

**ILLINOIS STATE MUSEUM
BOARD MEETING
June 12, 2017, 10:30 a.m.
ISM – Dickson Mounds**

MINUTES

Attending: President Dr. Lorin Nevling, Board Members Dr. George Rabb, Mrs. Donna Sack, Dr. David Sokol, Mr. Roger Taylor, Mrs. Rosemary Winters; ISMS Board Member Mrs. Susan White; Staff Members Interim Director Dr. Michael Wiant, Assistant Curator of Education Mrs. Elizabeth Bazan, Anthropologist Dr. Michael Conner, Interim Director of Exhibits Paul Countryman, Interim Director of Visitor Services Ms. Karen Everingham, Education Curator Christa Foster, Interim Director of Facilities Ms. Linda Kloppe, Curator of Zoology Dr. Meredith Mahoney, Exhibit Designer, Kelvin Sampson, Interim Director of Art & History Mr. Robert Sill, Human Resources and Fiscal Liaison Mrs. Tammy Wheeler; Department of Natural Resources representative Mr. Chris Young.

1. Call to Order

Dr. Lorin Nevling called the meeting to order at 10:37 a.m.

2. Roll Call

The roll call was completed and a quorum was present.

3. Approval of the Minutes of March 27, 2017

Dr. Nevling asked for approval of the minutes. Mrs. Rosemary Winters move to approve, Mrs. Donna Sack seconded, and the motion was approved.

4. DNR Report

Mr. Chris Young provided a written report to the Board. Among the highlights he noted that the State continues without a budget for Fiscal Year 2018. The General Assembly will now have to approve a budget by a three-fifths majority because they didn't pass it before the end of the legislative session.

Mr. Young reported that the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency has been dissolved and moved into the Department as the Historic Preservation Division and he views this as another opportunity for sharing resources possibly to include positions that could play roles across DNR departments and the Museum. Exploration of shared tasks and resources includes DNR is considering producing materials highlighting conservation in the natural world to be included in the Museum's *Changes* exhibition. Mr. Young noted that he was not being instructed to do this, but determined to explore it to preserve General Revenue dollars. He added that there were no indications that the Museum's budget would be reduced.

5. Director's Report

Dr. Michael Wiant called attention to the Activity Reports included in the Board packets noting that considerable work, including new art exhibitions and continued education programs, had been accomplished. He also noted that attendance was 75% greater in April than in January, though we still have work to do.

Dr. Wiant reported that the Museum Director position announcement has been posted and two applications have already been received. The position closes July 21. He added that the Museum has been approved to proceed with an additional five hires. He said that the first five hires had

been delayed but were now moving forward. Three curator positions in education, anthropology and decorative arts are among those. Other positions to be filled include a visitor services associate, librarian, and several museum technicians. He added that he was intentionally waiting to address the higher level position to afford the new director leadership in filling out her/his team.

The AAM accreditation team visit has been scheduled for August 7-9. He said Ms. Everingham is working on the schedule and will distribute to the Board. Dr. Wiant said his primary concerns were the staffing level and the lack of a state budget. He said despite these things the staff has accomplished a great deal.

Dr. Wiant reported that exploration of a Chicago venue continues. The Chicago Cultural Center opportunity has not proceeded as we hoped. He noted Ms. Beth Shadur would be meeting with the Cultural Center's leadership to explore the idea further.

Dr. Wiant said a number of grant proposals were underway or had already been submitted. Dr. Hong Qian has submitted a significant proposal to the National Science Foundation to support research exploring the diversity of tree species. Staff are also working on proposals for the Army Corp of Engineers to become a regional repository for the Corp, a National Endowment for the Arts proposal in partnership with music producer Chris Vallilo and the Illinois Humanities Council to support a bicentennial music project, and leveraging funds from the DNR Office of Mines and Minerals to support the archaeological sites file position.

Parking continues to be a long-standing issue for the Museum. Numerous Directors going back to Milton Thompson have been working on this issue and Dr. Wiant will as well. He said he believes the Museum is the only major museum without a dedicated parking lot and is pursuing ideas with the Secretary of State and the City of Springfield.

Dr. Wiant said the staff have revitalized tried and true programs, created new programs, and installed numerous new exhibitions. They have proved themselves to be extraordinary self-motivators and dedicated themselves to asserting the continued value and importance of the Museum. He also thanked the Department of Natural Resources for its investment in the Museum, its willingness to explore new bridges, and its support.

