

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

**MINUTES**

**Attending:** Board Chair Dr. Lorin Nevling, Board Vice Chair Mr. Leo Welch, Board Secretary Dr. Brian Anderson; Board members Ms. Beth Shadur, Dr. David Sokol, Mr. Roger Taylor, and Mrs. Rosemary Winters and Mrs. Donna Sack via conference call; Society Board representative Ms. Susan White; ISM staff Director Dr. Michael Wiant, Executive Assistant to the Director and Interim Director of Visitor Services Karen Everingham.

**I. Call to Order**

Dr. Lorin Nevling called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

**II. Roll Call**

Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

**III. Approval of the Minutes of the June 12, 2017 Board Meeting**

Dr. Nevling asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the June Board Meeting. Ms. Beth Shadur moved to accept the minutes, Mr. Roger Taylor seconded, and the motion carried.

Dr. Nevling asked for a motion to go into Executive Session to approve the minutes of the Executive Session of June 12, 2017. Dr. David Sokol moved to go into Executive Session, Beth Shadur seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The Board entered Executive Session at 10:37 a.m.

The Board returned to regular session at 10:47 a.m. Dr. Nevling stated, "Let the record show that the Executive Session minutes of the June 2017 meeting were approved in Executive Session and are to be kept confidential for the present time."

**IV. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Report**

No report.

**V. Director's Report**

Dr. Michael Wiant reported that we now have a budget and we are taking care of past bills and on-going expenses. He said he and Ms. Tammy Wheeler are looking for cost savings and efficiencies. He noted that many of the Museum's library subscriptions have lapsed. He said that librarian Tracy Pierseall has been offered and accepted the position and she will be addressing our subscriptions in light of our budget. He added that books and journals are being culled to reduce duplication. Dr. Wiant offered a description of the Museum's libraries for the Board, noting that the library collections are not accessioned.

Dr. Wiant noted the following hires were underway or completed: Librarian, Ms. Tracy Pierseall; Curator of Decorative Arts and History, Ms. Erika Holst; Office Assistant, Visitor Services, interviews set for September 15<sup>th</sup>, and Curator of Anthropology. With regard to the latter, only one candidate qualified, so position will be re-posted. He said the next hires will include a Museum Technician in Marketing and Communications, Museum Technician in Education, Registrar in Anthropology, Museum technician for the Archaeological Site file work, and Museum Technician in Visitor

Services. He noted that currently Dr. Erich Schroeder has volunteered to work on the Archaeological Site file and will serve as a full-time match for the grant funded position via the DNR Department of Mines and Minerals. This move will free up an additional head count for the Museum.

Dr. Nevling asked for a motion to go into Executive Session to further discuss personnel matters. Mr. Leo Welch move to go into Executive Session, Mr. Taylor seconded and the motion carried. The Board went into Executive Session at 11:21 a.m.

The Board returned to regular session at 11:33 a.m.

Dr. Wiant noted that the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) accreditation team had asked for some additional information, those requests will be addressed and sent on, and the Accreditation Committee will evaluate the Museum's accreditation in October. Dr. Wiant noted the Committee has three options: first, to reject us outright; second, to continue our probation; or, third, to approve our accreditation. He added he would be shocked if the Museum was rejected. He said the team had many good things to say about the Museum and its work under enormous pressure. He expects the Museum will continue to be on probation.

Dr. Wiant reported that the Museum is working with the African American Museum of History in Springfield to produce an exhibit on New Philadelphia and its founder Frank McWorter as well as an exhibit on Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. Wiant noted he has been working on the Museum's relationship with the Central Management Services (CMS) to address issues that have arisen at several Museum facilities. He said he intends to press the matters to move the Museum forward.

Dr. Wiant said the Board's Policy and Procedure Manual needs to be updated to reflect unionization and other changes that have occurred. He said he will go through it and note needed changes with Dr. Nevling for the Board to examine. This includes an examination of the Museum's deaccessioning policy which needs to address State Statutes and current best practices per the AAM.

Dr. Wiant stated he will continue to work on the Museum's parking issue and try to enlist the help of the Secretary of State and others.

Dr. Wiant reported that there are a number of Capital projects that need to be addressed. In particular, the new Visitor Services admission area allows for wind to enter the Museum because it is not a positive pressure building. In turn, this makes the admissions process difficult for the staff due to changing temperatures and the wind. He also noted that the cooling system in the Museum is a pass-through system rather than a re-circulating one which greatly increases water use and costs. Finally, he noted that the Museum has, for the most part, operated independently of the State in terms of its IT functions. He said he believes it is time for the Museum to join the rest of State government in turning that function over to DNR and to the Department of Innovation and Technology (DoIt). He stated that the Museum technology is currently managed primarily by Dr. Schroeder and that if he were to depart the Museum would have serious problems. He said that the Museum has very different needs from the rest of State government; however, he noted that DNR and DoIt have been receptive to this and amenable to working with us. Mrs. Rosemary Winters expressed some concern over surrendering control of the Museum's IT assets. Dr. Anderson also expressed concern and suggested that basic computer software such as Microsoft Office or email could be handled by DoIt, with the rest under the Museum. He added that joint licensing would be a

huge cost savings. Dr. Wiant suggested a determination be put off until December and that he would provide a document summarizing options.

