

**ILLINOIS STATE MUSEUM
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Minutes of the Meeting
June 9, 2014
Illinois State Museum, Springfield**

1. Welcome and Call to Order—Guerry Suggs

The regular meeting of the Illinois State Museum Board was called to order at 10:01 a.m. on June 9, 2014, at the Illinois State Museum in Springfield. Those in attendance were Board Chair Guerry Suggs, Dr. Brian Butler, Dr. Lorin Nevling, Jessica Jagielnik, Mary Jo Potter, Dr. David Sokol, Leo Welch, and Rosemary Winters. Also attending were Illinois State Museum Director Dr. Bonnie Styles and staff members Karen Everingham, Dr. Eric Grimm, Dr. Alan Harn, Carolyn Patterson, Paul Stromdahl, and Jim Zimmer.

2. Approval of Minutes of March 10, 2014, Board Meeting—Guerry Suggs

Guerry Suggs called for additions or corrections to the minutes. Lorin Nevling asked that “Representative” be added before Danny Davis’ name on page three in the second paragraph. Jessica Jagielnik moved that the minutes be approved as amended, David Sokol seconded, and the motion carried.

3. DNR Report—Bonnie Styles

a. FY15 Budget

Guerry Suggs noted that Beth Penesis was unable to attend and that Bonnie Styles would give the DNR report. Director Styles reported that the Governor’s recommended and the doomsday budget did not pass. Instead an essentially level budget was passed. DNR received slightly more than the current year with \$259 million and additional monies for personal services expenses. Not surprisingly the tax issue was put off until next session and likely after the election. The income tax increase of 5% is scheduled to be dropped to 3.75%. If this happens it will make the last half of FY15 difficult as it will result in reductions in the General Revenue Fund.

b. Public Museum Grant Program

Director Styles indicated that all grant applications have been scored and recommendations made to the Governor. The results will be announced soon. Lorin Nevling stated he was on the panel and it was short one member, but included individuals with different areas of expertise. He also commented that the maximum award is \$750,000; \$20 million was available; and the vast majority of applications were funded. He also suggested the matching tiers might need to be tweaked as the distribution among the tiers was skewed, but that proposals continue to improve with each year. Dr. David Sokol inquired as to who has the final say on the grants. Dr. Nevling stated it was the Governor. Director Styles asked if the panel recommendations were generally accepted by the Governor’s office. Mr. Nevling said they were. Mary Jo Potter asked if the ISM was eligible for the program. Director Styles confirmed that all state-funded museums are ineligible for the public museum grant program.

4. Museum Director’s Report—Bonnie Styles

a. FY15 Budget

Director Styles reported level funding is expected for ISM’s FY15 budget. However, the budget bill borrows from special funds that must be paid back in one or two years. This could be problematic because DNR oversees a number of special funds for specific programs. The budget bill that passed shows our FY15 budget at \$6,355,500, which is more than the FY14 appropriation of \$6.1 million. We are still somewhat underfunded, and she assumes we will get supplemental funds from DNR again this year. She added that we really won’t have a good sense of our budget until well after the election, but overall ISM fared well with money allocated for travel and much needed equipment.

Director Styles also reported that House Bill 5466 has stalled in committee. The bill would require that any state agency or constitutional officer responsible for a historically significant artifact owned by the State will ensure that the artifact is properly maintained and held in an environmentally safe area at all times and prohibits loaning or transferring control of historically significant artifacts for any political purpose or event. There was an amendment that makes it somewhat meaningless that added that the bill doesn’t pertain to agencies with a collections policy. Senate Bill 226 passed in both houses on May 30. Initially the bill stated that all items sold in ISM shops be made in America. The amended bill modifies the Department of Natural

Resources Act and the State Park Act and requires that parks and the ISM's shops display items made in America in a special booth or location. The bill also amends the Historic Preservation Agency Act, and impacts their stores in the same way. Governor Quinn is expected to sign the bill, but it will have no major impacts for ISM.

