

**ILLINOIS STATE MUSEUM  
BOARD MEETING  
September 9, 2019; 10:30 a.m.  
ISM-Research & Collections Center  
1011 E. Ash St., Springfield, IL**

**Attending:** Chair Dr. Lorin Nevling, Vice Chair Leo Welch; Board members Mrs. Donna Sack, Dr. David Sokol, Mr. Roger Taylor, Mrs. Rosemary Winters, and by phone Ms. Beth Shadur; Society Board Chair Mr. Mark Pence; Museum Staff members Director Cinnamon Catlin-Legutko, Mr. Robert Sill, Ms. Karen Everingham, Dr. Brooke Morgan and Dr. Duane Esarey; Dept. of Natural Resources staff member Mr. Chris Young.

**1. Call to Order**

Dr. Lorin Nevling called the meeting to order at 10:29 a.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Roll was called and a quorum was present.

**3. Approval of the Minutes of June 10, 2019 Board Meeting**

Dr. Lorin Nevling asked the Board for any corrections to the minutes. Ms. Beth Shadur noted that she was listed among the members of the Personnel committee in error. Dr. Nevling then asked for a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Dr. David Sokol moved to approve the minutes, Ms. Beth Shadur seconded, and the motion carried.

Dr. Nevling noted that the day was a good one for the Museum with the appointment of Mrs. Cinnamon Catlin-Legutko. He thanked the Personnel and Director Search Committees for their work. He also commended the Mr. Robert Sill and Dr. Michael Wiant for their service as interim directors after the loss of Dr. Bonnie Styles at the closing of the Museum. He then presented a resolution granting Emeritus status to Dr. Wiant. He asked for a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Leo Welch moved to approve the resolution, Dr. Sokol seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Dr. Nevling presented a second resolution recognizing his outstanding contributions as Interim Director. Dr. Nevling asked for a motion to approve the resolution. Mrs. Rosemary Winters moved to approve the resolution, Ms. Shadur seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Dr. Nevling also thanked the Department of Natural Resources liaison Mr. Chris Young for his work to support the Museum. He noted that Mr. Young's diplomatic and communications skills have poised the Museum to be represented within the DNR at a level never before realized. Dr. Nevling concluded by thanking the extraordinary members of the Museum staff for their above and beyond efforts to preserve and protect the Museum. He asked Mrs. Catlin-Legutko to make remarks.

Mrs. Catlin-Legutko said she was very happy to be at the Museum and expressed her gratitude to Mr. Robert Sill, Ms. Karen Everingham, and Mrs. Tammy Wheeler for their work to make her transition to the Museum smooth and informed. She also thanked Dr. Nevling and Mr. Mark Pence for bringing her into the workings of the Museum and Society Boards early and their support.

**4. DNR Report**

Mr. Chris Young expressed his thanks to Society Board Chair Mr. Pence and the Society Board for their assistance covering the moving expenses of Ms. Catlin-Legutko that were to be paid by DNR.

Mr. Young reported he spoke with Dr. Duane Esarey regarding the acquisition of Twin Mounds located near Cahokia Mounds, and that he spoke with the DNR Office of Realty and Planning on how to proceed. He said he hopes the process will move forward to protect the mounds. Dr. Nevling suggested reaching out to the Nature Conservancy in lieu of progress by the State.

Mr. Young informed the Board that born out of the budget impasse discussions were opened regarding partnership with the National Park Service (NPS) to administer the Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site and a bill had been introduced toward that end. The Board will be kept informed. The NPS was also tapped to partner with the former Historic Preservation Agency at the Pullman State Historic Site.

Finally, he reported that Ms. Catlin-Legutko and Dr. Brooke Morgan participated in conversations with the Nature Preserves Commission regarding recognition of Native American lands in Illinois. No formal action has been taken as yet, but the process is moving forward. Dr. Morgan said she was asked to provide a summary sheet of what the acknowledgement means and why it is important. Mrs. Catlin-Legutko added that she has worked on these types of acknowledgement previously, and added tribal acknowledgement is an intensive process that requires recognition of current issues. She hopes to get up to speed quickly to ensure that indigenous voices are leading the conversations. She finished by saying the process is incredibly meaningful and she is excited to be part of it.