Dr. Wiant said the Board needs to look at its make-up and, perhaps, recruit a member from the corporate community. Ms. Beth Shadur added that the Board desperately needs racial diversity. Ms. Susan White said the Society could provide a few African Americans for consideration based on their work in this regard. Dr. Nevling welcomed this input.

Dr. Wiant also emphasized the need to find alternative funding sources and that the General Assembly would likely be receptive to this in light of the budget issues. He noted that Ms. Everingham had done a great deal of research on this subject that could be redistributed to the Board.

#### **VI. Director Search/Personnel Committee**

Dr. Nevling briefly outlined the hiring process for union, Rutan subject positions and the process in the Board Policy Manual noting that the two are in conflict. Prior to unionization the Board's Personnel Committee in consultation with the Director reviewed recommendations for hires and presented those to the Board for approval. That process is moot in light of union and Rutan titles. Dr. Nevling suggested giving the Director latitude to facilitate these hires and the Board ratify positions moving forward. Dr. Brian Anderson moved to allow the Director to exercise discretion in regard to Rutan hires and searches and report on those at the next Board Meeting, Mr. Taylor seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Dr. Nevling asked for a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss these matters further. Dr. Anderson made the motion, Dr. Sokol seconded, and the motion carried. The Board went into Board Executive Session at 12:47 p.m.

The Board returned to regular session at 1:18 p.m.

#### **VII. Metropolitan Outreach Working Group**

Dr. Wiant distributed a report from Mr. Douglas Stapleton, Curator of Fine Art, on his activities with regard to a Chicago presence. He has been engaged in securing exhibition partnerships in Chicago to highlight the Museum. He will be curating an exhibit in 2019 at the Evanston Art Center under the ISM name entitled *Translations: Collage & Assemblage*. He is also working with Art & History Director Robert Sill to curate three exhibitions for fall and early 2018. He has reached out to the Chicago Cultural Center to see what opportunities might exist with them. Dr. Sokol suggested that the working group be a sounding board for Mr. Stapleton and bring ideas to him. Dr. Nevling agreed that the group should continue to work. Ms. White noted that a Society Board member Robert Krawczyk is interested in the working group. He is located in St. Charles and is associated with BitArt Works. Dr. Sokol welcomed the addition.

#### **VIII. ISMS Report**

Ms. White reported that the Society held its first Cocktails with Curators event at the Research & Collections Center on June 15<sup>th</sup>. She thanked Dr. Nevling and Mr. Taylor for attending. She added that the ISM staff were immensely helpful, in particular Ms. Everingham, and that the Society Board was grateful for the support.

She noted that six of the Society Board members met with the Accreditation team. The team asked a lot of questions about the make-up and diversity of the Society Board and was impressed with the responses.

She said the Society Board had appointed new officers and confirmed new Society Board members. She said that several members were not eligible (including her) or chose not to continue. The officers are Chairperson Dr. David Steward, Vice Chair Mark Pence, Treasurer Maureen Bluhm, and Secretary Gwen Peebles. Five new members are joining the Board. Among those are Louise Constant, Ava Carpenter-McPike, Clayton Hamrick, Robert Krawczyk, and James Reed, Jr. She said this group will start at the September meeting.

She said the Society Board approved new Bylaws at its last meeting. However, the Society Board needs to develop the policy that the Bylaws reference. Among the changes in the Bylaws are the number of Directors from 12 to 15 and the removal of the position of Executive Secretary, which in the past had been the Museum Director. The new Bylaws include the Director as a none-voting ex-officio member only. She noted that the new financial reports were well received and comprehensive. She said she felt good about the work the Society has done in preparing for a new Director.

#### **IX. Old Business**

Dr. Nevling noted that there are two Board positions that need to be addressed and he asked about the lease for the Lockport facility. Dr. Wiant said Mrs. Winters is coordinating a meeting with the building owner to address the issues. Finally, Dr. Nevling reminded the Board that the next meeting will be December 11<sup>th</sup>.

#### **X. New Business**

None.

#### **XI. Adjournment**

Dr. Nevling asked for a motion to adjourn. Dr. Sokol moved to adjourn, Mr. Taylor seconded, and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

Approved:

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Dr. Lorin Nevling, Chair Date

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Dr. Brian Anderson, Secretary Date