b. Planned Accomplishments for the Next Six Months

Director Styles distributed the list of anticipated accomplishments for the next six months requested by DNR Director Marc Miller. She noted several projects of special importance including the field research at the Morton site; completion of the second season of archaeological field work in collaboration with the National Park Service at the Jameson-Jenkins Lot, the home site of an African-American neighbor of Abraham Lincoln at the Lincoln Home National Historic Site; the National Science Foundation funded work on the relationship of environmental change and extinction during the Ice Age; the creation of the advanced imaging lab at the RCC that will house 3D scanner and printers as well as the Scanning Electron Microscope transferred to ISM by Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville; opening of new exhibitions at Dickson Mounds Museum including the *Under the Prairie* exhibition materials donated by Robert Mazrim and the Emiquon exhibition on the first floor that will serve at the Emiquon interpretive center, and Native American history exhibition examining the War of 1812 and the removal of Native American tribes from Illinois; the new Hot Science Gallery exhibition presenting Dave Bohlen's current research on bird populations in Illinois and the national commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the extinction of the Passenger Pigeon; the launching of the newly renovated temporary|PERMANENT Gallery at the ISM-Springfield with a historical photograph collection celebrating Illinois agriculture and farm life; the completion of the think tanks on the renovation of the ISM-Springfield second floor history exhibits; continuation of the very successful *Taste of Archaeology* program at Dickson Mounds Museum; the Tot Time program at DMM (which drew more than 70 participants), and the launch of the Satur-Play programs that feature hands-on science and art programs for children every Saturday in the Play Museum. Guerry Suggs noted that the Satur-Play programs were funded in part by the *1877 Fund*. Bonnie further reported that with Super Saturday and Satur-Play, the ISM-Springfield now has hands-on programs for children every Saturday.

c. Procedures for Promotions for Unionized Professional Staff

Director Styles reported Museum Techs, Curators, and Section Head Is went into AFSCME in 2011. She stated the Museum is still awaiting a supplemental agreement addressing the relationship between Board policy and the union contract. She advocated we continue to follow the Board policy procedures and information manual (as we have been told to do by DNR) and move forward with a few promotions. Three supervisors followed the process in the board policy manual and put forth promotion packets for three individuals that will be addressed later in the meeting. She noted we were told earlier that anything not addressed in a supplemental agreement would fall back to the Board policy. She stated our policy is very clear with a precise timeline: the employee submits request to supervisor; the supervisor completes promotion packet for the Director in March; the Director makes a recommendation to personnel committee; and the personnel committee brings its recommendation to the full Board in June for approval; and the promotion becomes effective in July. The policy has worked effectively for many years. She further stated the Board should go on record again with a recommendation to AFSCME and DNR that we continue to follow the Board policy because it is based on years of experience and on individuals having the proper qualifications and accomplishments to warrant a promotion. Guerry Suggs stated given the delay in receiving a supplemental agreement the Board should move forward according to its policy. Leo Welch asked what the contract said about salary for individuals seeking promotions. Bonnie Styles said the salary adjustment was determined by the Board and the Director. However, with the AFSCME contract there are now steps for salary increases that are considered. The Board has previously recommended that ISM follow the Board's policy and that it should again make this recommendation. Lorin Nevling noted there has been a failure to act on the part of the union and so we should continue to follow our existing policy.

5. Dickson Mounds Museum Update—Alan Harn

Alan Harn reported the Museum staff members were quite busy preparing the new exhibitions for the September 14 opening. He noted that participation in DMM educational programs has been ramped up due largely to the efforts of Christa Christensen. The DMM archaeology manuscript continues to grow thanks in part to Harn's research assistant. He hopes it will be finished in September.

