources staff member Mr. Chris Young.

1. Call to Order—Dr. Lorin Nevling

Dr. Lorin Nevling called the meeting to order at 10:59 a.m.

2. Roll Call—Karen Everingham

Roll was called and a quorum was present.

3. Approval of the Minutes of December 10, 2018 Board Meeting—Dr. Lorin Nevling

Dr. Nevling introduced the minutes and requested a motion to approve. Ms. Beth Shadur moved to approve the minutes, Mr. Leo Welch seconded, and the motion passed. Dr. Nevling congratulated the Museum staff and Board for retaining the Museum's accreditation and praised the work that made that possible. He also expressed gratitude to the AAM for its recognition of the excellence of the Museum.

4. DNR Report

Director Colleen Callahan provided brief remarks on her background, congratulated the staff and the Board on its work to retain the Museum's Accreditation. She said she was very impressed with the collections of the Museum and emphasized the honor of leading the Department of Natural Resources and the Museum. She also said she looked forward to working with the Board and the Museum to share the State's history.

5. Director's Report

Interim Director Robert Sill introduced new ISM-Dickson Mounds Dr. Duane Esarey, noting he had previously worked at Dickson Mounds for 20 years.

Director Sill also recognized the staff team on the success of retaining accreditation and especially thanked Ms. Karen Everingham, Dr. Michael Wiant, Mrs. Tracy Pierceall, Dr. Brooke Morgan and Mr. Chris Young for drafting and shepherding the document to its final version. He also thanked the Board members for their input and the Society Board for its contributions.

Director Sill reported on recent hires including Director Dr. Esarey at Dickson Mounds, Decorative Arts and History Registrar Ms. Amanda Bryden, and Museum Technician for the Archaeological Sites file Ms. Miranda Yancey. Mr. Sill added that the next hires on the list are the Museum Technician for Marketing and Publicity, Curator of Geology, Curator of Anthropology, Digital Assets Manager, and a Museum Technician for the Lockport Gallery.

Mr. Sill reported the Museum opened three new exhibitions including *Coda for a Day* featuring woodcuts by artist Jeanine Coupe Ryding, *Sing Muses: History and Allegory through Contemporary Art* drawn from the Museum's collections, and *We are Illinoisans* curated by Erika Holst on immigration to

Illinois. The exhibition included submissions of photographs from the public of their ancestors who immigrated to Illinois.

Mr. Sill said the Secretary of State (SOS) has been very supportive of the Museum by addressing a number of facilities issues. A meeting was held with SOS, Central Management Services, DNR and the Museum to discuss capital projects to be submitted for the Museum and ISM-Dickson Mounds.

Partnering efforts continue with a variety of initiatives. Director Sill mentioned the meetings of the leadership of Springfield Area Sites (SMASH) to explore collaborations on marketing and programming.

Director Sill reported there are still issues with the rent for the Lockport Gallery, noting it is 7 months in arrears. He hoped the monies could be expedited and remarked that the land-lord has been more than patient and gracious.

Mr. Welch asked for comment on the new Museum After Hours program. Director Sill reported that the events, held on the 4th Friday, have been very successful bringing in new members and have made a modest profit. The event includes activities, music, food and drink.

6. Director Search Committee

Mr. Roger Taylor reported on the Director Search noting the Search Committee included himself, Mrs. Donna Sack, and Dr. David Sokol of the Board, Ms. Renee Johnson of the Society Board as well as staff members Mr. Sill, Mrs. Elizabeth Bazan, and Dr. Meredith Mahoney. He said a good pool of candidates applied for the position which was narrowed down to five candidates that met the criteria. The committee then selected two to interview. The candidates were brought to Illinois to tour the Museum facilities, make a presentation for staff and Boards regarding their vision for the Museum related to its new strategic plan, and finally interview. He added that Ms. Everingham would be developing the schedule and plan for the visits. He said after the conclusion of both visits the Search Committee will meet to decide which candidate to recommend to the Board for hire. Mr. Leo Welch asked if the change in the Governor's Mansion had increased the appeal of the position, given the sparse response to the posting in 2017. Mr. Taylor said he thought that was the case and that the caliber of applicants was much improved.

