

Library Advisory Board Minutes
ALPL
Governor's Conference Room. 2nd Floor
Thursday, December 12, 2013

I. Call to Order: Chairman Steve Beckett called the meeting to order shortly after 10:00 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Committee Members in Attendance:

Chairman Steve Beckett
Ranjan Kari
Patrick Reardon
Dick Meister
David Spadafora

Teleconference Participants:

Craig R. Sautter
Paula Kaufman

Committee Members Absent:

Charles Branham
Leigh Bienen
Sean Vinck
Donna Carroll
Gary Stockton
Catherine Shannon
Garth Madison
Daniel Stowell

Staff Attendees:

Director Mackevich
Kathryn Harris
Jan Perone
Glenna Schroeder-Lein

Guests Attending:

Senator and Mrs. Adlai Stevenson III
Karen Witter, Consultant

III. Review and Approval of Minutes

Minutes from Oct 11, 2013 meeting were approved. Dick Meister moved to approve the minutes and Paula Kaufman seconded the motion.

IV. Chairman's Report

As requested by Amy Martin, Director of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA), Chairman Beckett stated that as chair he would serve as chair of the search committee for the State Historian. Dick Meister volunteered to serve as well. Chairman Beckett stated that he would recommend to the IHPA that a member of its Board of Trustees serve on the search committee as well as an academician from one of the public universities.

V. Director's Report

Director Mackevich reported that she is engrossed in conducting evaluations, writing year end reports, and has produced a summary of 2013 events to be submitted to the IHPA Board of Trustees and Director Martin. A copy of this report is available for the Advisory Board. One of the year's highlights was The Joseph Smith Habeas Corpus "mock trial". This series of events is worthy of mention because it is a good example of collaboration with the Illinois State Board of Education, the Illinois Supreme Court Historic Preservation Commission, and DePaul University Theatre School.

Other highlights of the year included a public event with United States Poet Laureate Natasha Trethewey; a multi-character production of the play Heavens Were Hung in Black; a two character play sponsored by the Illinois Women's Bar Association titled Mary and Myra about the relationship between Mrs. Lincoln and her attorney Myra Bradwell. A re-examination of Governor Otto Kerner's life and politics was held to highlight his achievements in the field of mental health. It was held as part of a series on Illinois Governors. This event was unusual in that the manager of the Oral History Program drew on material provided by the Audio Visual Department of the Library.

An exhibit at the Illinois Gallery entitled To Kill and To Heal was curated by Glenna Schroeder-Lein. This exhibit theme centered on the relationship between killing and healing on and off the battlefield. A traveling exhibit will be available for schools. The next program in the series on Illinois Governors is centered on Governor James Thompson.

Exhibits installed at the Library include the third edition of Boys in Blue. This exhibit is drawn entirely from our Library collections and is curated by Mary Michals. The fourth in this series will open in Spring 2014.

Another subject for the future is the commemoration of the 200th Anniversary of Illinois Statehood (2018). Statutes refer to the production of a state history. That subject will be addressed when a state historian is in place. A new employee is Sam Wheeler who formerly worked at the Papers of Abraham Lincoln. His title is research historian. Under early discussion with him is the possibility of a "mockepedia" involving students and the public as researchers and writers.

Planning for the celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the Illinois State Historical Library has begun. The celebration will be held all year well ahead of the publication of a Treasures book in September 2014. One of the products of the celebration might be the establishment of a Library fund named in honor of Jessie Palmer Weber. We have entered into discussions with the Foundation about establishing this fund. Glenna Schroeder-Lein, editor of the Treasures book, noted that she hopes this fund will be "democratic" recognizing all level of donors and allowing contributions to divisions parts of the Library. If this fund is to get off the ground we will need lists of potential donors and a good letter for solicitation.

Paula Kaufman queried if we have a standard program evaluation process. Director Mackevich responded that we do but it needs review and evaluation itself. A sample evaluation form can be presented at the March meeting.

Chairman Beckett then welcomed new members Paula Kaufman and David Spadafora.

VI. Library Services Director Report

Kathryn Harris reported that Karen Witter museum consultant contracted by IHPA has visited and we appreciate her assessment work. She is formerly a senior member of the staff of the State Museum. The Library staff thanks Paula Kauffman for her pro bono service and advising on the selection of library consultants. A consultant will visit soon to meet with staff and observe the Library's strengths and weaknesses with a goal of improving the Library's functionality and organization. We've faced many retirements. This a challenge we must address. The Boys in Blue IV exhibit will preview on be May 20 2014. ALPLM staff and friends are invited to search for Civil War Soldier relatives. Materials from those searches may be included in the exhibit.

