

**ILLINOIS STATE MUSEUM  
BOARD MEETING  
September 9, 2024, 10:00 a.m.  
Webex**

**Attending: Board Members:** Leverne Backstrom, John Barker, Tamira Brennan, Wanza Davis, Chris Pappan, Sara Phalen, Director Natalie Phelps Finnie, Jonah Rice, and Ashish Sharma; **Illinois State Museum Society Staff:** Executive Director Jamila Wicks; **Illinois State Museum Staff:** Jenn Edginton, Meghan Lindstrom, Logan Pappenfort, and Robert Sill; **Department of Natural Resources Staff:** Jeff Nevins and George Sisk; four members of the public: Cori Claycomb, Dannyl Dolder, John Handley, and Alexander Ruger.

**I. Welcome**

Director Natalie Phelps Finnie called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

**II. Roll Call**

Meghan Lindstrom called the roll and a quorum was present.

**III. Approval of the Minutes of August 7, 2024**

The Minutes from the August 7, 2024 meeting were presented for approval. Leverne Backstrom moved to approve the Minutes, John Barker seconded, and the Minutes were approved unanimously.

**IV. New Business**

**Election of Chair**

Director Finnie opened the floor for nominations for the position of Chair of the Board. John nominated Jonah Rice for the Chair position. Jonah accepted the nomination citing his 15 years of work with the board of a community college, his familiarity with Robert's Rules of Order, and the annual trainings he had completed about complying with the Open Meetings Act.

Director Finnie opened the floor for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Board. Sara Phalen nominated herself for the Vice Chair position.

Director Finnie opened the floor for nominations for the position of Secretary of the Board. Tamira Brennan nominated herself for the Secretary position.

Director Finnie recommended the Board vote on the slate of nominees simultaneously since there were no competing nominations. Votes were given and the nominations were approved unanimously.

**V. Executive Session**

Director Finnie asked for a motion to close the meeting to the public, pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) to discuss the search for a permanent Museum Director. John moved, Jonah seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

Wanza Davis joined the meeting at 10:09 a.m.

Cori Claycomb, Dannyl Dolder Jenn Edginton, John Handley, Meghan Lindstrom, Brooke Morgan, Jeff Nevins, Logan Pappenfort, Alexander Ruger, Bob Sill, and Jamila Wicks left the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

Leverne Backstrom, John Barker, Tamira Brennan, Wanza Davis, Chris Pappan, Sara Phalen, Director Natalie Phelps-Finnie, Jonah Rice, Ashish Sharma, and George Sisk remained.

The meeting reopened to the public at 10:34 a.m.

Director Finnie stated that the Board had a positive discussion in the closed session. No motions were ready to be voted on. The next steps had been identified to secure full support of the Board behind a recommendation for the Museum Director position.

**VI. Old Business**

Director Finnie asked for old business.

George Sisk reminded the Board to complete the Ethics, Harassment, and Open Meetings Act trainings. Links and due dates would be provided to the Board by email.

George explained that there were no limits on the number of times a Board member could be reappointed to serve on the Illinois State Museum Board, in a response to a query at the previous meeting.

**VII. Public Comment**

None given.

**VIII. Adjournment**

Director Finnie asked for a motion to adjourn. Jonah moved to adjourn, John seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:38 a.m.