

**ILLINOIS STATE MUSEUM
BOARD MEETING**

June 6, 2019; 10:30 a.m.
ISM-Research & Collections Center
1011 E. Ash St., Springfield, IL

Board Minutes

Attending: Chair Dr. Lorin Nevling, Vice Chair Leo Welch participated by phone; Secretary Dr. Brian Anderson; Board members Mrs. Donna Sack, Ms. Beth Shadur, Dr. David Sokol, Mr. Roger Taylor, and Mrs. Rosemary Winters; Museum Staff Ms. Cinnamon Catlin-Legutko, Mr. Robert Sill, Ms. Karen Everingham, Dr. Brooke Morgan; Department of Natural Resources Staff Mr. Chris Young.

I. Call to Order

Dr. Lorin Nevling called the meeting to order at 10:29 a.m. The roll call was taken and a quorum was present. Dr. Nevling asked for a motion to allow Mr. Leo Welch to participate by phone. Dr. David Sokol so moved, Mrs. Rosemary Winters seconded, and the motion carried.

II. Director Search/Personnel Committee

Mr. Roger Taylor reported that Ms. Cinnamon Catlin-Legutko was recommended for the position of Museum Director to Director Callahan and she accepted the recommendation. Ms. Catlin-Legutko has accepted the position. Mr. Taylor thanked the members of the Director Search committee including Board members Mrs. Donna Sack and Dr. Sokol; and staff members including Mr. Robert Sill, Dr. Meredith Mahoney, Mrs. Elizabeth Bazan, and Ms. Karen Everingham. He congratulated Ms. Catlin-Legutko and welcomed her to the Museum. Ms. Catlin-Legutko remarked she was incredibly excited, honored and looks forward to working with all. Dr. Nevling declared the dissolution of the Director Search committee with his profound thanks.

III. Approval of the minutes of March 11 and April 26, 2019 Board Meetings

Dr. Nevling asked for a motion to approve the minutes of March 11. Dr. David Sokol moved to approve the minutes, Ms. Beth Shadur seconded, and the motion carried. Dr. Nevling asked for a motion to approve the minutes of April 26. Mrs. Rosemary Winters moved to approve the minutes, Dr. Brian Anderson seconded, and the motion carried.

IV. DNR Report

Mr. Chris Young reported that Director Callahan would like to improve relationships with legislators. He said that Mike Stevens is the legislative liaison and communication is critical. With regard to new legislation, the Director may request position information and will make the final decision on the position of the Agency. When advocating for legislation or filing witness slips, you must do so as a private citizen. Mrs. Sack noted with the new Director coming on it will be important to look closely at advocating for the Museum and the opportunities it brings. She asked if an ad hoc group might be convened to think about what the best ways to facilitate communications with legislators. She said it's important to advocate as a private citizens and from the Department of Natural Resources. Dr. David Sokol indicated he spoke with Representative Camille Lilly from his district and Chair of the Museum, Arts & Cultural Enhancement Committee, but would be sure to inform the Director moving forward.

V. Director's Report

Mr. Robert Sill reported that Governor J. B. Pritzker visited the Museum. He said he mentioned that the Museum needed parking and he showed him the empty lot across the street. The Governor suggested the state should purchase the lot. Mr. Sill said the visit was great and he was very engaged. Each of the Museum exhibits were staffed including Dr. Meredith Mahoney, Dr. Brooke Morgan, Ms. Erika Holst, Mrs. Lorna Shuman, and Mr. Doug Stapleton. Director Colleen Callahan, Karen Everingham, and several of the Governor's deputies accompanied the Governor. The visit to the Play Museum was especially appreciated by Governor Pritzker, who has a great interest in early child development and education. While looking at the "We are Illinoisans," the Governor talked about his ancestors and said he may have some items to donate to the Museum. He was very supportive of the Museum, and all the difficulties and challenges we faced. He noted that his wife is an art collector and is eager to visit the Museum. Mr. Taylor suggested follow up on parking lot with the Governor's office.

Mr. Sill noted the facility issues included a Capitol project put forth by the Secretary of State to upgrade our fire system and the loading dock at the back of the Museum. The water heaters at the Museum are also being replaced. He noted that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Central Management System (CMS) were meeting to discuss the important issues at Dickson Mounds. Mr. Young said Director Callahan is very interested in this issue and has initiated regular meetings to establish the responsibilities of CMS at Dickson Mounds.

Mr. Sill reported that the Thomas Skomski exhibit is a retrospective of his 50 years of work. Summer Camps are kicking off this morning at the Museum beginning today.

