

**ILLINOIS STATE MUSEUM  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Minutes of the Meeting  
September 8, 2014, 10:00 a.m.  
Dickson Mounds Museum – Activity 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 September 8, 2014, at Dickson Mounds Museum in Lewistown. Those in attendance were the Board Chair Guerry Suggs, and Board Members Jessica Jagielnik, Dr. Lorin Nevling, Mary Jo Potter, 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, Carolyn Patterson, Paul Stromdahl, Dr. Michael Wiant, and Jim Zimmer.

**2. Approval of the Minutes of June 9, 2014, Board Meeting**

Chairman Guerry Suggs called for additions or corrections to the minutes. Karen Everingham relayed Beth Shea's observation that on page three, under item "c" the first sentence reads: "Director Styles reported that Museum Techs, Curators, and Section Heads went into AFSCME in 2011." It should specify "Section Head Is" as Section Heads II and III are not in the Union. Dr. Lorin Nevling asked that the title of Dr. be added to Alan Harn's name in light of his recent Ph.D. from Knox College. Guerry asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Dr. David Sokol moved the minutes be approved as amended, Mary Jo Potter seconded, and the motion carried.

**3. DNR Report – Beth Penesis**

Beth Penesis said she did not have a report, but that there were issues in the budget office regarding the Museum Grant Program. A number of museums who received grants did not get a signed application back. However, the issue has been addressed and the applications should be delivered soon.

**4. Potential Candidates for the Museum Board**

Guerry Suggs reported there was a list of potential candidates for Board Service who have applied online and listed the ISM as an area of interest. Their applications are in the Board packets. He asked for comments from the Board. Dr. Bonnie Styles noted the Governor's office had contacted ISM regarding the recommendations for the existing open slot and specifically asked that the Board review the online applications. Guerry added that a number of current Board members have received emails regarding reappointment to the Board. He suggested that discussion be held under "New Business." Guerry said he was concerned that the first candidate, Kathleen Alcorn, works for a lobby firm, and noted if she is a lobbyist, that would disqualify her. Bonnie said the application did not indicate she was a lobbyist. She suggested starting with individuals on the list that Board members are familiar with or know personally. She reported that Antoinette Wright looks like a strong candidate on paper, but there are issues there. Lorin Nevling asked if this discussion should take place in Executive Session given that this is a personnel issue. Guerry said he was comfortable discussing with staff present and thought some may know one of the candidates. Lorin agreed to continue the discussion. Leo Welch stated he was familiar with Janice Gilchrist. He said she does not have a good attendance record with the Eastern Illinois University Board of Trustees. Bonnie indicated she was a candidate that was of interest given her background and because of the lack of ethnic representation on the ISM Board. David Sokol noted he thought she would be a good candidate as well. Bonnie asked Leo Welch if she was a relatively new member of the Eastern Illinois Board. He said she was. Bonnie indicated that may have been her first choice and she may not be interested in the ISM Board. David expressed his agreement with Bonnie's assessment regarding Antoinette Wright. He noted the board discussed diversification of the board and that he had made several recommendations, but assumed none of those suggestions were interested or had not been contacted. Bonnie said there had been no contact yet with those candidates David recommended. She asked if other Board Members had recommendations to please put those forward. Guerry said he thought Kathleen Alcorn would be a good Board Member and that he knows her husband. Rosemary Winters said she was impressed with the former Mayor of Waukegan Robert Glenn. Guerry said his concern about him was that the ISM Board was his fourth choice. Beth Penesis said she knows Mr. Glenn, but concurred with Guerry. David Sokol noted Crystal Overton appeared to be a good candidate given her