Dr. Wiant then highlighted the Bicentennial website as well as the Museum's website via the internet. He showed the Board and attendees the Museum's new website, the draft of the Bicentennial website entitled *The Story of Illinois, Reading Ancient Faunal Remains*, a web module based on the Museum architecture and written by Director Emeritus Dr. Bonnie Styles as part of her National Science Foundation grant, and another web module based on former Decorative Arts Curator Angela Goebel Bain's work on historic dresses in the Museum's collection.

Mrs. Sack asked if there was a timeline for the final decision from AAM. Dr. Wiant said the AAM Commission meets again in October, but he added that the Commission may table our accreditation because we only submitted a two year strategic plan. The Commission said they usually ask for a minimum of three year plans.

6. Personnel Committee

Dr. Nevling suggested that the Board have a working lunch and then go into Executive session for the Personnel Committee discussion. Dr. George Rabb moved the Board go into Executive Session, Dr. David Sokol seconded, and the motion carried. The Board went into Executive Session at 11:59 a.m.

The Board returned to regular session at 12:56 p.m. Dr. Nevling asked for a motion to approve the actions taken in Executive Session. Mr. Taylor moved to accept the modified critical hire list as discussed in executive session, (Museum Technician in Education, two Visitor Services Associates, Museum Technician in Anthropology, Museum Technician in External Affairs, and the Museum Director) Mrs. Sack seconded, and the motion carried.

7. Director Search Committee

Mr. Taylor reported that the things are moving forward and the Director position description was posted on June 8th with a deadline of July 21st. He noted that two applications have already been received. He said Dr. Nevling, Dr. Wiant, Mrs. Tammy Wheeler, and he prepared a protocol to guide the search committee moving forward. Mrs. Wheeler will distribute applications to the initial screening group including the staff members and Mrs. Sack. The screening group will send Mrs. Wheeler the list of those applicants meeting the initial requirements, and then Mrs. Wheeler will circulate those applications to the entire Director Search committee to be evaluated by the following scale: highest priority 1 “warrants most serious consideration; 2 “warrants further consideration; and 3 “does not warrant further consideration”. Mrs. Wheeler will collect committee recommendations and disperse those to the entire committee without disclosing the author of the recommendations. Mr. Taylor said he hoped for a cluster of high priority options. He said he needed to set an initial meeting to consider the rankings. This will be coordinated via email. The committee will select three finalists and two back-ups from the pool of applications. Upon the selection, a schedule will be established for the finalist to tour the Museum and Dickson Mounds as well as interview for the position and make a presentation to the staff.

8. ISMS Report

Mrs. Susan White reported that the Society had established new membership levels based on different levels of financial commitment. An inaugural event, “Cocktails with Curators” for the Curator level of membership and above will be held on June 15th at the Research and Collections Center.

Mrs. White said the Bylaws Committee has met several times and will have a proposal for the new by-laws at the next Society Board meeting. The Bylaws include a modification to increase the number of members to fifteen. She added that the Society Board has four vacancies and two resignations. She said in total, if the by-laws are accepted, there will be nine Society Board openings to fill. She asked for recommendations from the Museum Board. She noted that the intent is to increase both the regional and racial diversity as well as skill sets.

She said that the Society Board had voted to extend her term until September to Chair the nomination committee in addition to her service as a Society Board member. She added that the Society put out a call for Society Board volunteers and received several responses that are being evaluated. Dr. Sokol expressed his support for regional diversity and the need for Chicago representation. Mrs. White noted that there was one from the Chicago area who expressed in serving and was agreeable to coming to Springfield for meetings and other events. Mrs. White said she thought the individual would be a good candidate.

9. Old Business

Dr. Nevling asked for any old business. He noted the Museum Board vacancy is still on the table but remains with the Governor’s office.

10. New Business

Mr. Taylor reported he was asked to serve on the advisory team of the Peoria Riverfront Museum. He noted that he accepted the offer.

Dr. Nevling reminded the Board that the next meeting would be September 11 at 10:30 a.m. at the Research and Collections Center.

11. Adjournment

Dr. Nevling asked for a motion to adjourn. Rosemary Winters moved to adjourn, George Rabb seconded, and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 1:14 p.m.