Mr. Young reported that the budget for the Museum includes 3.6M from General Revenue for operations and \$100,000 from the Museum's non-GRF admissions fund earmarked for ordinary and contingent operating needs of the Museum. He added that 50M was budgeted for the Public Museum Grant Program and another \$500,000 in bond funds. Mr. Sill asked who would be administering the program. Mr. Young said the DNR Grants department would do so given recent legislation requiring agencies to have a single department that administers all grants. Dr. Nevling noted he was pleased that small museums have access to the Public Museum Grant program. Mrs. Donna Sack said many museums, including Naper Settlement, are waiting for the suspended 2014 grants to be paid.

Mr. Sill finished by inviting the Board members to the members opening of the Skomski exhibit on June 21.

VI. Illinois State Museum Society Report

Mr. Mark Pence reported that he and Dr. Nevling discussed the upcoming joint Board meeting, noting that compliance with the Open Meeting Act needed careful consideration. Dr. Nevling said he thought the issue could be dealt with. He said the State Board would call a special meeting, properly posted, with Society Board members attending as members. He indicated that incoming Director Ms. Cinnamon Catlin-Legutko is very enthusiastic about the meeting. He added that he believes this is the first meeting of both Boards. He said the meeting would begin the work to advance the Museum, with emphasis on Museum fundraising and finance. The Society Board should take the lead

in that process, with the State Board providing input and contacts. Mr. Pence concurred that the roles of both Boards and DNR need to be defined, and he looks forward to the meeting. Dr. Nevling noted the Society board meets at 5:30 p.m. and the State board meets at 10:30 a.m. Dr. Nevling suggested the State board start its meeting later in the day to accommodate the Society board, who likely has younger members. He asked for input from the Board. Rosemary Winters agreed and also suggested a Saturday meeting. Mrs. Sack also agreed that the meeting was critical, especially at this juncture. Dr. Nevling added that fundraising for the Museum will be complex, and the Museum needs to renew its presence in Chicago. Mr. Pence noted the Society is looking into hiring a development person to assist with these efforts. Dr. Nevling noted he has a copy of a paper written by Ford Bell on how museums are financially supported in the United States that he would happily share with others. Incoming Director Ms. Catlin-Legutko noted she was very much in favor of the joint meeting, ensuring it is in compliance with the Open Meetings Act. She hoped to have a work session to develop a development plan to identify roles and responsibilities. She added the plan would need to address both donation and earned revenue, and it is very high on her list. Mr. Pence asked about the press release announcing Ms. Catlin-Legutko's arrival. Mr. Young said it hadn't been addressed due to flooding issues. Mr. Sill noted that we have the Abbey's release to work from. Mrs. Sack noted that the Museum should control the message, and that the Museum community is already aware of her arrival. She emphasized the need to get the release out. Mr. Sill noted the process for the release is slow and needs the Governor's office approval. He said Ms. Karen Everingham is working on a draft and will work with Mr. Young and the DNR to get the press release out. He added Board impact is welcome. Ms. Everingham said she would complete her draft this afternoon and share with the Board and Mr. Young to finalize.

Dr. Nevling noted that the Metropolitan working group continues to seek out venues and opportunities for collaboration. Director Callahan is very interested in raising DNR's profile in that area as well, and will be of considerable help. Mr. Young said DNR had hired a community outreach director for the Chicago region. The Director called Chris to ask how to interface with his office as well as the Museum and assist with finding a location. Dr. Nevling asked Mr. Young to share Dr. David Sokol's contact information with the new community outreach director.

Mr. Pence said the Society's audit had been delayed due to a number of issues, including the process to write off retained shop inventory. However, it is now complete and no issues were uncovered. He said work to open a new Museum shop is underway. He said much of the previous shop's appeal was the items from the Illinois Artisans Program. Given that is now defunct; the committee is looking at what merchandise options. Ms. Shadur noted she was a member of the of the Artisans Program and offered to advise on what might be sold. Dr. Sokol asked if there was a particular criteria for art work. Mr. Pence said the committee was looking at smaller items for children, a moderate price point, and branding items for the Museum. He added the committee would also be looking at art items. He said the space is available to the west of the admissions area, and that the exit for the Museum should go through the Museum shop. Ms. Shadur said that one of the strengths of the Artisans program was that the art work was vetted. Mr. Pence said it would be ideal, but may not be immediately realistic, but acknowledged the popularity of those items. Ms. Everingham noted that the staff that previously handled the program were gone and that the Museum would need to add additional staff. Mrs. Winters added items could be sold on consignment, agreeing that those items were unique. Mrs. Sack noted that the Illinois Arts Council had received \$50M in funding and suggested reaching out to arts community to discuss possibilities for restarting the program or something similar. Dr. Nevling said the Artisans Program helped to develop a gift program from the artists to the Museum. Mr. Sill said the program supported over 20,000 artists over its lifetime, and

supporting those artists is a significant part of the Museum's mission. He concurred that many donations came from program participants, especially because they were invested in the Museum and the program. He added the program was professionally juried by accomplished artists, and highly competitive. Mr. Pence added it was a significant driver of Society membership as well. Dr. Nevling noted that with the Museum's admissions fee, we need to allow for shoppers without requiring entrance to the Museum. Mr. Pence noted that would be possible for the new shop. Ms. Everingham noted the exit and entrance would be in the vestibule.

