

**Illinois State Museum
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
10:30 a.m., December 10, 2018
Research & Collections Center**

Attending: Chair Dr. Lorin Nevling, Vice Chair Mr. Leo Welch, Board members Donna Sack, Beth Shadur (by phone), Dr. David Sokol, Mr. Roger Taylor (by phone), and Rosemary Winters; Museum Staff Ms. Karen Everingham, Interim Director Robert Sill and Dr. Michael Wiant; Department of Natural Resources Staff Mr. Chris Young.

I. Call to Order

Dr. Lorin Nevling called the meeting to order at 10:38 a.m.

II. Roll

Ms. Karen Everingham called the roll and a quorum was present. Dr. Nevling asked for a motion to permit Ms. Beth Shadur and Mr. Roger Taylor to participate by phone. Mrs. Donna Sack so moved, Mrs. Rosemary Winters seconded, and the motion carried.

III. Approval of the Minutes

Dr. Nevling asked for a motion to approve the September 17, 2018, Board minutes. Mrs. Winters so moved, Mrs. Sack seconded, and the motion carried. Dr. Nevling asked for a motion to approve the November 5, 2018, minutes. Mrs. Sack asked for more detail with regard to Mrs. Winters remarks on advocacy, and that her comments on the strategic plan with regard to the Museum focusing more on history included the need to be inclusive. Dr. David Sokol made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, Ms. Shadur seconded, and the motion carried.

Dr. Nevling shared a list of the Governor Elect's Education Success Committee and asked Board members to identify any persons they know.

IV. DNR Report

Mr. Chris Young reported that he, Interim Director Robert Sill and Mr. Mark Pence met with a web developer company called 2 Wave to discuss digitizing collections. He added that this was informational, but that the Museum should move ahead with the project. Mrs. Winters noted there may be corporate support available to support. Mr. Sill reported that there are IMLS grants for digitization projects and that staff will be looking into those. Mrs. Sack said given the multi-disciplinary nature of the Museum's collections, grants and funding could come from the National Science Foundation or other groups that support specific areas like science.

V. Director's Report

Mr. Sill thanked the both Boards, the staff, and the team that put the strategic plan document together. He said it was a tremendous effort by Dr. Wiant, Mrs. Tracy Peirceall, Mr. Chris Young, Ms. Karen Everingham, and Dr. Brooke Morgan.

Mr. Sill said there are additional new hires that will be covered in the Personnel Committee report. He said that he and Ms. Everingham put together an introductory and educational packet for the new administration transition team including the economic and educational impacts of the Museum.

He noted attendance is up from last year by about 11,000, and school groups are booking for the spring.

He reported the Museum has a number of building issues that are being addressed. ~~He said a~~ A meeting has been arranged with the Capital Development Board (CDB) and the Secretary of State (SOS) to discuss parking for the Museum. He said SOS has installed an impressive new humidification system, and a new drain line. He said the building is being well cared for by SOS. He added that meetings continue with Central Management Services (CMS) on the repairs and equipment needed at Dickson Mounds, but with little progress. A list of items that fall under CMS's responsibility has been established.

Mr. Sill said the Museum continues to engage in numerous partnerships with other museums and organizations including the Elmhurst Art Museum, City of Lockport, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, Springfield and Central Illinois African American Museum, Springfield Art Association, Lincoln Land Community College and many others. The Museum has shared artifacts, programs and exhibits with museums in New York and Paris.

He noted that he and Ms. Everingham continue to meet with museum and historic sites leaders in the central Illinois area. The Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau is also represented at the meetings. The group discusses tourist and marketing strategies, possible collaborations, and ways to leverage our collective voice.

Mr. Sill reported that the *Harvesting the River* exhibition curated by Curator Emeritus Dr. Robert Warren opened in the Hot Science Gallery. The exhibition covers the pearl button industry and its effects on natural resources and mussels. An exhibit highlighting the work of regional artist Brown Goodwin has been opened at Lockport and the *Toy Box* exhibition curated by Lockport Gallery Director John Lustig will open at North Central College in Naperville.

VI. Strategic Plan

Dr. Nevling noted the final draft of the strategic plan had been sent to the Board for consideration. He thanked everyone for their comments, but particularly Ms. Karen Everingham, Dr. Brooke Morgan, Mrs. Tracy Peirceall, Dr. Michael Wiant, and Mr. Chris Young. He asked Dr. Wiant to lead the discussion.

Dr. Michael Wiant asked that the group bring any questions or issues to the attention of the group. He said there is still work to be done before the due date. The Final Report also needed to be completed outlining how the Museum has addressed the findings of the Accreditation Team. Work on that document would begin immediately following the meeting. The Appendices of the document include a list of accomplishments for 2018, tactical plan progress, and the process by which the staff have addressed the various issues. Dr. Nevling noted the Appendices were quite powerful. He found the section on the Museum's statutory obligations was particularly relevant and praised the addition of the Museum's Research Associates.

Mrs. Sack highly recommended carefully considering the language used with regard to re-establishing the Chicago and Southern Illinois locations. She said that as the Museum considers its future and state-wide presence, that those plans may run contrary to getting more deeply into all places in Illinois. She said the Museum should give itself breathing room to broadly explore this issue. She added that with regard to the paragraph on the group working on potential funding

sources, she would change the word “panel” to a “working group”. She said a panel sounds too short term for work that will be ongoing, and that the Accreditation group would be looking at that very carefully.