Plans are underway for the 125th Anniversary of the Library. A book was written in-house and will be published by Southern Illinois University (SIU) Press soon to highlight the treasures of the Library. Items for inclusion in the book will be drawn from each of our Library collections. We have already selected a wide variety of items, including those well known, *i.e.* the Gettysburg Address, and lesser known, such as Governor Dan Walker's boots. Descriptions of the donor and its relevance to Illinois history of each item will be included in the book. The book is currently at SIU Press; the cover design will be compiled in the next few months. One of the exciting elements of the Treasures Book is the collaboration of all departments of the Library.

VII. Collection Building and Management

Status of Stevenson Collection

Senator Stevenson made a brief presentation in which he discussed the need for a permanent location with public access for the collection and to demonstrate his family's contribution to Illinois history and politics. He said there would be other institutions such as the Stevenson Center in Bloomington and the historical society in Bloomington that would also seek the artifacts and materials. He said there should not be a problem with reproducing parts of the collection to share with other interested institutions.

Senator Stevenson drew attention to Alan Teller who has submitted a draft proposal for exhibiting the Stevenson Collection.

Chairman Beckett asked where the collections are stored. Senator Stevenson replied that they are in Hanover, IL (the Stevenson farm) and in his Chicago home.

Chairman Beckett asked if the collection requires temperature control. Senator Stevenson indicated the items have been in an unheated farm house and have survived.

Director Mackevich stated that Alan Teller proposed an exhibit that would not necessarily require climate controls, and that the cost for this exhibit would be far less than the cost for an exhibit at the Museum. There would be some cases with materials prepared for climate control but comparisons should not be drawn with the Museum. People interested in governmental history feel this would be great for understanding the state of Illinois. We want access to these materials in the near future. Librarians could change the collections from time to time to reflect the calendar.

Paula Kaufman stated that she sees dissertations coming from this and asked if the materials found at Illinois State University and at the Stevenson Center are organized and if they have records online. Senator Stevenson answered that he didn't know about online, but they are well organized.

Paula Kaufman stated that she envisions a website for all institutions to share, whether objects are replicated or not which will enable locating materials.

Mrs. Stevenson stated that Princeton University has articles well catalogued too.

Kathryn Harris stated that the Library has Stevenson materials in the collection at the Library and that they had been exhibited in the past.

Karen Witter stated that this effort was done in collaboration with the State Museum.

Chairman Beckett asked if as an Advisory Board, there is anything we need to do.

Director Mackevich indicated that the issue of the collection will be on the agenda at the February meeting of the IHPA Board. She said that today the focus is on costs, collaborations and seeking grants to have the collection catalogued. She went on to say that a grant was secured for the former exhibit and that a search will be made for additional grant funds to catalog and digitize the collection. She said there is the possibility of building "friends groups" where we would display select items and discuss the educational opportunities. It would be a quality collection and a frugal display. We are asking for support for exhibit design; then we will move forward to the 2nd phase.

Senator Stevenson asked if there was space available for the exhibit. Director Mackevich indicated that there is space available.

Ranjan Kari stated that in addition to housing, some resources should be used to make an interactive "treasure map" linking materials across the 5 generations of Stevenson's and from various locations.

Dick Meister said there are concerns about dedicating space and costs for an exhibit and that there is an opportunity to draw on the collections at the Library and weave in the

ability to rotate collection items for larger themes. It is not a room set aside for a particular family. It needs to reflect upon the state/national 200-year period of history.

Director Mackevich said it should be seen as part of the ongoing efforts to expand what we already own.

Chairman Beckett stated we can adopt a resolution from our Board to their (IHPA) Board.

Ranjan Kari said we need to articulate a vision to support the collection effort.

David Spadafora added that the collection can be used by scholars, etc. Given its size and scope. He asked if there is a timetable for processing it.

Paula Kaufman asked about the cost of processing the collection.

Catherine Shannon said the IHPA Board is concerned with the costs of archiving and processing this collection, and preparing for exhibits. She feels we need a written legal document. She asked if we are setting a precedent. She asked about the agency collection policy. She indicated the need for a comprehensive list of all of our collections.

Chairman Beckett asked if anyone could estimate the cost. He then said the question is not whether we accept the collection—but how are we going to be able to use it properly and make it useful via the internet.

Catherine Shannon asked whether we agreed to permanently house a collection before? We need an understanding of what that means. How often do we get a collection for donation with expectations?

Kathryn Harris said that the same items couldn't be on permanent exhibit; that's not good for the collection.

Craig Sautter asked if the collection a permanent gift.

Ranjan Kari said we need to know what the Library's contribution is for the organization of these items.

Chairman Beckett agreed that we need a written document.

Senator Stevenson noted that Alan Teller is good at maximizing and utilizing space. Some of the collection will be kept by the family and that the Adlai Stevenson Center will also be a recipient.

Chairman Beckett asked for a motion for staff and counsel to work on drafting an instrument that moves this collection's acceptance forward. Dick Meister moved to approve the motion and David Spadafora seconded the motion.

Craig Sautter stated the collection is like living history and that it is important to show Illinois' involvement in the nation's history.