VII. New Business

Dr. Brooke Morgan reported that the anthropology section had received another deaccession request for human remains including cranial fragments from Cook County. She said the consultation has occurred and the physical transportation planning is underway. She requested approval for the transaction. Dr. Nevling asked for a motion to approve the deaccession. Dr. Brian Anderson moved to approve, Mrs. Sack seconded, and the motion carried.

Dr. Morgan reported that the repatriation trip to Montana to take part tribe's ceremony to repatriate the remains. She said it was an emotional and educational event. The tribe expressed its gratitude for the Museum's care of the fragments and for Dr. Morgan's participation in transporting the fragments. She added the tribe expressed interest in continued communications and advice on the development of their own facility. Dr. Sokol remarked given the history of these issues, is the Museum conducting a systematic review of its collections to identify other items for repatriation. Dr. Morgan said the Museum has conducted the reviews, consulted with various tribes, and been proactive in returning those items. Ms. Shadur asked for information regarding the return of the Australian objects, noting the request that the items only be handled by men. Dr. Morgan explained that she was contacted by Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) regarding the Return of Cultural Heritage Project. In the 1970s there was a catalog published including various Australian cultural collections of which the Museum was part. The small collection was from the University of Chicago that left it with us. They contacted us regarding the anniversary of Cook's landing in Australia in 2020. They are working to link the aboriginal people with their sacred items via photographs. They asked that anything we thought might be sacred be handled by men only. Dr. Morgan ensured respect for their beliefs and recruited Doug Carr, former ISM photographer to assist with the project. She, Mr. Sill, and Mrs. Claire Martin met with researchers from the project via call to discuss progress and planning. The intent is to share the photographs with their communities. Dr. Morgan said a letter of support was written for the program and expressing willingness to return sacred objects. The Director of the program will be visiting the RCC in June to discuss the objects and the program. Dr. Morgan said the project has been very helpful. We have gained information and insights into the objects. Dr. Anderson suggested interactions with regard to the project be captured on video to educate others on the program and the role of museums in the process. He said these kinds of stories are important. Dr. Morgan noted the group is willing to share the stories and photographs of the objects and they intend to do an article on the project. She added that the group was very excited that the Museum is willing to work with them, because other museums have declined claiming ownership of their cultural heritage. Mr. Young said the Museum should seek approval from the group for the video of meetings and interactions. Mrs. Sack echoed the sentiments of the others, and she suggested creating a diary of the process and project. She said the work is very important and a diary would make it very personal and relatable to others. She asked if the Museum had secure and private spaces or storage areas to house sacred objects. Dr. Morgan confirmed that the objects are kept in cabinets that only three persons can access. Dr. Sokol noted their might also be educational

opportunities for students or exhibitions that might prompt young people into the field. Ms. Shadur concurred the human story is compelling, highlights the work of the Museum, and should be shared. Dr. Morgan noted there are no International laws governing repatriation, and very few museums volunteer to return these kinds of items. She said the Museum is building relationships and learning from these interactions. Dr. Nevling said he was pleased to see the interest and importance of dealing with these kinds of objects, and cautioned all to approach these things with the deepest respect.

VIII. Old Business

Ms. Shadur asked if there had been any progress with regard to recruiting Board members. Dr. Nevling noted we are down several members and that we need more diverse candidates. Mr. Young encouraged the Board to contact him so he can push those forward with Director Callahan.

Dr. Sokol asked for follow up on the joint meeting. Dr. Nevling again suggested the September 9 date.

Incoming Director Catlin-Legutko said she is excited to join the Museum, hopes to immediately begin work on an operational plan to implement the strategic plan, evaluate hiring, and discuss with the personnel committee and staff. Mrs. Sack noted that the last time priorities were set they were developed by the staff and then submitted to the Board for consideration and input. Dr. Anderson asked about the number of positions available and how many are currently on staff. Mr. Sill said the current headcount is 38.8 with a total of 51 available. Mrs. Sack noted that any future hires on the list should wait for the new Director's arrival.

X. Adjournment

Dr. Nevling asked for a motion to adjourn. Dr. Sokol so moved, Dr. Anderson seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

Approved:

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Dr. Lorin Nevling, Chairman	Date
_____	_____
Dr. Brian Anderson, Secretary	Date