6. Art and History Update—Jim Zimmer

Think Tank for History Exhibition

Jim Zimmer reported the Chipstone Foundation of Milwaukee has agreed to host a Think Tank in Springfield tentatively on Jul 25-26 to support the development of the second floor history exhibition project slated to open in celebration of 2018 Bicentennial of Illinois. They will fund an internationally recognized group of scholars and experts from various fields to brain storm ways in which the project can meet its fullest potential. The group will meet on the first day and tour the ISM and the RCC. On Saturday morning they will present what they think the museum of the 21st century will be. Bonnie Styles, Angela Goebel-Bain, and I met with Chipstone representatives last month to develop the final lists of Think Tank participants. Chipstone has since contacted William Cronon, Professor of History, Geography, & Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin–Madison; Adam Green, University of Chicago; Lisa Yun Lee, Director of Jane Addams Hull House Museum, Chicago; Henry Hong-Yiu Cheung, IDEO, an international design and innovation consulting firm based in San Francisco; Ben Filene, Director of Public History, University of North Carolina, formerly with the MN Historical Society and creator of “If These Walls Could Talk;” Robert Stein, Deputy Director, Dallas Museum of Art and “Art Babble;” Dana Allen-Geil, University of Wisconsin, Madison; and Angel Ysaguirre, Executive Director, Illinois Humanities Council. The in-house content team for this project has continued to meet approximately every 2 weeks to identify and evaluate potential themes for the exhibition, as well as possible exhibition design and visitor experiences. Several team members attended the annual American Alliance for Museums conference recently held in Seattle. While there, we were able to glean relevant information and ideas from the speakers, sessions, Expo, other attendees, and visits to various institutions. The next content meeting is on Friday.

Exhibitions

Jim noted the temporary | PERMANENT Gallery space on the 2nd floor at ISM-Springfield closed May 2, and renovations began on May 6. New walls, lights, and flooring will transform the space and provide a more sophisticated place to showcase temporary exhibitions of ISM’s permanent collection of fine and decorative arts. As Bonnie mentioned, in celebration of the Year of the Family Farm, the premier exhibition will be *A Rural Lens: Photographs of Frank Sadorus*, opening to the public on Sunday June 22 with a Members’ Preview event on Friday, June 20, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Following that we will show Audubon prints focusing on endangered or extinct species, as well as *Representations of Lincoln* at the beginning of next year in collaboration with the 2015 Lincoln Funeral Coalition. It is a way to plug into other things that are happening, much like the Hot Science Gallery. Jim reported *Fragile Relations: Art + Nature + Environment* opened on March 23 at ISM-Springfield and will continue through August 31, 2014. It was originally shown in Chicago and then Lockport. A few new pieces have been added. The *Focus 4* exhibition opened in Chicago. The reception was held on April 25 and drew almost 400 attendees. *Civil War Quilters: Loyal Hearts of Illinois* opened May 6 in Lockport. There are a number of programs planned to go with the exhibition. There are strong ties with quilting organizations in the area, and it should be a very popular exhibition. I expect to see large attendance. *Pro-Text Art: When Words Enter Visual Art* will open in Chicago in September and is curated by Bob Sill. It will come to Springfield afterwards. *The Art of Description* that premiered in Chicago will open on June 15 at the Southern Illinois Art & Artisans Center.

Loans to Other Institutions

Jim noted we have four works from our WPA collection on loan to Southern Illinois University for the exhibition *New Deal Art Now: A Reframing of the Artifacts of Diversity* opening June 10. David Sokol commented that the Chicago exhibitions and lectures have been well attended and very interesting. Jim noted that each of the four artists will give talks on the exhibition.

7. Research Update—Eric Grimm

Eric Grimm noted the sciences are shifting into field season with excavations at the Lincoln Home National Historic Park site (Jameson Jenkins lot) and DMM. The imaging lab is examining a rare species from Florida. Locals believed the water lettuce (*Pistia stratiotes*) was introduced, but ISM has determined it is in fact native to Florida. It is choking some of the waterways because fertilizers get into the water and thereby increase the number of these plants.

Dr. Grimm noted a substantial amount of routine work is being done including work on the Neotoma database. He has written software to help others update the database and has scheduled several training workshops on its use.

8. Illinois Artisans Program and External Affairs—Carolyn Patterson

Carolyn Patterson reported she continues to participate in the Creative Economy roundtable meetings. The work of those meetings will be presented in a report being put together by Northern Illinois University and then will be given to the Governor. The report will include policy recommendations for supporting the creative economy in Illinois that include all cultural art endeavors, architecture, and a variety of culinary pursuits as well.