background in Anthropology and Afro-American Studies. He also noted she worked in the U.S. House of Representatives Chicago Congressional Office and that might be a value to our Board. Guerry also noted she is an African American. Bonnie suggested we call the candidates of interest to determine their continued interest. David said that the two candidates he suggested were diverse and qualified candidates. Guerry said if we have candidates that we think are good we will reach out to them to encourage them to apply. Bonnie stated the two candidates put forth by David were Ronnie Hartfield and Hippolito Paul Roldan. She added that David had suggested contacting Langdon Neal for additional recommendations. Bonnie said she was waiting for the Board to have a dialogue on the candidates before she contacted anyone. Guerry suggested that in addition to the aforementioned candidates Bonnie also contact Kathleen Alcorn and Crystal Overton. He said he would hold off on contacting Mr. Neal for further suggestions until we've talked to those we think might be interested. Bonnie emphasized that we would need to encourage interested individuals who have not yet applied to do so as soon as possible. She said she would follow up with the selected candidates. Beth Penesis suggested the woman who worked on the Museum Grants Review Committee from Harvard and runs a Puerto Rican Cultural Center might be a good candidate. Lorin Nevling said he too was impressed with her. Guerry asked Beth if she would follow up with her to gauge her interest. Jessica Jagielnik also suggested we look at diverse candidates in the corporate field. Guerry reiterated that Bonnie would contact the four candidates of interest.

## **5. Museum Director's Report – Bonnie Styles**

### **a. Update on FY15 Budget Shortfalls**

Dr. Bonnie Styles reported that the FY15 budget looks like more than we got last year (6.1M), however last year DNR was in a position to give us money that came in through the increased fees from their sustainability package. The 6.1M was, however, short and DNR gave us substantial monies to cover contractual expenses. We are short again this year. The lines we have the most issues with are contractual and telecom. Telecom is not as much of an issue as the contractual services line. Fixed costs such as electricity and utilities, and CMS facilities charges are paid from this line. The CMS charges take about 80% of the contractual services line. This hampers our ability to secure advertising, and cover program expenses which also come from this line. Bonnie noted DNR gave us an additional \$700,000 last year, but this year they are hurting too. We are not getting an indication from the fiscal office that they will be able to help us with these issues. She said she is not giving up and will continue to try to get assistance. She reported we went through an exercise to target about \$94,000 in contractual services spending we need to cut. Unfortunately the things that are on the table are things like advertising. We need advertising. People don't just come to events; we really have to promote our facilities. Last year we invested considerably in promotion, but we may have to drop down. The Leadership team discussed preparing a proposal to the *1877 Fund* for some of our key advertising costs. This is a short-term solution. It is not a good long-term solution and we hope we don't have to do that. The Leadership Team also discussed the need to bump up our fundraising efforts and Carolyn will talk a little about that later in the meeting. Bonnie said she remains hopeful DNR will be able to help. They have been very supportive of us. She noted that last year was one of the best years fiscally since she has been director.

### **b. RCC Flooding, Security System, and HVAC Renovation**

Bonnie noted that on August 28 we had what state climatologists are calling a 50-year event in Springfield. We had four inches of rain in two hours and we had moderate flooding in the RCC. We had a quick emergency response by both staff and CMS. She said CMS was fabulous. The engineers were there quickly; they called in extra help, and stayed until 3 a.m. We had great help and curators were able to get things out of boxes that had gotten wet. We did not lose anything. This relates to a city-wide and nation-wide issue with the inadequacies of the storm sewers. Even if we improved our own sewer systems they would run into the city system which is not adequate. This could happen again. The lesson learned is that we should not have anything on the floor. There was an article about the city addressing this in the *State Journal-Register*, but we don't know when that would happen. Guerry noted the city has set aside some money for this issue, but they don't have enough. Dr. Sokol reported that the Des Plaines River has had two 100-year floods in one summer. He said this is obviously an infrastructure problem. Bonnie added that this is a nation-wide problem. No one is prepared for these major rain events and some are linked to global warming.