#### **5. Director's Report**

Mrs. Catlin-Legutko said she spoke with the staff regarding her style and areas of focus. She indicated her three priorities are Diversity, Equity, Access, and Inclusion strategies and methodologies; decolonizing museum practices with emphasis on how we work with indigenous communities; advocacy in all forms considering why the Museum matters and that those considerations are communicated broadly; and sustainability in the sense of fundraising, development, financial health so the Museum can conduct its work without being hamstrung constantly. The Society will be integral to that work. She said the strategic plan is critical which hangs on functionality and developing new structures to support and empower staff. She will also focus on networking throughout the state to get to know key people and stakeholders. She said the staff has been helpful in sharing contacts, and she asked the Board to do so as well. Introductions are incredibly valuable will help open doors for the institution. She said her next focus will be on hiring in order to make progress on other goals. She anticipates that the process will be slow. Related to that is developing a work culture for staff and the Boards to determine how all will work together to ensure access to her and any necessary information. Finally, she said community building and engagement—making the Museum visible—whether through the Museum or personally, is high on her list.

She said as we think about decision making and addressing the enormous implications of past and future change. She said the priority for thinking is the Museum, the team, and the individual. The over-arching question is how will these decisions benefit or hurt the Museum. She said change can create communications issues and isolation, which is a natural by-product of change. But when the focus is on the Museum first people come together around it. She noted this is her first Monday and second week she will keep her remarks brief. Mrs. Sack applauded the focus and was pleased to hear the staff heard it first. Dr. Sokol noted the Board should carefully consider and recommend key people for Mrs. Catlin-Legutko to meet. Ms. Catlin-Legutko agreed and said she formed a small staff group to assist her.

Mr. Sill said the Museum was notified of the final disbursement from Dr. George Rabb's gift to the Society. The total gift was \$773,000 and he asked that the Board consider how to acknowledge that extraordinary gift.

Mr. Sill stated a new visitor services associate Nancy Ramirez was hired for Lockport Gallery. She is a long-time supporter of the Gallery and will start on October 1. The next hires in process are the Curator of Geology and Curator of Anthropology.

Mr. Sill noted that the HVAC systems at Dickson Mounds remain problematic, but meetings continue to address these issues. Mr. Young said Director Callahan initiated monthly meetings with Central Management Systems to address this and other issues. Mr. Sill said the process is moving forward.

Mr. Sill shared that Mrs. MK Pritzker visited the Museum. She toured with Dr. Morgan, Dr. Mahoney, Mrs. Erika Holst, Mrs. Elizabeth Bazan and Ms. Karen Everingham. Mrs. Pritzker was very engaged and impressed.

Finally, Mr. Sill thanked the Board for its support during his tenure as Interim Director of the Museum as well as Mr. Pence and the Society Board. He thanked Dr. Wiant for his support and especially Ms. Everingham. He said she was his right-hand through the entire process. He also thanked Mr. Young for his support. He named the staff the Corp of Recovery and expressed his great gratitude for all their amazing work. He said he loves this institution. He was honored to serve as Director, and grateful for the experience. He was very happy to have Mrs. Catlin-Legutko on board and excited to pass on the baton.

Mr. Taylor noted he recently attended the Mississippian Conference at Dickson Mounds and that it was absolutely absurd that the building without air conditioning in the middle of July. He added that he didn't know that the Board could do anything, but that it should be on record. Mr. Young said he would share the Board's concerns regarding the system.

## **6. Metropolitan Outreach Working Group**

Dr. Sokol shared background on the work of the group and the ongoing issue of a Chicago presence. He said a number of contacts and ideas have been explored to no avail, however Curator Doug Stapleton has arranged for several collaborative exhibitions in the metro-area. He noted he met with Representative Camille Lilly, Chair of the Museums, Arts and Cultural Enhancement Committee. She expressed concern regarding access to the Museum's collections, and requested a one-page document with talking points. He also spoke with Ted Penesis regarding a Chicago presence. Mr. Penesis said he was supportive and would look into it.

Ms. Shadur provided background on the Illinois Artisans program and said there is interest in reviving the program. This should be carefully considered, in addition to a presence, for the future. Mrs. Rosemary Winters concurred and emphasized the need for a comprehensive and achievable plan. Dr. Sokol noted Chicago has many collectors and philanthropists, and the Museum needs visibility there. Mrs. Donna Sack said she feels that a Chicago presence up against some of the largest world-class museums has its own challenges, and the Museum could look like a very small fish in a large sea. If we want to access the people and foundations that have been spoken of we need to think about what our presence should look like. She said the Magnificent Mile and the downtown doesn't need another Museum, but there are other areas that are highly in need of culture and history. We need to think out of the box. Is the Artisans program a potential for communities to access work.