7. Metropolitan Outreach Working Group

Dr. Sokol reported the working group was awaiting the word on the status of the James R. Thompson Center (JRTC). He noted that the Museum would like to have an opportunity to exhibit in the Chicago Gallery given the JRTC remains open awaiting its sale. DNR Director Callahan said she wants DNR to have a more visible presence in Chicago and is exploring hires for the area. She made no promises, but said she hoped to identify a location for the Museum.

8. ISMS Report

Society Board Chair Mark Pence reported the Board is investigating reopening the Museum Shop, hiring staff, and working on refining and updating its operational and policy documents. He added that the Legal staff at DNR has been developing guidelines for sponsorships of Museum exhibits and events. He finished by noting the Society Board's next meeting would be on March 25th.

9. Old Business—Dr. Lorin Nevling

Dr. Nevling discussed the closure of the Museum noting the order was unprecedented. He added that the order was given under the pretense of saving money, and without consideration of the Museum's Federal and State legal obligations as well as our labor agreements. He said some may remember his remark at the celebration of the reopening of the Museum, that the closure was the greatest non-natural disaster in the history of American Museums. He acknowledged that it might have been an over-statement, but that it communicated his point. He said the closure had a number of very detrimental consequences including the loss intellectual strength and institutional memory, the accreditation, the Chair of the Board and an additional Board member, and the loss of the long-time Museum Director. He added the extraordinary work of the staff during this period cannot be over-stated.

He said the Board had been short of its statutory membership requirement, and with the death of Dr. George Rabb, the Board now needs three new members. Ms. Beth Shadur has been actively working to find candidates. He said Ms. Shadur's laudable efforts have demonstrated the need to be more pro-active. He stated he intended to address possible changes in Board efforts, in light of the changes in the DNR administration and the impending hire of a new Director.

Dr. Nevling asked the Board members to share how they came to serve. He began by saying former Director Dr. Bonnie Styles had recruited him and he was also a friend of the Dr. Bruce McMillan, also a previous Director of the Museum. Mr. Welch said the Governor's office asked him to serve. Mr. Taylor received a call from Alan Harn, an anthropologist and childhood friend, relaying the need for representation on the Board from the ISM-Dickson Mounds area and he agreed. Dr. Sokol said he expressed interest to his local representatives and was later appointed. Mrs. Rosemary Winters said she was recruited by former Director Styles. Ms. Shadur noted she was recruited by a former staff member. Dr. Brian Anderson was recruited by former Associate Director Karen Witter and was a Governor Rauner appointee. Mrs. Sack said she was also recruited by Mrs. Witter and that she had a great deal of relevant of experience. Dr. Nevling noted that Board members serve until they are replaced. He said several of the current members have not been reappointed, but continue to serve.

10. New Business—Dr. Lorin Nevling

Dr. Nevling asked the Board if they would be willing to meet jointly with the Society Board. He asked the Board's preference regarding meeting after a scheduled Board meeting or on a weekend. The present members indicated in conjunction with a meeting would be preferable.

He noted that the next Board meetings scheduled are on Monday, June 10th and Monday, September 9th and Monday, December 9th. The venue for June is the Research & Collections Center, the remaining two meetings have not been determined as yet.

Dr. Brooke Morgan reported on her trip to deliver the deaccessioned Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act remains to Montana. She said she is scheduled to return the remains and to attend the ceremony to mark the occasion in early May. Dr. Nevling noted it was important and significant that the Museum was asked to be part of the ceremony.

11. Adjourn—Dr. Lorin Nevling

Dr. Nevling asked for a motion to adjourn. Dr. Sokol moved to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Shadur seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

Approved:

Dr. Lorin Nevling, Chair

Date

Dr. Brian Anderson, Secretary

Date