

**ILLINOIS STATE MUSEUM
BOARD MEETING**

March 7, 2022, 1 p.m.

WebEx meeting

Attending: Officers: Chair Donna Sack, Secretary Sarah Doherty; Board members Tamira Brennan, Andrea Carlson, Beth Shadur, Roger Taylor, and nikhil trivedi; Illinois State Museum Society Staff Member Jamila Wicks; Museum Staff Members: Cinnamon Catlin-Legutko, Jennifer Edginton, Brooke Morgan, Meghan Lindstrom, and Robert Sill.

I. Welcome

Chair Donna Sack welcomed attendees and the meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Meghan Lindstrom called the roll and a quorum was present.

III. Approval of the Minutes of January 10, 2022

Secretary Sarah Doherty presented the minutes for approval. Roger Taylor moved to approve the minutes, Beth Shadur seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

IV. Chair's Report

Donna Sack said that the next Board meeting is scheduled to be in-person at the Illinois State Museum at Springfield. She asked the Board to consider moving the start time of the meeting to 10 am instead of the traditional 10:30 start time. This would give the Board more time to tour the museum. Beth seconded moving the meeting time to 10 am to help with avoiding traffic. nikhil recommended leaving the meeting time at 10:30 am due to the three-hour drive from Chicago to Springfield. Donna said that the meeting time would remain at the usual 10:30 am slot until the Board had further discussion on the topic. She recommended that the Board tour the Museum's new art exhibition Edgewise if time permits after the Board meeting.

V. Museum Director's report

Cinnamon thanked the Board for their flexibility about rescheduled meetings. She shared that the Museum Society was still active in hiring staff with a new Digital Assets Manager who started in January and a NAGPRA assistant who will start work in May. She said that hiring for the State remained slow, but the position of Director of Tribal Relations had been posted and 30 applications were received. All applicants must be reviewed by CMS to ensure

they match the position criteria before their information will be forwarded to Cinnamon for further evaluation.

Deaccession

Brooke Morgan presented a deaccession request under NAGPRA for the repatriation of 12 individuals and 96 funerary objects culturally affiliated with the Potawatomi Tribes. She provided Notices of Inventory Completion from the Federal Register published in September and December of 2021. Roger moved to approve the deaccession request for repatriation under NAGPRA, Beth seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

DEAI committee charter

The DEAI committee charter was moved forward on the agenda from Old Business. Andrea thanked the Board for their feedback on the charter at the January Board meeting. The critiques from that meeting were used to refine the charter and provide more clarity to its purpose and direction. Cinnamon said that the charter was not intended to fully detail the committee's duties but provide a map of goals, milestones, and known limitations. Tamira moved to approve the updated committee charter, Andrea seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Strategic Plan

Cinnamon reported that the Museum is following the COVID-adjusted strategic plan. Formal planning for the next strategic plan will begin in the fall with a paid consultant. The planning process would involve the Museum Board, the Museum Society Board, and Museum employees. The Society Board will be responsible for creating a budget to fund the process and approval for the budget is anticipated at their June board meeting.

Cinnamon introduced the Theory of Change concept she plans to use to guide strategic planning and asked for the Board's input. The five goals are to use a DEAI framework, re-imagine education and exhibitions, practice transparency and visibility, unify as a statewide system, and to amplify community voices. Andrea said that transparency is important, but consideration should be made to give privacy to sensitive issues like repatriation. Cinnamon confirmed that the Museum already has a degree of transparency due to being part of a state agency. nikhil asked for clarification of the phrase "Museum's needs first" near the end of the document. Cinnamon explained that some Museum employees are very individually driven and focused more on personal projects when their talents could be better used to assist coworkers with larger projects for the benefit of the institution. She believes more work remains to fully shift the attitude away from the idea of individual over institution. Donna

agreed that centering the museum's larger needs over individual projects would be the best way to serve the people of Illinois. Beth commented that the point on amplifying community voices needed the most work. Sarah agreed and said that it would help the Museum to meet the challenge of defining public history in a state as diverse as Illinois.

Cinnamon said she wants the new plan to have a nimble structure instead of one that is rigid or comprehensive. A strategic framework instead of a detailed plan would provide a larger view of where the institution is headed, and strategies could be developed more freely to deal with changing situations. nikhil's suggestion of the objectives and key results design pioneered by Intel in the 1970s is a similar concept. Cinnamon wants the new plan to outline the next five years with annual goals defined separately and more concretely each year. She reassured the board that creating this new type of strategic plan will not affect accreditation with the American Association of Museums (AAM). The AAM only requires that a strategic plan is created and followed, it does not dictate the form of the plan. Tamira supported the plan structure and said that the museum needed to avoid rigid productivity metrics which can be harmful with the uncertain future of the pandemic. Cinnamon said that flexibility in the plan is also important because the Museum works within state government and cannot always act autonomously.

Donna asked how the Board could assist and guide the creation of this new type of strategic plan. Cinnamon requested that the Board members recommend strategic planning consultants, and she will contact them to find a planner who is willing to work with a framework instead of a classic plan.

Beth asked if there was any progress in establishing a Chicago presence for the museum. Cinnamon confirmed that she is looking for ways to expand statewide again but there is currently no progress to report. Rend Lake, the site of the former Southern Illinois Arts and Crafts Marketplace, has been vacant since 2015 and will soon be sold by the State. The Museum's Leadership Team will investigate other ways to establish a presence downstate.

VI. DNR report

Cinnamon presented the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) report on behalf of Kristin DiCenso, Chief of Staff.

The current headcount of IDNR stands at 1,156, nearly a record low. Because of this the agency is currently in a rebuilding phase and seeking more appropriations. She hopes that the legislature will approve them before the

May board meeting. There is a great deal of public support as well since IDNR's lack of funding is clearly visible in the state parks.

Cinnamon reported that parking remains a serious problem at the Springfield location and the lack of accessible parking near the Museum is of particular concern. There are two parking spots marked as handicap parking in the nearby state lot originally reserved for Museum visitors, but the Secretary of State has assigned them to state employees during the work week. Cinnamon has tried to have the handicap parking properly enforced but there has been no progress. Kristin is now involved and advocating for the Museum to have accessible parking. She is hopeful to see positive change soon because a new multi-year project plan for the Capitol Complex will address parking. Cinnamon will work with Kristin to ensure the Museum will have proper accessible parking in the new plan.

VII. Illinois State Museum Society Report—Jamila Wicks

Jamila said that the State Museum Society Board is planning to visit the state capitol on the Illinois Museum Association's advocacy day. The Society Board will continue to champion the Museum by contacting state legislators and arranging personal tours of the Museum.

Jamila shared that the exhibit *Edgewise* opened to the public. No public reception was held at the opening due to Covid concerns but one is scheduled for March 25th. The *Human Nature* exhibit is currently being moved to the Lockport Gallery and will open with a reception at the end of April or beginning of May.

VIII. Old Business

Donna called for old business.

IX. Public Comment

None present.

X. Adjournment

Donna reminded the Board that the May meeting will be held in-person in Springfield. She asked for a motion to adjourn. Sarah moved to adjourn, Beth seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:04 pm.