

**ILLINOIS STATE MUSEUM
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Minutes of the Meeting
December 8, 2014, 10:00 a.m.
Illinois State Museum – Board Room**

1. Call to Order – Guerry Suggs

The regular meeting of the Illinois State Museum Board of Directors was called to order at 10:09 a.m. on December 8, 2014, at the Illinois State Museum in Springfield. Board Chair Guerry Suggs called for a motion to allow Mary Jo Potter to participate by phone. Dr. George Rabb made the motion, Dr. Brian Butler seconded, and the motion carried. Those in attendance were the Board Chair Guerry Suggs, Vice Chair Dr. Brian Butler, Secretary Dr. Lorin Nevling, and Board Members Mary Jo Potter via phone, Dr. George Rabb, Dr. David Sokol, Leo Welch, and Rosemary Winters. Also attending were ISM Director Dr. Bonnie Styles, and staff members Karen Everingham, Dr. Eric Grimm, David Hood, Charlotte Montgomery, Paul Stromdahl, Dr. Michael Wiant, and Jim Zimmer.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the September 8, 2014, Board Meeting – Guerry Suggs

Chairman Guerry Suggs called for additions or corrections to the minutes. Dr. Butler noted that Dr. Sarah Neusius' name was misspelled in the minutes. Bonnie Styles commented that she had noticed that as well and that it would be corrected. Rosemary Winters moved to accept the minutes as amended, Dr. Brian Butler seconded, and the motion carried.

3. DNR Report – Dr. Bonnie Styles

In the absence of Beth Penesis, Dr. Bonnie Styles presented the DNR report. Bonnie reported the Museum prepared a transition report for the Museum system for DNR and the Governor-elect's transition team. She said she submitted the report to DNR and hoped they would send it forward without making any changes. Guerry Suggs asked who in the hierarchy of DNR would be at risk for replacement with the new administration. Bonnie responded that typically it's the Director, Chief of Staff, Deputy Directors, fiscal officer, and sometimes the human resources officer. She reported we were again approached about the Museum's participation in DNR's web-based programmatic timekeeping system. DNR uses the system because they have many employees who are paid from multiple grants and other sources. This is less of an issue for us, but they would like to get us on their system. Bonnie said she attended meetings on this last year. The Museum staff would have to get Illinois.gov addresses to access the system, but could continue to use our current e-mail addresses for our Museum correspondence. Staff would simply use this log in and password to access DNR's system. Leo Welch asked what sort of reporting DNR required. Bonnie said it was simply a daily accounting of hours with the appropriate code to represent the activity or project worked on. Leo noted universities required tracking of time in 15 minute intervals. Bonnie stated the main difficulty is for staff working in the field, but with the web-based system this is much easier to address. Staff would need to get set up with the Illinois.gov log in and be trained on the system. She said she didn't know when the transition to the system would occur.

Guerry said he assumed the push for board member reappointments was off. Bonnie said she thought so because there was no action during the veto session. Dr. David Sokol noted he had talked to his Senator, Senator Harmon, about the board appointments. He also said Leo Welch was the only board member whose term is current. Bonnie reported the Governor's website for boards and commissions states that board members may serve until reappointed or until new appointments are made. Dr. Sokol noted that the appointments require senatorial approval and recommended board members remind their senators they are still interested.

4. Executive Session

Dr. Lorin Nevling moved to go into executive session to discuss matters related to the transition and unionization, Dr. Sokol seconded, and the motion carried. Guerry dismissed all staff members except for Charlotte Montgomery and Dr. Styles. The board entered executive session at 10:10 a.m. The executive session closed at 10:40 a.m. and staff were brought back to the room.

Guerry asked for a motion to end the executive session and return to the full board meeting. Dr. Butler moved to return to the full board meeting, Leo Welch seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Rosemary Winters moved that the board authorize Bonnie Styles and Charlotte Montgomery to draft a memorandum that captures the issues related to the transition and unionization that were discussed by the Board in Executive Session to forward to the Governor-elect's transition team. Leo Welch seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Dr. George Rabb noted it was important for the Board Chair Guerry Suggs to sign the letter.

