

**ILLINOIS STATE MUSEUM
BOARD MEETING
September 12, 2022, 10:30 a.m.**

**Research and Collections Center
1011 East Ash St., Springfield, IL**

Attending: Officers: Chair Donna Sack, Vice Chair Lisa Lee (via WebEx), and Secretary Sarah Doherty (via WebEx); Board Members Leverne Backstrom (via WebEx), Tamira Brennan, Andrea Carlson (via WebEx), Chris Pappan, Beth Shadur, Roger Taylor, and nikhil trivedi; Illinois State Museum Society Member Jamila Wicks; Illinois State Museum Staff Members Cinnamon Catlin-Legutko (via WebEx), Jennifer Edginton, Meghan Lindstrom, Brooke Morgan, and Robert Sill.

I. Welcome

Chair Donna Sack welcomed attendees and the meeting was called to order at 10:38 am.

II. Roll Call

Meghan Lindstrom called the roll and a quorum was present.

III. Approval of the Minutes of May 9, 2022

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

IV. Approval of the Minutes of May 24, 2022

Secretary Sarah Doherty presented the minutes for approval. Lisa Lee moved to approve the minutes, nikhil trivedi seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

V. New Business

Donna welcomed new Board member Chris Pappan. Board members and Museum staff gave brief introductions of themselves and their areas of expertise.

VI. Chair's Report

Donna Sack provided an update on the strategic planning process. Director Cinnamon Catlin-Legutko considered proposals from three consulting firms to determine which would provide the best assistance to create the Museum's strategic plan. Laura Roberts of Roberts Consulting from Cambridge, Massachusetts was chosen. Cinnamon has worked with Laura Roberts in the

past at the ABBE museum and Laura has also done extensive work with AAM and accreditation. Donna said Laura's proposed timeline is very solid, but ambitious. A copy of the strategic plan milestones was provided in the meeting's Board packets. Laura is scheduled to be present at the November Board meeting at Dickson Mounds Museum and will tour the other Museum locations later in the week.

VII. Museum Director's report

Cinnamon directed the Board to consult the Board packet for updates on special projects including the Illinois State Fair, the 1908 Race Riot exhibit for Springfield's new transportation hub, and the State Historic Sites merger.

Cinnamon reported that Heather Miller had accepted the position of Director of Tribal Relations and three new Visitor Services Associates had been hired. With the full frontline staff, it will be possible to return the Museum to a seven-day schedule starting October 1st.

Cinnamon has been meeting with representatives of the Lands Division of IDNR to discuss the future of State Historic Sites once they are moved under the Museum. She also meets with Andy Manar from the Governor's Office once a month to discuss the transition. There are still many issues to be resolved before the merge can be complete, such as determining how many new positions will be needed to staff sites, how to complete the merge with different unions and organizational structures, and how robust a budget package would be needed for funding staffing and completing delayed maintenance. There will also need to be a full evaluation of current sites to determine if they are truly of significant historical value or if they might benefit from being locally run instead of state run. nikhil asked what the process would be to close sites. Cinnamon said that legislation would be required to outline the process to assess sites and deaccession them.

Tamira asked for an update on the search for a director at Dickson Mounds Museum. Cinnamon confirmed that Logan Pappenfort was still the acting director but only under a Temporary Assignment. She has considered changing the position title from 'Director' to 'Site Manager', which would be closer to the current State Historic Sites use of 'Site Supervisor'. Andrea asked if the titles of employees overlooking sacred sites could be changed to 'Lead Caretaker'. Cinnamon explained that she does not have the authority to create State titles and must choose from an existing list. She could include the suggested language in a job description instead.

SB 3108

Cinnamon introduced SB 3108, which the General Assembly approved last spring to amend the Department of Natural Resources Act. A copy of the language about the Board that had been changed was included in the meeting packet. Beth asked why the language about the Board approving budget items was removed. Cinnamon explained that the Board never had that power and would review the budget as a whole. Donna confirmed that budget approval will be a new duty for the Board and she is unsure what that would look like in practice. Lisa said it would be good to have the Board back the Director's budget proposal to affirm it and give it weight but she was concerned that the current Board does not have the structure or expertise needed to properly analyze a proposed budget.

