

**ILLINOIS STATE MUSEUM
BOARD MEETING
December 11, 2017, 10:30 a.m.
ISM-Research & Collections Center
1011 E. Ash St. Springfield, IL**

MINUTES

Attending: Chairman Dr. Lorin Nevling, Vice Chair Mr. Leo Welch, Secretary Dr. Brian Anderson, Board Members Mrs. Donna Sack, Ms. Beth Shadur, Dr. David Sokol, Mr. Roger Taylor, Mrs. Rosemary Winters and DNR Representative Mr. Chris Young; ISMS Representative Mrs. Sandy Bauer; Staff Members Ms. Karen Everingham, and Dr. Michael Wiant.

Call to Order - Dr. Lorin Nevling

Dr. Lorin Nevling called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m. He said this was Dr. Michael Wiant's last meeting as Interim Director. He commended him for his leadership and service.

2. Roll Call - Ms. Karen Everingham

Ms. Karen Everingham called the roll. A quorum was present.

3. Approval of Minutes of August 8 and September 11, 2017 Board Meeting - Dr. Lorin Nevling

Dr. Nevling asked for a motion to approve the minutes of August 8. Mr. Leo Welch moved to approve the minutes, Mrs. Rosemary Winters seconded, and the motion carried.

Dr. Nevling asked for a motion to approve the minutes of September 11. Mr. Welch moved to approve the minutes, Dr. David Sokol seconded, and the motion carried.

4. DNR Report - Mr. Chris Young

Mr. Chris Young reported that he had been working with Dr. Wiant on the critical hires for the Museum and fiscal issues. He noted the staff were involved in creating a strategic plan as part of the Communications committee work.

He added he and Museum staff were working diligently on the Bicentennial website including photos, label and descriptive copy, and processing submissions from other museums. He said that roughly one-third of the total objects to be part of the website had been photographed.

5. Director's Report - Dr. Michael Wiant

Dr. Wiant reported that work was being done on the Museum's accreditation. The Museum remains on probation pending the submission of the strategic plan and other documents that are due April 25, 2018. He said the heart of the issue is the strategic plan. He said the first step is to appoint a Blue Ribbon Panel of Board and Society Board, legislators, museum professionals and community leaders. He said the plan must have a state-wide focus along with programmatic goals and look at our satellite locations as well.

Mr. Chris Young reported that he had begun going through the documents to pick out the criticisms and address those issues. He said we should develop specific questions for the panel to keep them focused. He added that the first panel discussion was not very helpful. He asked the Board how they want to proceed regarding the panel. Dr. Nevling noted that the first meeting was

all over the place and many comments were made based on inaccurate understanding of how the Museum functions. He said he didn't find the meeting satisfactory. He also noted he thought who chaired the meetings was very important. Dr. Wiant suggested he prepare a brief document on the "State of the Museum" to provide background and other critical information to the participants. Dr. Nevling agreed such a report would be useful. Dr. David Sokol said the issues raised by the AAM team need to be addressed in context.

Mr. Young stated the panel needs to be created very quickly after the New Year and we need to outline a plan for Board input and approval of materials for the panel. Dr. Brian Anderson suggested a small group of Board members review and approve the documents for use by the panel. Ms. Beth Shadur said she felt strongly the process should look at statewide impacts of the Museum at its satellite sites as well as awareness of the Museum in these communities. Mr. Leo Welch agreed that awareness of the Museum and the extensive work of its staff should be examined. He added he doubts that many in the legislature or potential panel members are aware of the accomplishments of the staff. He said this is also an opportunity to raise awareness. Mrs. Sack said she believed more than one meeting is needed and that we be open to what constituents want from a State Museum. She said we may look very different in the future and we should be open to that input. The Board discussed ways to accomplish the necessary public input for the strategic plan including mailings, online surveys, listening tours and meetings. Dr. Nevling suggested we proceed with the meeting and from that meeting we frame a new set of questions. Future meetings would address the particulars from there. Dr. Wiant noted the conversation was a good one but that we have a deadline in front of us. Mr. Welch said the bottom line is we must justify our existence and we must keep legislators—the decision makers—involved. Dr. Nevling called the discussion to a close.

Dr. Wiant reported we have hired a librarian, a visitor services associate, and a decorative arts curator. First round of hires included the curator of education and a curator of anthropology. Both have been re-posted, the educator because the top candidate declined and the anthropology position due to unsatisfactory candidates. Next hires on the slate are an anthropology registrar, museum technician for education, art registrar, and a marketing and communications person. Then a visitor services associate for Dickson Mounds and Museum. He added the 60-day emergency hires have been suspended except two.

Dr. Wiant told the Board that Mr. Alves, the building owner where the Lockport Gallery is housed, has not been paid yet. He said he is working on a contract for \$3,000 a month for three years and he will present it to DNR.

6. Director Search/Personnel Committee – Mr. Roger Taylor

Dr. Wiant asked to go into Executive Session for the discussion of the director position. Mrs. Sack moved to go into executive session, Rosemary Winters seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

The Board went into executive session at 11:32 a.m. The Board returned to regular session at 12:16 p.m.

Dr. Nevling asked for a motion to move forward with the director contract. Dr. Anderson so moved, Mr. Welch seconded, and the motion carried.

Dr. Nevling asked for a motion to approve Robert Sill's promotion to Interim Director / Section Head II effective January 1, 2018, not to exceed one year. Dr. Sokol so moved, Mr. Welch seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Mr. Roger Taylor moved to dissolve the Director Search committee, Dr. Sokol seconded, and the motion carried.

7. Metropolitan Outreach Working Group – Dr. David Sokol

Dr. Sokol reported that Society Board member Robert Krawczyk expressed interest in joining the Metropolitan Working Group and Dr. Sokol extended an invitation to do so. Dr. Sokol has not received a response. Dr. Sokol concluded that the group will continue to explore opportunities, but the lack of a budget hinders the progress.

8. ISMS Report – Mrs. Sandy Bauer

Mrs. Sandy Bauer reported that the Society Board was experiencing a great deal of turn-over of members which presented hurdles to cohesion. However, she noted that the Chair Dr. David Steward has done a terrific job moving the Society Board forward. She said membership is holding steady and the MacLean Educator position is funded and moving forward.

9. Old Business - Dr. Lorin Nevling

Dr. Nevling noted there remain two vacant positions on the Board and asked members to seek out candidates.

10. New Business - Dr. Lorin Nevling

Dr. Nevling said Dr. Alan Harn's extensive manuscript is ready to be formatted and published. He added it is also being privately funded.

Dr. Nevling noted that at the March 2018 meeting officers will be elected for two-year terms. He asked for direction on the process of electing officers. He said the current officers are himself as Chair, Mr. Welch as Vice Chair, and Dr. Anderson as Secretary. Dr. Nevling suggested a secret ballot. Dr. Sokol suggested nominations be send to the Personnel Committee and ask Roger to present to the Board at the March meeting.

11. Adjourn - Dr. Lorin Nevling

Dr. Nevling asked for a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Sack so moved, Ms. Shadur seconded and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 12:32 p.m.

Approved:

Dr. Lorin Nevling, Chair

Date

Dr. Brian Anderson, Secretary

Date