Patterson also noted the Illinois Artisans Program and Daily Center exhibitions were well attended and have resulted in a donation of \$5,000 from the Cook County Board to the program for the last two exhibitions. These exhibits have also stimulated sales at the Chicago Artisans Shop. Planning continues for an exhibition of Illinois Artisan work in conjunction with Robert Morris College Gallery and Shelley Lamantia. The College does not have a significant collection of exhibition materials so Patterson, Merideth Lacina, and Shelley Lamantia are meeting to see if there is enough time, talent, and money to put the exhibit together for later in the year.

Patterson stated the Art & Science of Craft Beer First Friday event was followed by Fiesta Friday in recognition of Cinco de Mayo and various cultural organizations in the area. It was also well attended and included salsa dancing in the lobby and a variety of other activities.

Finally, Patterson reported that she had taken Bill Furry of the Illinois State Historical Society to Dickson Mounds Museum to get to know the facility for an article in their publication. Guerry Suggs noted the popularity of the First Friday events and that they are attracting new audiences to the Museum.

David Sokol inquired about the status of HB3836 that proposed a separation of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum and expressed concern about the possibility. Bonnie Styles reported the bill had passed the house, but was not acted on in the Senate. It may be considered next session.

9. Illinois State Museum Society Report—Guerry Suggs

Guerry Suggs reported the Society Board met on May 1. *1877 Fund* grants were approved by the trustees including the Satur-Play programs at \$2,000, the development of a new accounting database for ISMS grant and board accounts at \$9,800, and supplemental Monticello Intern funding at \$3,000 to bring the compensation to a more current level and extend it to a twelve month internship. The Society Board has three members retiring. They are Harvey Stephens, Linda Hawker, and Cindy Davis. The nominating committee has recommended three replacements. They are Mallory O'Brien of Resource One, Maureen Bluhm with Simon Properties, and former Museum and Society Board Member R-Lou Barker. They will be voted on by the membership and seated at the meeting on July 24. Carolyn Patterson reported membership is solid at 1,270 and more money has been raised for the *1877 Fund* than in any other year. Another appeal will be sent soon.

10. Old Business

Dr. Lorin Nevling noted as a matter of protocol, the Board is required to review the release of the executive committee minutes to the public. He noted the Board had not reviewed these in quite some time. He suggested Bonnie make a recommendation on whether to release the minutes. Guerry Suggs recommended they not be released until we have a supplemental agreement with AFSCME. Bonnie concurred with Suggs. Dr. Nevling moved to reaffirm the Board's intention not to release the executive committee minutes at this time. Brian Butler seconded, and the motion carried.

11. New Business

Board Resolution for Alan Harn's Honorary Degree from Knox College

Guerry Suggs said the Board of Directors has a resolution in recognition of Alan Harn's honorary degree from Knox College. Suggs read the resolution and motion as follows:

Whereas, Alan D. Harn has served the Illinois State Museum System at Dickson Mounds Museum for fifty-one years; and

Whereas, Alan D. Harn, an archaeologist and Assistant Curator of Anthropology at Dickson Mounds Museum, has for more than fifty years explored Native American history in the Illinois River Valley and elsewhere; and

Whereas, Alan D. Harn has published more than eighty scholarly essays, articles, and monographs, and presented more than twenty-five papers at professional meetings; and

Whereas, Alan D. Harn has contributed significantly to the development of exhibitions at Dickson Mounds Museum; and

Whereas, Alan D. Harn has been recognized by his peers and colleagues for his contributions to archaeology, Native American history, the understanding of human culture, and the public's understanding of archaeology and culture history; and

Whereas, Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois, citing Alan D. Harn's scholarly contributions to archaeology and Native American history and his contributions to the enrichment of citizens on said subjects, has awarded an Honorary Doctorate to Alan D. Harn, a distinction also received by Abraham Lincoln and Barack Obama, among others so distinguished;

Now, therefore, the Board of Directors of the Illinois State Museum do hereby recognize and celebrate Alan D. Harn's considerable accomplishments and contributions to the Illinois State Museum System and the State of Illinois.