Bonnie reported the 1990s security system at the RCC was also affected by the flooding. We were down to one functioning exterior card reader and we had a number of doors that locked, but would not alarm. We put

forward an emergency call on that and with Beth's assistance Todd Main agreed we should replace the security system. Bonnie reported that ISM did not have the money, but Manes added it to the list to replace the system. Beth said her understanding was that the bill should go to DNR. Bonnie said once again DNR has stepped up to help us. She also noted the major replacement of the environmental systems in the RCC was underway. We are replacing the chiller and air handling units at the RCC and the major collections ranges. This is also a project that is long overdue. Later Dr. Mike Wiant will discuss projects that will begin at Dickson Mounds Museum that will be paid for by DNR or CDB.

#### **c. SIAAC Soffit Repair**

Bonnie also reported that a longtime problem with soffits at SIAAC will also be addressed thanks to the efforts of Dave Hood. We have been getting good support from DNR on these projects and we are getting good cooperation from CMS as well. She also noted the environmental upgrade project at the RCC was not submitted by ISM, but by CMS.

#### **d. Replacement of Mounts in the *Changes* Exhibition**

Bonnie shared that Paul Stromdahl discovered a pest issue in the *Changes* exhibit. She said we are pretty certain the problem initiated from freeze-dried specimens acquired through Chase Studios when the exhibit opened. A look at the literature reveals these types of specimens are problematic, and we are a bit disappointed that Chase Studios used them. This has resulted in a pretty major infestation, but we have it under control now. We've had to remove numerous small animal mounts and we are looking at replacing those with models. We may indeed use the bulk of our equipment money to replace these mounts. She said there are about 30 – 40 mounts that need replaced. Many of these have already been removed which creates a problem with the interpretation. Panels show the location of certain animals within the exhibit, but they have been removed. She said we feel we need to move quickly on this. Guerry asked if there was any chance of getting Chase to pay. Bonnie said she was doubtful, given that the exhibit opened in 2004. We are very disappointed in Chase Studios. She said that most of staff were not even aware the exhibit had freeze-dried mounts. She said Joe Hennessey may have known, but was not likely aware of the problems with them. Paul Stromdahl has been in communication with Chase Studios and they are sympathetic, but have not offered to cover any of the costs.

#### **e. New Proposal for New History Exhibitions**

Bonnie noted that in late July the proposal we submitted to the NEH for the history exhibition renovations was not funded. The program officer made suggestions and encouraged us to resubmit either in January or August. She said there were not too many substantive comments, but they did suggest we add more on the role of women in history and at ethnic diversity. We took the suggestions and re-drafted the proposal for the August deadline. Guerry Suggs asked when we would know the outcome. Bonnie stated the decisions would be announced in January, and that the grant would provide \$75,000 toward the planning if awarded.

#### **f. NSF Grant for the Digital Archaeological Record Faunal Database**

Bonnie happily reported she and a colleague from Indiana University had received a National Science Foundation grant from the Anthropology program. The lead PI is Sarah Neusius who received her PhD from Northwestern University and is at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Bonnie is the co-principal investigator for the project. It is a two-year project to put together databases that record animal remains at archaeological sites across the eastern U.S. into the digital archaeological record and then do a test research demonstration of the utility of the database. Our share is about \$75,000 and it will put data generated at the Museum as well as those from colleagues all across the country into the database. We held our first workshop on Friday (September 5), and it was very exciting. The ISM portion will fund a research associate to do the data entry.

Bonnie also reported she met with DNR legislative staff to discuss the rules for the recommended entrance fees. They will not put this forward until January. She said she recommended very simple language that is parallel to that of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum that says the Director will suggest recommended fees with approval from the Board and DNR. She was also told by senior staff at DNR that they are not pushing for implementation. This will give us the authority to do it, but they are not pushing it.

Finally, she reported we had a very successful teacher appreciation event on August 28. The event drew more than 300 teachers and administrators. The event, in its sixth year, exposes teachers to the resources of the Museum, Dickson Mounds, and our other facilities. Val Keener from DNR comes and promotes educational resources of DNR sites as well.