Paula Kaufman expressed concerns about making promises we can't keep and the cost of accepting this collection.

Catherine Shannon expressed concern about our limitations because of staff shortages and the lack of collections policy. She stated that the IHPA. Board was not aware of the permanence factor of this collection.

Dick Meister made a motion that we draw questions from today's tri-board meeting and use the collections committee to draft a response.

VIII. Advancing the Library Collections

Patrick Reardon was not yet present so Director Mackevich gave the report. Director Mackevich said that the goal was for a ten-minute exercise about collections; not moving in the political sphere but to look for opportunities for Illinoisans in the arts and elsewhere for collections donations. We need to make an effort to think creatively about reaching people.

IX. Marketing and Public Relations

No Report.

X. Planning and Operations

Paula Kaufman reported that ALPL has a wonderful staff, although too few of them. Retirement offers an opportunity for the Library to take a look at itself. One step which was not articulated in the report is the challenge of breaking down silos between the Library and Museum; eliminating lost opportunities; and the need for better utilization for the public to use Library materials. She said the first step would be that staff needs have a shared vision for the Library so people understand that everyone has an equal stake in the success of the Library. Teamwork and teambuilding is important. She said the second step is to engage a team of people who have expertise in access mechanisms, preservation and conservation and organization to give the Library recommendations on how to use the resources that it has, as effectively possible; also, to determine which slots are most important to fill. How it works alone and with the Museum. She has suggested people for each exercise.

Dick Meister stated that the emphasis needs to be on fusing the Museum and the Library. He asked how is the Museum affected the evolution of the ISHL in the 21st century.

Kathryn Harris stated that we are moving forward on the first recommendation through our January consultant visit with Shirley Stelbrink.

Karen Whitter stated that she is serving as a consultant relating to the Museum accreditation. She detailed that accreditation is just a determination of whether the Museum meets national standards, so we need to know what those are. We also need to know best practices. She referred to the National Standards and Best Practices book. She said her role is as coach and advisor and a resource to get the Museum more engaged in the professional museum community.

Paula Kaufman indicated that during a meeting with Kathryn Harris and Director Mackevich they discussed the fact that Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is joined together at the federal level. One year the organization has a Library leader and then the next year a Museum leader. She said she has worked the last 14 years in a Museum. Previously she worked for Governor Thompson. She said she is aware of Museum opportunities and wants to make sure that as we move forward on Museum issues; they are connected to Library issues and that she will keep in touch with Chairman Beckett and Director Mackevich on these issues.

Planning the 125th Library Anniversary

Director Mackevich said there is planning material in the packet. Director Mackevich stated that the planning is a joint product of Library/Museum thinking and that Museum staff will work with Library staff to create a welcoming environment. She said that we will emphasize the commonalities of the Library and Museum and discuss how one will complement one another. She then went on to say that she has met with the Foundation to discuss how we might work together on this project. She said there will be an exhibit of writers' books who have used our Library for research.

XI. Technology Report

Director Mackevich said she is continuing the dialog with Sean Vinck.

XII. IHPA Report

Catherine Shannon gave an update on the following: web site; Pullman; Lincoln/Herndon project; State Bicentennial Commission; 10th Anniversary of the Museum; Best Practices for the Museum; On Lincoln's Mind booklet for the Gettysburg Address; and developing evaluation for Gettysburg events. She commented that staff was energized by all of the projects related to Gettysburg week.

XIII. ALPL Foundation Report

No Report

Craig Sautter wanted to know if the Gettysburg events were archived and Kathryn Harris replied that the production that Director Mackevich hosted was filmed and will be edited and available on the web site. Director Mackevich stated that unless restricted everything is archived and available on our web site. We are currently working on a staff plan to edit all information. It is a long term process.

Catherine Shannon reported that we taped people at the State Fair reading the Gettysburg Address.

Chris Wills is meeting with staff to compile a report of the Gettysburg Address activities.

VX. Old Business

Daniel Stowell reported that the Papers of Abraham Lincoln are continuing to search documents worldwide and he just received some from San Marino. A grant from NHPRC enabled scanning of Yates Collection and the Audio Visual collection, so the online collection continues to grow.

Director Mackevich reported that we have a rough draft of a collections management policy. Gary Stockton will continue to work with other staff and David Spadafora to develop a policy.

Shannon stated that now that we are a member of the American Alliance of Museums we have access to examples of other Museum's collection development policies.

XV. New Business

Ken Crutcher stated that he will be at the Library 3 days a week to address administrative needs and is available for assistance to the Board.

XVI. Meeting Calendar

Paula will be unable to attend the March meeting. Chairman Beckett emphasized the importance of live bodies for the meetings.

After the announcement of the calendar the meeting drew to a close. No motion noted.

XVII. Schedule for 2014: 2nd Friday of the month in March, June and October

March 14, 2014 – Chicago
June 13, 2014 – Springfield
October 10, 2014 – Chicago