Jessica Jagielnik seconded, and the motion carried. Guerry congratulated Alan, awarded him the resolution plaque, and noted Alan is a pleasure to work with. Alan stated it's been a great fifty years working with all of you. He stated he was so fortunate to step into a new unexplored world every morning and was happy to work with the wonderful people in the Museum. He said you spend your whole lifetime piecing together the images of the peoples of the ancient past and you think by the time you're forty you will have all those pieces put together. However at forty you realize that if you work another 30-40 years you might be able to connect a few dots. It's been an incredible journey, and it continues. He noted when he retires he expects to continue to volunteer at the Mounds.

Guerry reintroduced David's motion to proceed with the Board's policy with regard to personnel matters until such time as a supplemental agreement is received, Jessica Jagielnik seconded, and the motion carried. Guerry turned the meeting over to Jessica Jagielnik, chair of the personnel committee. Jessica reported the personnel committee had reviewed and approved promotion and salary adjustments for three staff members. They are Dr. Chris Widga, Angela Goebel-Bain, and Doug Stapleton from Curator I to Curator II with salary adjustments. As a side bar Jessica indicated that even at these salaries the employees are still drastically underpaid. Guerry asked Director Styles for any comment on any of the candidates. Bonnie stated she received the full packets with all the justifications and the supervisors and staff followed all the procedures exactly as they appear in the Board Policy. She indicated that Chris Widga, currently assistant curator of geology, had done an amazing job documenting and organizing collections. He brought in two grants, which is amazing for a young curator. He has grants from the National Science Foundation and the Institute for Museum and Library Services and numerous publications. Eric Grimm concurred saying Chris is an exemplary curator. Dr. Styles continued adding Angela Goebel-Bain has done tremendous work in our historical collections and curated two outstanding exhibitions. She has brought in a grant from the Illinois Humanities Council and was a major contributor for the proposal to NEH—both for new history exhibits. She

is very solid from a scholarly perspective in history and also a great museum person. Dr. Styles asked Jim Zimmer for comment; he noted both Angela and Doug Stapleton had done a great deal to raise the profile of the organization. Styles commented Doug is the assistant curator of art at the Chicago Gallery. He has done a great job linking the gallery to the college audience and has done an impressive job of building our art collections. He is very skilled at bringing in donations. He is very scholarly in his understanding of art and art history. He is instrumental in keeping the Chicago Gallery moving forward. Zimmer added the Gallery has a staff of two and that Chicago is a real portal for donations to the collection. Doug has outstanding relationships with artists and potential donors. David Sokol noted that he has seen Doug bringing in new constituents from the art community. Jessica also emphasized that Chicago has a staff of only two and in Doug's spare time he assists the Lockport Gallery as well. Finally, Styles noted Stapleton is an artist in his own right with exhibitions in Paris and Chicago. Guerry Suggs indicated the recommendation and motion of the personnel committee did not need a second. He asked for the vote, and the motion carried. Bonnie noted there will be more recommendations for promotions next year and that the current promotion paperwork would be sent to Marc Miller at DNR. She concluded by emphasizing that this information should not be shared outside of the Board meeting or with the employees until final approval comes from DNR. Notification will not come until July per our policy.

Dr. David Sokol asked to return briefly to "Old Business" regarding the status of Board appointments. Guerry Suggs stated all members need to go to the State of Illinois website and file a request to be reappointed as a Museum board member. Director Styles reported receipt of an email from the Governor's office regarding Board appointments. She encouraged all the Board members to go to the Boards and Commissions section of the state website to file. David also noted the Board has one vacancy that needs to be filled especially with a diverse candidate. Director Styles said she would look into who has applied for reappointment and send the link to the website as needed.

Chairman Suggs adjourned the meeting at 11:35 am.

Approved:

Guerry Suggs, Chair

Date

Lorin Nevling, Secretary

Date