## **6. Science Section Update**

Dr. Eric Grimm reported the new exhibition *Distress Calls: The Birds of Illinois* opened in the Hot Science Gallery to mark the 100th anniversary of the extinction of the Passenger Pigeon as well as the release of H. Dave Bohlen's work "A Study of the Birds of Sangamon County, Illinois, 1970- 2010." He noted the exhibition has a nice mount of a Passenger Pigeon with the narrative on why these birds became extinct. The exhibition also includes a color illustration of a Passenger Pigeon from a rare book entitled the "Natural History of the Carolinas" by Mark Catesby and George Edwards and bones from archaeological sites. Information on species either extinct or nearly extirpated in Illinois such as the Prairie Chicken and species whose populations are growing due to conservation efforts such as the Barred Owl, the Purple Martin, and the Cooper's Hawk are also covered. He encouraged Board members to view the exhibit. Bonnie added the Hot Science Gallery is a great way to tie into bigger events. She said anytime we can connect to larger events it is very positive. Dr. Sokol asked what the feather distribution project is about. Bonnie said it is a long-term project of the ISM led by Dr. Jonathan Reyman. He has established relationships with various Indians in the southwest, primarily Pueblo groups, and he collects feathers from zoos and others to distribute them to the Indian groups for use in the traditional ceremonies. The relationships he has established have been very beneficial for other issues such as NAGPRA. Guerry Suggs pointed out that because some of these feathers are illegal to possess, the ISM had Federal permission.

## **7. Art and History Program Update – Jim Zimmer**

### **a. temporary|PERMANENT Gallery Exhibitions at ISM-Springfield**

Jim Zimmer reported the temporary|PERMANENT Gallery also opened with the Hot Science Gallery and featured *The Photographs of Frank Sadorus* exhibition. Sadorus was a farmer by trade and a photographer by vocation. This exhibition also ties into a larger event: the international year of the family farm (2014). Following this exhibition, *James John Audubon: Extinct and Endangered Species* will open on October 19 and will focus on prints of extinct and endangered species. The next exhibition in the space will be *Remembering Lincoln*, running from February 1-May 10, 2015. This exhibition will be part of the extensive citywide events held in conjunction with the re-enactment and the 150th anniversary of the Lincoln's funeral procession in Springfield. The ISM is one of the partners participating in the 2015 Lincoln Funeral Coalition. The coalition is expecting visitors from all over the world.

### **b. Opening at ISM Chicago Gallery (September 12)**

Jim Zimmer reported *Pro-Text: When Words Enter Visual Art* opened today (September 8) at the ISM Chicago Gallery and will remain open until February 6, 2015. This exhibition, curated by Robert Sill, explores the use of the written work in visual art. The primary focus will be on contemporary artists finding new ways to integrate writing, incorporate letters, or use text graphically to supplement and enhance the viewer's relationship with the visual content. One of the pieces is a boat made of vinyl siding and is pretty spectacular. This exhibition consists of work by 29 emerging and established artists, including individuals from the greater Springfield area. The members opening will be held September 12 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

He noted *Sketches, Journals, Preparations...EVERYTHING IN PLACE* opens in the second-floor Art Gallery in Springfield on Sunday, September 21 and remains through February 15, 2015. This exhibition focuses on artists' preparatory materials—sketches, journals, notes, and objects—that both inspire and document the creative process. Curator Jennifer Jaskowiak will provide brief introductory comments about the exhibition at the members' event on Tuesday, September 30, 5:00-7:00 p.m. David Sokol said the exhibition was very well organized and presented. He said it was very good. Jim said *Fragile Relations: Art + Nature + Science* will have its final showing at the Southern Illinois Art & Artisan Center, opening November 9, 2014, and continuing through March 15, 2015. *The Art of Description* will open at the Lockport Gallery, on November 12, with a members' event on Sunday, November 9, 1:00-2:30 p.m. The exhibition will continue through April 3, 2015. The Art and History Section has received a good deal of publicity from its exhibitions and programs during the past quarter. Of particular note was the attention paid to two Lockport exhibitions: the *Civil War*