Deaccession

Brooke Morgan presented a request to deaccession a piece of glazed kiln furniture and a piece of crock base sherd from the United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE)-Rock Island District collection that was transferred to the Museum in 2018. The site the items were found in has since been determined not to be USACE fee-titled land. Brooke planned to send the items to the Iowa Office of the State Archeologist, which would be the appropriate repository. Tamira made a motion to approve the deaccession request, Leverne seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Brooke presented a second request to deaccession 49 jars of macrobotanical samples that had been collected from the Smiling Dan archeological site in Scott County. The samples were collected between 1979 and 1983, were stored in non-archival containers, and have since dried out and have no research value. The samples had been sent on loan immediately after collection to a professor at Wesleyan University. The samples were retrieved among other loaned items in 2019 but all associated documents had been lost. Andrea asked how the soil samples could be disposed of safely. Brooke said there was no good way to dispose of the samples because they are in glass jars and it is unknown if they were ever treated with chemicals. To avoid potential health risks the samples would simply be disposed of in a dumpster. Roger moved to deaccession the macrobotanical samples, Beth seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Brooke presented a third request for deaccession and repatriation of human remains representing two individuals. It was determined that the two individuals were related to the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians of the Santa Ynez Reservation in California. A notice was posted in the Federal

Register in July of 2000, but after tribal consultation it was determined the tribe was not yet ready to receive them. The Chumash tribe has now requested to proceed with repatriation. Brooke and Heather plan to travel to California to personally escort the human remains.

Andrea expressed her appreciation that no images of the remains were included in the report. She reiterated a previous suggestion that NAGPRA eligible repatriations be completed without needing a vote from the Board. Chris asked how the Board could work to change the repatriation process so the Board's approval would not be necessary. Tamira said that the University of Illinois system was also researching how to streamline repatriation while still complying with state property laws. Lisa suggested a motion stating that the Board does not consider human remains to be property and therefore should not need to be deaccessioned by the Board. Roger cautioned against changing the procedure because it is a way for the Board to affirm the work and show their support. nikhil agreed that affirmation would be a good gesture, but the Board's vote could currently be used to halt deaccessioning and the process of repatriation.

Brooke asked for any alterations made to the repatriation process to take care to avoid placing human remains in legal limbo. She used the Chumash repatriation as an example. The notice of intent to repatriate human remains was publicly posted in the Federal Register in 2000 but the tribe chose to not move forward with repatriation for 22 years. The state was still responsible for their storage and care for that time since they were considered part of the Museum's collection.

Cinnamon said that she would discuss the issue with Brooke, Heather, and DNR Legal to determine if a solution can be found. She supported Lisa's suggestion of a declarative motion from the Board.

Chris moved to deaccession the Chumash remains for repatriation, Beth seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Update on Kenyan repatriation

Brooke provided an update on the vigango that had been deaccessioned at the Board meeting held May 24th. The vigango were shipped at the end of the last fiscal year. The National Museums of Kenya (NMK) have not yet received the vigango because they are still in Customs. The Ministry of Finance denied the tax waiver so the NMK had to pay tax. This was anticipated so the declared value of each vigango was \$1. The NMK anticipate the vigango should

be released within the week.

Brooke reported that Museum representatives have been invited to attend the return of the vigango to the Mijikenda communities. Robert Sill and Brooke have been approved for travel, but the date of the return has not yet been set.

Donna suggested a communication package be created to educate Illinoisians about this repatriation effort.

VIII. Old Business

Donna called for old business and there was none.

IX. Public Comment

None present.

The Board adjourned for lunch at 12:00 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 12:50 p.m.

X. Museum Tour

The Board was led on a tour of the Research and Collections Center by Robert Sill with assistance from Hong Qian, Tracy Pierceall, Meredith Mahoney, Melissa Pardi, Brooke Morgan, Erica Holst, Amanda Bryden, Douglas Stapleton, and curator emeritus Terry Martin.

XI. Adjournment

Donna asked for a motion to adjourn. Roger moved to adjourn, Chris seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:28 p.m.