Rosemary Winters moved that the board authorize Bonnie Styles and Charlotte Montgomery to draft a memorandum capturing the Board's concerns about the unionization issues that were discussed in executive session for the Board Chair to send to current leadership of DNR and CMS. Lorin Nevling seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

5. State Government Administration Transition Issues – Dr. Bonnie Styles

a. Major Programs and Initiatives

Bonnie reported that the board received the full transition report, which includes issues targeted by the leadership team, and she also forwarded the transition report to the DNR. She said the issues noted in the transition report were resolution of the soffit problem at Southern Illinois Art & Artisans Center (SIAAC), the replacement of the damaged mounts in the *Changes* exhibition, completion of the exterior wall rehab at the Dickson Mounds Museum (DMM), securement of a capital project for the new history exhibitions on the second floor at ISM-Springfield, the development of the green parking lot and ecology park for ISM-Springfield, completion of planning and implementation of ISM-Springfield expansion, upgrading of state park interpretive exhibitions, and the completion of a supplemental agreement with the Union for the Museum's professional staff.

b. Budgetary Concerns

Bonnie said we reiterated our concerns about the CMS facilities charges with respect to the budget in the Museum's transition report as well as other budget issues. She said the facilities charges for two facilities account for 83% of the Museum System's overall contractual line. She said we identified the need to fill critical positions for security and buildings and grounds laborers as well as the SIAAC Director position. The next three items in the report considered the impacts of reserves. A 5% reserve placed on the Museum's full-year appropriation so late in the fiscal year would be difficult to address. A 5% reserve on remaining FY15 funds would be more reasonable and could be accomplished with fewer negative impacts. A full 5% reserve would require not filling the SIAAC Director position, no raises for non-union staff, and cuts in contractual, travel, operation of automobiles, as well as deferring some CMS facilities charges into FY16. This would only push those charges into the next fiscal year. Layoff of staff members this late in the fiscal year would not result in any cost savings. Layoff of seven staff members would only save about \$3,700 because of benefit payouts. She said our recommendation concerning a 10% reserve was to defer CMS facilities charges. Staff layoffs and closing facilities so late in the fiscal year would save no money because of required staff benefit pay-outs and expenses associated with closing facilities. Dr. Nevling pointed out that a 10% cut in January is in effect a 20% cut. Bonnie said the 20% reserve scenario would in effect destroy the ISM System, closing several facilities and requiring layoffs across the board at all locations. It would impact the Museum's accreditation and make it extremely difficult for the State Museum to fulfill its mission and would diminish its educational and economic impact across the state. She said she also attached a copy of the Museum's Education and Economic Impact Statement to show the positive educational and economic impacts of the Museum system. She noted the transition document was similar to impact statements that have been done in the past, and similar documents helped us keep facilities open during previous threats of cuts and closures.

c. Legislative Issues

Bonnie reported she emphasized the impacts of several unfunded legislative mandates in the transition report, such as the Archaeological and Paleontological Resources Protection Act. This Act and associated regulations mandate curation of archaeological and paleontological collections from public lands and charge

the Museum with maintenance of the statewide archaeological sites file, which is widely used for cultural resource management. She also included mandates related to the Federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act and the State Human Skeletal Remains Protection Act as well as other legislated mandates. Guerry noted this is a pretty unique transition given the state's finances. Bonnie said we do have colleagues on the Governor-elect's transition teams. Past Museum Board member Jerry Adelman is on the transition team for Energy and Natural Resources. He asked for dot points on our issues, and Bonnie sent them to him. He is a supporter of the Museum and helped keep our Lockport and Chicago facilities open during the last threat of closures. Barry MacLean is a supporter of Governor-elect Rauner and the Museum. She said she usually contacts Barry about this time to coordinate his payment for the Mary Ann MacLean Educator endowment. She gives him an update on where we are with the endowment, and she will reach out to him to support us as well.