*Quilters: Loyal Hearts of Illinois* exhibition and *River Weaving* installed in the Illinois & Michigan Canal between the Norton and Gaylord Buildings in conjunction with the City of Lockport's "Summer Art Series." *River Weaving* consists of over one hundred willow branch arches by artist John Siblik, a native of Lemont. It is a series of 100 arches made of willow branches installed in the canal. When it was first installed there was about four inches of rain and the branches became dislodged requiring re-installation later. Rosemary Winters reported the Summer Art Series was a first and included the *River Weaving* installation as well as some outdoor installations. She said one in particular, on the patio of the Lockport Gallery, made us realize how important that space was and how it could be used in the future. She said the group decided to do Steam Punk again next year focusing on adventures and will have more outdoor artwork. David Sokol said there was a YouTube piece on the *River Weaving* installation as well. Jim commended John Lustig and Jennifer Jaskowiak for their work on increasing outreach to the media including discussions with the *Chicago Tribune*. He added he continues to push for ISM collections to be loaned to other institutions, thereby promoting the treasures of the ISM Fine Art Collection. We are finalizing a sizable loan of 15-20 works from the Museum's Collection to the Peoria Riverfront Museum for the exhibition *Impressionism Into Modernism: A Paradigm Shift in American Art*. The exhibition is scheduled to open September 27, 2014, and run through January 11, 2015. The exhibition will feature several of our paintings and prints from the Works Progress Administration's Federal Art Project collection, two works by Manierre Dawson, as well as other 20th century works. Rosemary Winters noted she heard an advertisement for the show opening in Chicago on WBEC. She said it was very exciting to hear the name of the Illinois State Museum on the radio.

## **8. Illinois Artisans Program and External Affairs Update – Carolyn Patterson**

### **a. 1877 Fund Campaigns**

Carolyn Patterson thanked everyone who contributed to the *Fund*. This year we raised more than \$55,000 making this our most successful campaign on record. She said the *1877 Fund* is critical to our museum and with Bonnie's report on the budget the fund is even more critical. We will need much greater fundraising for this year and we will need lead gifts to get us to where we need to be. She said the *Satur-Play* program, made possible by the *Fund*, has had a major impact on the attendance in the *Play Museum*. She said the money in the fund is available to any program in the museum and is essential to keeping our programs going.

### **b. First Fridays at ISM-Springfield**

Patterson reported the *1877 Fund* was also utilized for the First Friday events that have the goal of bringing in new audiences to the Museum. So far we have had four First Fridays and they have drawn people to the Museum who have never been there. Bonnie added that the *1877 Fund* also supported the Emiquon Gallery exhibit that we will see later. Carolyn noted there are many things that may be cut in light of the budget and there are a variety of things System-wide that the Fund is able to provide. She again thanked the Board members for their contributions.

Patterson reported the Artisans program is preparing to open its third exhibition in the Daley Center in Chicago and the Cook County Board has again provided \$2,500 to offset the installation and pay artist honorariums. The educational portion of the installation, presented by the Lawyers for the Creative Arts in Chicago, will be a workshop on artisan contracts and what artists need to know. The Art Spree will be taken state-wide with sprees in Springfield on the first weekend in December as well as at the SIAAC.

Carolyn noted she recently brought Bill Furry, Executive Director of the Illinois State Historical Society, to Dickson Mounds Museum for a tour. As result, an article on DMM will appear in the next issue of *Illinois Heritage* magazine. It will not be the cover story but the feature and will go out to 7,500 contacts. Bonnie noted it is based on an interview with Dr. Mike Wiant. Carolyn asked if any Board members had questions on anything. Mary Jo Potter noted as a former member of the ISMS board she knows how important it is to support the *1877 Fund* and to give the names of potential donors and businesses for possible gifts to the *Fund*. Carolyn added it is important to have state-wide contacts. Most donors are a small % of the members of the Museum Society. Many donors are not members but wish to support the mission of the Museum.

