

**ABRAHAM LINCOLN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY
ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**

**James R. Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph Street, Chicago, Room 9-040
Friday, March 14, 2014**

I. Call to Order: Chairman Steve Beckett called the meeting to order at 10:39 am

II. Roll Call

Committee Members in Attendance:

Chairman Steve Beckett
Leigh Bienen
Charles Branham
Donna Carroll
Dick Meister
Patrick Reardon
David Spadafora
Sean Vinck

Committee Members Absent:

Paula Kaufman
Ranjan Karri
Craig Sautter

Guests Attending:

Wayne Whalen
Carla Knorowski
Karen Witter
Sunny Fischer

Teleconference Participants:

Sunny Fischer

Staff Attendees:

Director Mackevich
Kathryn Harris

Staff Attendees Via Video Conference:

Ken Crutcher
Dawn DeFraties
Garth Madison
IHPA Director Amy Martin
IHPA Deputy Dir Catherine Shannon
Carla Smith
Gary Stockton
Trina Weinert
Chris Wills
Angela Winand

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Beckett called for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 12, 2013 meeting. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

IV. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chair Beckett stated that there is a need for agenda approval in the future. The agenda was altered to accommodate ALPL's CEO Carla Knorowski. The Foundation report was moved to follow after Staff Reports. Chair Beckett reported that since the last meeting he has primarily been working on the terms of the Stevenson gift. Chair Beckett conducted research; consulted with Paula Kaufman; drafted documents; and consulted with IHPA legal counsel Garth Madison. He has been wrestling with organizational structures – the Advisory Board and the IHPA Board and the executive director of the ALPLM. Chair Beckett has been working on organizing an ad hoc committee, which includes

members of IHPA board and the Advisory board. This committee will interview prospective candidates for Illinois state historian. The posting has been approved and posted on various sites. He will receive regular updates on application reports. The position will be filled on July 1, 2014. Dawn DeFraties, Director of Human Resources at IHPA, reported to date there had been four applicants.

V. STAFF REPORTS

A. ALPLM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Mackevich stated that improvements will be made to the Board book in the future. She and Kathryn Harris are seeking answers to questions raised at the past board meeting and as recorded in the minutes: info on grant proposals, information on digitization, collections development and management, and time frames for manuscript processing the Feitler Grant. It is a common occurrence to have stipulations on grant money. We will have more documentation at the June meeting, but have included comparable examples in this board book. Additionally, we provide draft possibilities of what could be possible for the 10th anniversary and for the 125th anniversary of the Library. Harold Holzer, head of Bicentennial Foundation, stated that we have a grant on Lincoln, Race and Slavery. Director Mackevich will meet with an Illinois State Board of Education consultant to put assemble teacher workshops with the support of Gery Chico. This project is supported by the ISBE Chair.

Chair Beckett stated that the IL Supreme Court Historic Preservation Commission is working on another trial about Alton segregation cases. He provided background on the previous trials held in Springfield and Chicago in conjunction with the ALPLM. Director Martin stated that she offered the ALPLM as a venue for the Alton trial. Director Mackevich stated that more than \$60,000 was raised from past trials and will be used for conservation of maps and possibly apps to explain more about the maps.

Patrick Reardon asked about reaction to the article in *The Chicago Tribune* regarding the ALPLM. Director Mackevich noted the article copy was included in the board book. She noted she received comments from many sources. Sunny Fischer, Chair of the IHPA board, stated that she wished more positive statements would have been written. She hoped the reporter will come back and do additional stories which show a fuller picture of the ALPLM.

B. LIBRARY SERVICES DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Kathryn Harris reported on events that are planned for the 125th anniversary of the Library. The most important work is the publication of a book *Treasures of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library*. The book will be published by Southern Illinois University (SIU) Press. Glenna Schroeder-Lein, historian

and manuscripts librarian is the editor and is working on the index. The publication date will be in September. The book will be listed in the SIU Press catalogue in June. Kathryn Harris spoke about the cover of the publication. The Library held a successful event, *Billy the Barber*, which was well attended. On April 6th another program is focused on Jessie Palmer Weber, the second librarian. A portrait of her will be unveiled at the event along with a living history skit. Director Mackevich stated that a small fund will be named for Jessie Palmer Weber and will publicize her story. The Library will display a collection of books that have been written using the resources of the Library. Kathryn Harris stated that to date we have approximately 280 books for display. Director Mackevich stated that this collection will grow, will be an ongoing and a permanent display. Ms. Harris stated that on March 27th an event, *Women and the Right to Vote*, will be held and women legislators' papers will be on display. Kathryn Harris detailed the life of Jessie Palmer Weber. Patrick Reardon inquired how the 1125th anniversary events are being publicized. She responded that the 125th events will be publicized through press releases. The marketing staff will list the programs on the Library website along with websites of other libraries and institutions.