Dr. Sokol said we should be contacting our legislators about our concerns for the ISM. Bonnie said the Board should also be aware that the idea of putting the Museum under the Historic Preservation Agency (HPA) might come up. She also provided Jerry Adelman with background information on why the HPA is not a good fit for the Museum and why the Museum is better positioned within DNR. She said there were also suggestions to put the Museum under the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign in the past, when the Scientific Surveys left DNR and were placed under UIUC. She said that when this suggestion comes up, she reminds people that the UIUC closed its natural history museum and that a university trying to deal with a 20% cut would not support a Museum, especially one that is not located in the same city. She said that as a member of the AAM Accreditation Commission, she can verify that university museums are among the hardest hit during recessions. Guerry noted the fight in the 1990s to go into and remain in DNR. Bonnie noted placement in DNR has worked well for the Museum because of our strengths in research and our mission to promote stewardship of natural and cultural resources, and location in a large department helps shield us from devastating cuts such as those that would be sustained in a small stand-alone agency such as the HPA. Dr. Sokol asked about joining with the Presidential Museum. Bonnie said at one time there was a plan to put all of the HPA (including the Presidential Museum and Library) under DNR. But that didn't happen for a variety of reasons. Bonnie also noted that she had been interviewed about the ISM's governance structure by Brent Glass. She said he is the former Director of the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C., and has been hired to participate in a panel looking at the governance of the Presidential Museum and Library. Bonnie said she gave him a tour of the ISM-Springfield. She said that after the interview and tour, he noted how different the two institutions are and that the ISM demonstrated it is possible to have a highly professional, accredited state museum within government and to also have a well-functioning non-profit. Bonnie said that the professional operation of the ISM is attributable to the role of the Board in hiring at the Museum.

6. Pre-Inauguration Event at ISM-Springfield – Dr. Bonnie Styles

Guerry said a pre-inauguration event at the ISM-Springfield had been discussed but will not take place. Bonnie reported we did tour two people from the operations transition team through the Museum, and they were impressed. However, she said, the issue that hurt us was that they wanted dancing. We really do not have much space for dancing. They were very impressed with the exhibitions and were thrilled to see the Mary Ann MacLean Play Museum. They both knew Barry and thought he would be at the pre-inaugural event. They were very enthusiastic about the museum and when they left we thought we had it. But we don't have a large ball-room type of space for dancing. Rosemary Winters noted we should take advantage of this contact, regardless of the outcome. She thought we could perhaps do another party for the Governor-elect or his transition team. She said it would be good to get the people who will be in Springfield working with the new Governor familiar with the Museum. Bonnie noted we do need to get them into the Museum. She said she thought that if Barry MacLean comes to the inauguration, we might be able to get some of the Governor's team to come to the Museum. Dr. Butler suggested hosting some sort of sub-event. Guerry added we might be able to host another legislative reception, but that we would need to wait until we know who will be working in the new administration. Dr. Neuling asked where the event was going to be held. Bonnie said she does not know, but suspects it could be the Presidential Museum. Dr. Neuling said the Governor-elect is going to be very busy and he suggested reaching out to the transition team to issue an invitation to the Governor-elect's wife. Rosemary noted we should not let those leads go cold.

7. Dickson Mounds Museum Update – Dr. Michael Wiant

Dr. Michael Wiant noted the work is continuing on the exhibitions at Dickson Mounds Museum with the help of Paul Stromdahl and his team. Paul Countryman and Kirk Johnson have been commuting to Dickson Mounds regularly. Most of the major construction is complete. He said the cabin is complete as well as the islands in the Emiquon Gallery and the fish pond. The openings of the exhibitions will be staggered to take full advantage of each one. He said the American Settlement exhibition will probably be the first to open. He added these will be great spring and summer events. He said he thought the Emiquon Gallery would open in the summer. He said the film crew is now editing the capstone film to be shown in the Emiquon Gallery.

8. Science Section Update – Dr. Eric Grimm

Dr. Eric Grimm reported Dr. Tim Cashatt recently had surgery but that he is on the mend and should be returning to work soon. He noted that Tim was being honored for 45 years of service at DNR. Dr. Grimm said he had just returned from providing two short courses for students at the Australian National University and the Melbourne University. The courses covered using the software he wrote to upload data to the Neotoma Paleocology database. He said there were more than 40 who attended the courses. Dr. Grimm reported that Dr. Chris Widga is active with his NSF project getting dates from mammoths/mastodons throughout the Midwest. Bonnie added that Dr. Widga just submitted a proposal to IMLS to continue the development of the Virtual Illinois smartphone application. The application delivers geographically based information on historical and cultural sites throughout Illinois. She said development of the framework was funded by IMLS through a Sparks innovation grant.