## **9. ISMS Report – Guerry Suggs**

Guerry Suggs reported the Society had its Board meeting on July 24 as well as a Trustee meeting. New officers Sandy Bauer, Chair; Mark Steger, Vice Chair; Lara Quivey, Secretary; and Lisa Weitzel, Treasurer were

elected to the Board and members Harvey Stephens, Linda Hawker, and Cindy Davis left the Board. Also elected were Board members R-Lou Barker, Maureen Bluhm, Mallory O'Brien, and Susan White. He stated that the firm of Sikich was conducting the Society's annual audit and it should be complete in a couple of months. He said that \$7,925 from the *1877 Fund* went to purchase new computers for the Society stores. Those computers were still Windows XP based, and Microsoft is no longer supporting them.

#### **10. Dickson Mounds Museum Update, Part I – Michael Wiant**

Dr. Wiant said in the interest of time he would be brief and deferred to the group on the issue of visiting the auditorium. He reported that DNR has been very supportive of Dickson Mounds. They have given them \$250,000 to address the water infiltration issues at the facility. In short, he said the building is a steel cage surrounded by concrete slabs. The material that keeps the weather out is caulk. Caulking generally has a life of about six years and the west end of the building is in year twenty. He said they have had the pre-construction meeting for the project which is on the fast track. He also reported that just last week the District Forester came in to examine the forest on the grounds. Many of the trees on the grounds have been here a long time. In the past trees have been allowed to grow up in areas that were not conducive. A plan has been developed with the District Forester to remove non-native trees and replace them with native trees. The non-natives will be cut down for firewood. He also noted that 30 acres of the site were now in hay production which has provided extra revenue. He said he was sorry that Christa Christensen was not here, she had to be away. He said she has taken the strategy to reorganize the educational programs of the site. Bonnie said she thought there was time to go down to the auditorium as planned.

Guerry stated we still needed to address the issue of reappointment to the ISM Board. Bonnie said we mainly need to ask that you all fill out the paperwork you received and get it in. Guerry asked if all the Board members have received the paperwork. All but Dr. George Rabb confirmed they did. Dr. David Sokol asked if they were expected to do the entire packet again. Bonnie said they were and there are two parts to it. Guerry asked the members to coordinate with Bonnie and Karen to get the materials in. He added that Charlotte Montgomery is a notary and she would be able to notarize our signatures. Bonnie said if you want to send your materials to us, we can take care of getting them turned in. She said Karen Everingham would take care of it upon receipt from the Board. Guerry said the forms are expected in three days, so fill them out. Bonnie noted if you send the materials directly to please let us know. Guerry directed the group to adjourn to the auditorium.

In the auditorium Dr. Wiant presented the Dickson Mounds Museum Facebook page and highlighted the educational programs that have been revitalized by Christa Christensen. He said Tot Time continues to draw large audiences. He also showed a video of a voyageur canoe program entitled Nature Trek: Experience a Voyageur Canoe. Participants paddle the Museum's two voyageur canoes on Thompson Lake and listen to stories and presentations by Mike Wiant, Museum Volunteer Re-enactor Bob Grady, and The Nature Conservancy's Doug Blodgett. He added that the program, *A Buggy Night* was well attended and kids had a great time seeing all the bugs appear in the dark next to a white sheet.

#### **11. Lunch with Dickson Mounds Staff**

#### **12. Dickson Mounds Museum Update, Part II**

Dr. Wiant and Kelvin Sampson took the group through the new exhibitions under development in the Museum. Mike reported the new Native American exhibit begins in 1673, the year of first contact, and ends just after the Black Hawk War (1832). The exhibition will highlight the U.S. treatment of Native Americans in the early 19th century as well as the events leading up to the Black Hawk War, the conflict itself, and its aftermath. Kelvin Sampson showed the group the areas for display of native plants and animals as well as the log cabin construction that will house Robert Mazrim's *Under the Prairie* exhibition pieces.

#### **13. Old Business**

Guerry asked if there was any old business. Hearing none he moved to new business.

#### **14. New Business**

Guerry asked for new business, hearing none he adjourned the meeting at 12:33 p.m.