She recommended we think more expansively about what our presence will look like. Ms. Shadur noted that numerous areas have been gentrified and galleries are moving west. She said her only hesitation regarding Mrs. Sack's remarks are that in order for the Artisans program to be successful the artists must be able to sell their work and that the work must be accessible. The Artisans program focus was more on crafts, rather than large artworks, and needs a downtown presence. Large works could be shown in a Gallery in one of the upcoming neighborhoods. Mrs. Sack noted she was an advocate and frequent customer of the Artisans Program. She often recommended the shop to others. She said she thinks there could be an income piece and a complimentary piece to serve communities. For context, Dr. Sokol noted at the beginning of the process there was no money to support the endeavor so it began by looking for partnerships.

### **7. Personnel Committee**

Mr. Taylor said he had nothing to report. Dr. Nevling thanked Mr. Taylor for his leadership. Due to the unionization of the staff, he noted that the hiring process has changed and the role of the Museum needs to be reexamined. Ms. Everingham noted that there is a piece of this process that we are missing. The State Museum is exempt from the CMS Personnel code and that there are implications there that we don't quite understand. We are listed in this statute with state universities. She said we need to explore this and what it means for our hiring process, because staff joining the union may not negate that exemption.

### **8. ISMS Report**

Mr. Pence reported the Society was happy to assist with the moving expenses and thanked Director Callahan for her work to quickly reimburse the Society. He said he and Mrs. Catlin-Legutko have discussed development and the Museum store and he looks forward moving on those fronts. He said the Society's Annual Meeting is scheduled for May 23 at the Museum with a business meeting prior. Four new Board members will be appointed at that meeting and the candidates are excellent. Dr. Nevling reminded the Board to join or renew their Society membership and that any donations would be appreciated.

### **9. Old Business**

Dr. Nevling noted a joint meeting of the Society and State Board is being planned for mid-November. Ms. Shadur asked about progress on Board recommendations. Mr. Young asked if Ms. Shadur to forward the names to him so he can share them with Director Callahan.

### **10. New Business**

Dr. Nevling noted the deaccession request was excellent and thorough. He said this is one of the most important actions he had ever been involved with in his career. He recommended caution and care in executing this deaccession. Dr. Brooke Morgan reported that the repatriation of Aranda & Bardi Jawa people's secret/sacred ceremonial objects of forty-two objects is very significant and that it must be considered carefully. She said she and Mrs. Claire Martin had the opportunity to speak with one of the elders who expressed gratitude for the Museum's care of the objects and was excited at the prospect of bringing the objects home.

Mrs. Sack asked about the Australian government's requirements to bring the objects back into the country. Dr. Morgan explained that the objects must be free of contaminants. A letter confirming that is required. The Institute requires a formal letter from us for their application to the Australian government which was written and approved by Mrs. Catlin-Legutko. Mrs. Winters thanked Dr. Morgan for her work and stewardship of the process.

Dr. Nevling asked for a written vote on the motion to deaccession. The approval was unanimous. Dr. Morgan thanked the Board for its support. She said she would inform the Australians of the vote and they will make arrangements to travel to Springfield. Staff will begin the preparing the objects for transport. She said representatives of Illinois and the Museum as well as an indigenous representative were requested to attend the special ceremony. Dr. Morgan read a letter of thanks to the Museum for its cooperation and work on the project. Ms. Shadur suggested that the Museum publicize this widely and used as a teaching tool. Dr. Morgan said she agreed and would contact the elders regarding what can and cannot be shared. Mrs. Sack agreed with the others and noted as we are the first to do this we should serve as a model of best-practices for others and you can only do that if we share it as widely as appropriate. She also suggested the Governor be invited to the ceremony. Dr. Morgan said she intends to submit proposals for publication. She also asked that the packet not be shared outside of the Museum. Dr. Nevling asked if Dr. Morgan or others anticipated any push back. Dr. Morgan said she was prepared to make the case to support the deaccession and that, given their origins, they shouldn't remain in Illinois. Mrs. Sack said the Museum should be prepared in the event there are questions.

**11. Adjournment**

Dr. Nevling asked for a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Sack so moved, and Mrs. Winters seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 12:16 p.m.

Approved:

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Dr. Lorin Nevling, Chairman

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Date

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Dr. Brian Anderson, Secretary

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Date