9. Art & History Section Update – Jim Zimmer

Jim Zimmer reported that he, Dr. Styles, and Angela Goebel-Bain met with John Prown of the Chipstone Foundation to discuss reformatting the think tanks for the new history exhibition for ISM-Springfield. He said Chipstone suggested that members of our team go to the participants. The first think tank will tentatively be in Madison, Wisconsin, where we will meet with Bill Cronin and others from the University. The second event will be scheduled in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota, where we will meet with the Minnesota Historical Society and the Minneapolis Institute of Art. He said an additional think tank would be held in Chicago with details to follow. He said Chipstone plans to fund these trips. The meetings will be beneficial to formulating our exhibition plan as we go along. He reported we also resubmitted a planning grant to the National Endowment for the Humanities. He said we should know the outcome in April. The funds, if awarded, would largely go toward the funding of the roundtable discussions. These roundtables would be held around the state to collect information from various people of different backgrounds. The collected data would then be used for the exhibition and for future programming. In preparation for that, we conducted a test roundtable with our partners the Illinois Humanities Council and the Illinois State Historical Society. The roundtable was held at ISM-Springfield on December 4 in the Mary Ann MacLean Resource Room. He said it was a huge success. The group included folks from different backgrounds, different ages, and different interests. The participants were sent the questions ahead of time that were then discussed at the meeting. He said the responses were amazing and the group members were very forthcoming. Many came prepared with written notes. Guerry asked how many attended. Jim said there were 15 not including staff. Staff members were only there to observe. Bonnie gave an overview of the Museum, Angela discussed the new exhibition, and Matt Meachum from the Illinois Humanities Council served as facilitator. He said another test roundtable would be held in Chicago in January of 2015. He said we plan to bring in people of varying ethnic backgrounds for the discussion. He added we want to remain in contact with the participants and have asked for permission to contact them in the future.

Jim reported the Museum has loaned 15 pieces to the Peoria Riverfront Museum for its exhibition *Impressionism Into Modernism*. He said we will be loaning about half of our Manierre Dawson collection to a traveling exhibition at the Muskegon Museum of Art and the Kalamazoo Museum of Art in Kalamazoo. We are also loaning some of our models to the Elgin Community College and our Sheldon Peck painting and other folk art pieces for the *Early American Folk Art: Central Illinois* exhibition at the Tarble Art Center at Eastern Illinois University. The Museum will also loan a number of paintings to another exhibition at the Peoria Riverfront Museum entitled *Making Their Mark* on women artists from the 1940s and 50s. In 2016, we will also be loaning some of our Ted Halkin and John Burger pieces to the Smart Museum of Art in Chicago.

10. Illinois Artisans Program and External Affairs Update – Dr. Bonnie Styles

Dr. Styles reported we had very successful art sprees at the Chicago and Springfield locations. Sales were outstanding. She said the First Friday events at the ISM-Springfield have been very successful and are drawing in both old and new audiences. Many participants are taking advantage of viewing the exhibitions. At the last First Friday event, a good number of individuals looked at the art exhibitions on the second floor. The focus on local foods and breweries has been very well received. Eric noted the events are bringing in lots of younger people. Rosemary Winters asked how the events were promoted. Bonnie noted the event is open to the public and is promoted online and in local papers. We have a cash bar and light hors d'oeuvres. Bonnie noted the average attendance at these events has been around 450. The Art and Science of Craft Beer First Friday drew around 750 and included the launch of new exhibitions. Dr. Styles added that Carolyn Patterson had reported that the attendance for the Southern Illinois Art & Artisans Center's art spree this year was not high. We continue to struggle with drawing people to that facility. Dr. Butler noted the location makes it tough, and there is an active museum program out of Mt. Vernon.