Dr. David Sokol said he was very pleased with the changes to the evaluation section. He added that he felt that a Chicago presence was imperative, but understands and agrees with the larger outreach goal of the Museum as articulated by Mrs. Sack. Dr. Nevling asked if there would be any change with regard to the James R. Thompson Center with the change in administration. Mr. Young said he didn't know, but given the maintenance issues it isn't good to speculate. He said it was important that the Board not assume anything. Mr. Leo Welch said he believes that a strategic plan is a working document and changes could be needed in response to circumstances. Mrs. Winters expressed her support for a Chicago venue, but that the Board should remain open minded with regard to a state-wide presence. Ms. Shadur commented that the Chicago space was dedicated to showing Illinois artists, and that the Museum needs a brick and mortar location in Chicago. She said the art community really misses that facility. She expressed concern regarding softening the language with regard to Chicago. Mr. Sill said that the Chicago Gallery was the primary conduit through which the Museum has cultivated art collections. He said artists that have exhibited at that Gallery often gift the Museum some of their finest work. He added those gifts are critical without money for acquisitions. Mrs. Sack said she was not suggesting we eliminate the language regarding the presence, but to keep in mind that it may take a different form.

Mrs. Sack said that somewhere in the plan should state that diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion are a core value of the Museum. She added that these are a key focus of AAM, and something that the Museum should too.

Dr. Wiant shared a summary of the comments including looking at the language regarding the Chicago and Southern Illinois presence, change the name of the group working on funding, and add a statement affirming diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion as a core value of the Museum.

Dr. Nevling asked for a motion to approve the strategic plan and its submission to the American Alliance of Museums. Mrs. Sack so moved, Mr. Welch seconded. Dr. Nevling asked for a roll call vote. Ms. Everingham called the roll vote and the motion was approved unanimously.

VII. Personnel Committee Report

Mr. Roger Taylor reported that the committee consists of Dr. Sokol, Mrs. Sack, and himself. He said that two candidates had been recommended and approved for hire by the committee. The two candidates are Amanda Bryden for Registrar of History and the Historic Sites, and Miranda Yancy Bailey for the Archaeological Site File Technician. He asked that the Board ratify the hires. The recommendations were approved.

Mr. Taylor said there is a candidate to be interviewed for the Dickson Mounds Director next week. He also reported that the Museum Director position has been posted on the State's website and other websites. He asked what should be done with the applications. He suggested adding a few persons to the Search Committee to evaluate the applications and recommend those that warrant further consideration. Ms. Everingham said someone should be designated to receive the applications initially and then disperse them. Mr. Sill concurred and noted that some staff have asked for clarification on the process. He said the staff really enjoyed meeting the candidate last time. Dr. Sokol agreed that staff should have that opportunity. Mrs. Sack made a motion to go into executive

session to discuss the Director Search. Rosemary Winters seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The Board went into Closed Session at 11:35 a.m. until 11:59 a.m.

Mrs. Sack moved that initial screening will be done by Tammy Wheeler, Chris Young, Elizabeth Bazan, and Mark Pence. The interview committee will consist of the personnel committee and Elizabeth Bazan, Mark Pence and Chris Young. On the tour with candidates one member of the personnel committee should attend. Dr. Sokol seconded, and the motion carried.

The Board broke for lunch at 12:01 p.m. and reconvened at 12:26 p.m.

VIII. Metropolitan Outreach Working Group

Dr. Sokol reported that he recalled reading that the sale of the James R. Thompson Center (JRTC) was off the table. Dr. Brooke Morgan confirmed she had read the article as well. Mr. Young said again that the Board shouldn't speculate. Dr. Sokol said he made an appointment to talk to Representative Camille Lilly who is also chair of the Museums, Arts, & Cultural Enhancement Committee to discuss support for the Museum in Chicago. Dr. Sokol said there are issues with the space at the JRTC, but it is much better than nothing. He added that agreed with Mr. Sill and Ms. Shadur regarding the value of the space with regard to collecting and exhibiting art. Mrs. Winters concurred noting the opportunity should not be ignored and doesn't exclude looking at other options. Ms. Shadur also concurred adding that space in the metropolitan region is difficult to find and it make take considerable time to secure a location.

IX. ISMS Report

Mr. Mark Pence reported the Society is looking to expand its role in assisting the Museum. He said the Society Board is moving forward with six goals that have been endorsed and approved by the Board. Those goals are to create a strategic plan, engage in advocacy with various officials on behalf of the Museum, re-establish a retail presence in Springfield, expand membership, increase funding support, and embark on an endowment campaign.

Mr. Pence noted he would like to plan a joint meeting between the Society and State Board of Directors. The meeting will afford the opportunity to engage in deeper discussions. Dr. Sokol inquired about the gift from Dr. George Rabb and the plans for Society personnel. Mr. Pence reported that the Personnel and Development Committee of the Society is looking at hiring a development person.

XI. Old Business

Dr. Sokol noted that there are openings on the State Board that need to be filled, and that more diversity is needed. Dr. Nevling reminded the Board to complete their ethics training by the due date.

XII. New Business

Dr. Nevling reported there was a deaccession request on the table. Dr. Morgan said in order to comply with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act the Museum asks for the deaccession of a set of human remains. The remains are culturally affiliated with the Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes, Montana; Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, South Dakota; Lower Brule Sioux Tribe, South Dakota; Oglala Sioux Tribe, South Dakota; Rosebud Sioux Tribe, South Dakota; and Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, North and South Dakota. Dr. Nevling also noted that Dr. Morgan was asked to accompany the remains on their return. He said these types of requests don't happen often

and Dr. Morgan should go. Dr. Sokol made a motion to approve the deaccession, Mrs. Winters seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Dr. Nevling reminded the Board of the 2019 Board meeting schedule. He said the March meeting will be held in Springfield.

XII. Adjournment

Mr. Welch moved to adjourn the board meeting, Donna Sack seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:54 p.m.