11. ISMS Report – Guerry Suggs

Guerry Suggs reported the ISMS Trustees were active in approving projects from the *1877 Fund* at the last meeting on October 30. He said the Trustees approved \$2,500 for the expansion of educational programs at Dickson Mounds Museum, \$5,000 for the First Friday events, \$3,525 for the artisans' demonstrations for museum programs, \$5,000 for promotion and marketing for the Museum System, \$10,000 for professional development, and \$5,075 for completion and training for the new Society accounting database. Those grants total \$31,000, which leaves more than \$20,000 in the *Fund*, \$21,106.69 to be specific. He noted we had a good year last year raising money for the *1877 Fund* and we are using those dollars to do things we can't do otherwise. He also said it's important to pass on this type of information to the transition team so they understand what the Society does for the Museum system. He said we've been very successful with fundraising, and letters for this year have just gone out. Bonnie added the *1877 Fund* also supported two Dickson Mounds projects prior to the last meeting. Guerry said those included the wall size murals for the Emiquon Gallery at \$10,000 and the design for Native American history exhibition for \$2,000. He said those two projects were approved by the trustees in between meetings. He said the *1877 Fund* has been a great program for us, and we should continue to develop that. Bonnie said that beyond the *1877 Fund*, we have discussed internally the need to ramp up fundraising for larger projects such as the Green Parking lot and the ISM-Springfield expansion. We are funding only small projects with the *1877 Fund*.

Rosemary Winters suggested it would be good to form a committee to explore ways to raise larger sums of money given the continual funding issues we face. She said we might be able to do these larger projects that might require us to raise at least \$6 million or more. If we have a good plan and utilize staff expertise I think it would allow us to do more of the things we want to do for this Museum. She proposed we form a committee to create a plan and inspire others to give. She suggested a deadline of the bicentennial to raise these funds. Guerry concurred it would be a good idea and we would be happy to have any volunteers. Rosemary said she would volunteer. Guerry asked Mary Jo Potter to volunteer also. Mary Jo said she would be glad to volunteer. She said we need to determine where the fund would reside. Guerry said the funds would have to reside with the Society, but could be separate from the *1877 Fund*. Guerry also suggested we contact Loretta Durbin for support because she has been involved with the Society and would be helpful from a Congressional standpoint. Dr. George Rabb said he thoroughly supported the committee and hoped there would be follow through. He added he thought the bicentennial would be a natural marketing platform for a capital campaign to expand the ISM-Springfield. He added he thought there should be immediate action to acquire the parking lot in its entirety. He said he also thought the capital campaign should be on a challenge basis, that is, we expect the State to contribute as well. Not just the private sector. He said that will require much more collaborative work with the legislature and others. We may need to solicit board members from the private and business sector. Dr. David Sokol noted the state has a long history of funds being raised to provide funding relief like the lottery. He said we need some strategy for getting new funds without losing funds from other areas of the state budget. Guerry noted the large projects will not be funded by the state. So we need to look to the Society to raise and hold these funds. Bonnie reported the *Mary Ann MacLean Play Museum* was funded from both private and public funds. She said she put some of that wording in the transition document. She said she met with the IEPA on the green parking lot and they were very positive

about helping to fund it but the property has to be acquired before we can get a grant to develop it. She said the problem is getting the state to acquire the property. She said she thought there would be numerous funding entities interested in a green parking lot project. Guerry noted the other issue with the parking lot is we have put forth some numbers on the costs but we don't have a sense of where the owners are in terms of the land sale price. He said we need to get a better idea of what the total costs would be. The numbers currently range from \$947,000 for 50,000 square feet to \$1.8 million for 94,500 square feet. Bonnie added the development numbers are based on Paul Stromdahl's estimates, but the acquisition costs have never been negotiated. DNR would not negotiate with the owners unless Director Miller made it a high priority for DNR to buy it. The project was never made a high priority. She said we think the price would come down because the land has been sitting for years. They do not want to subdivide the land; they want to sell it all. Rosemary said if we got the ISM-Springfield expansion, then we would need that extra parking. Bonnie said the interesting thing in working up the transition document is that it appears the green parking lot and park would be far less expensive than expanding the underground parking (which was proposed in the original planning for the expansion). She added that after 9/11, expansion of the underground would no longer be considered as a good idea because of security issues. Rosemary suggested the committee meet as soon as the holidays are over and welcomed all the board members to participate. Guerry said he thought we should also approach people outside of the board.

12. Old Business

There was no old business.

13. New Business

Bonnie noted the dates and locations for the 2015 Board meetings are listed at the bottom of the Agenda, and we will be meeting in Lockport in September.

14. Adjourn - Guerry Suggs

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:41 a.m.

Approved:

Guerry Suggs, Chair

Date

Lorin Nevling, Secretary

Date