VI. ALPL FOUNDATION REPORT

Carla Knorowski thanked everyone who will attend the Lincoln Leadership event at the Hilton Chicago. The 2014 Lincoln Leadership prize will be presented to Steven Spielberg by Sally Fields. Doris Kearns Goodwin will attend the event. The Foundation expects record breaking attendance with 700 attendees Tickets are still selling. Carla Knorowski hopes for a record breaking year for fundraising. The Foundation is working to finalize our Home campaign and it is more than halfway past that goal. The 272 Word Exhibit for the Gettysburg 150th event was well received. The Foundation is pleased to report that *Time Life* has contracted with the Foundation to put some of the essays or excerpts of essays in a publication on Lincoln. It will be out for sale in July and will be similar to the book on the John F. Kennedy anniversary of his assassination. It is an oversized book.

The Foundation hosted a members' event at the Museum for the opening of the Leibovitz exhibit with its best attendance ever, over 500 members. Annie Leibovitz, the famed photographer, was present and stayed until almost the end. She met with almost everyone who attended.

The Foundation is working on some technology grants for the Library and Museum and will have more to report in the future.

A copy of the Lincoln book will be donated to the Library. A book about the Lincoln film will be given to the Library with signature of Steven Spielberg, Sally Fields, and Doris Kearns Goodwin on it.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. COLLECTIONS BUILDING AND MANAGEMENT

Patrick Reardon reported that the Advisory Board members have submitted suggestions for papers solicitation from people of all walks of life. Now there is a need to determine where we draw the line or how to approach collections generally. Priorities and cost need to be determined. Should the Library specialize in a specific area? There are not many entertainment or sports figures in the current collections. He asked how many ethnic groups are in the collection. He noted we need to make sure our greatest strengths are enhanced. He noted we need to come to a consensus on what should be accepted.

Karen Witter stated that the American Association of Museums (AAM) has guidelines/standards which may be helpful. Additionally AAM has information on loans and collections care. Sample policies are available. Chairman Beckett asked whether a determination should be broad or specialized. Director Mackevich asked how we insure we are covering Illinois history. Charles Branham stated it would be nice to include politicians, since that is what we are known for. Leigh Bienen said it is important to be a center for Illinois history and politicians and we should coordinate with the Supreme Court. Carla Smith stated that dealing with some collections the donors may have conditions. Knowing what is going to be collected helps, when the ALPLF is talking to potential donors. Gary Stockton, Acquisitions Archivist, stated that it is better to have broad latitude before it goes through the process. Future technology changes may enhance the value and importance of the original items. Chair Beckett asked what the Library is doing now and how do we tell potential donors no to their offer to donate items. Kathryn Harris stated that the Library accepts what fits in the collection and try to pay attention to who has what items available for donation. Digitization is important but the real item is important. The current process is as follows: a donor will contact Gary Stockton, Carla Smith or Kathryn Harris. They will make an early determination if it fits in the current collection. Gary Stockton stated that there should be consideration of organizing a more formal committee structure for acquisitions. But he is concerned that a committee would slow down the acquisition process.

Regarding the Stevenson deed of gift Chair Beckett expects to make a recommendation to the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA) board. He will move to present to the IHPA board and the Stevensons a document which isn't too long but covers all concerns and items. Garth Madison said that the Stevenson family stated that family members would assist with fund raising, and that should have been included in the document. Catherine Shannon said the money side needed to be explored, and an endowment was

needed to defray the costs to store and care for the collection. The ALPLM will make a good faith effort to care for the collection; the Stevenson family would make a good faith effort to fund raise. Chair Beckett stated that this board can only present the proposed deed of gift and agreement to the IHPA board and what they do with it is up to them. This board is advisory only.

Dick Meister moved to approve the recommendation to accept the Stevenson deed of gift and Patrick Reardon seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous voice vote.

B. MARKETING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

No Report

C. PLANNING AND OPERATIONS

No Report

D. TECHNOLOGY

Sean Vinck reported that he looked at the IHPA/ALPLM infrastructure and environment to determine what is the best technology for the facilities. It was determined that the IHPA continue to stand alone, and not become a part of Central Management Services (CMS). There were concerns on the cost and level of service if they were under CMS. The software will be Cloud based. Director Martin stated that the agency was almost set to move forward.

VIII. ILLINOIS HISTORIC PRESERVATION AGENCY REPORT

Amy Martin commended the ALPL Advisory Board on their annual report that was filed with the General Assembly. The Agency is upgrading technology in the Library – microfilm and digitization. The process is underway for hiring an exhibits, education directors and a state historian. The education director is scheduled to be hired by May 1st; the exhibits director is scheduled to be hired by June 1st; and the state historian is scheduled to be hired by July 1st. Director Martin reported on the 10th Anniversary initiatives that are currently planned and funded. The first is an Illinois Gallery exhibit in collaboration with the Chicago History Museum. Second is The Battle Hymn, the story of the poem and song, a new live production which will take place on stage every day of 2015. IPAD tours which will bring the collections to life through digitization. With the return of the play *Civil War* there will be annual events in the park. She will introduce a music festival in 2015. The Gateway will be updated in the Museum which will include a new look and information about our new exhibits and shows. On March 20th the Illinois House will hold a mandates hearing. We will present an overview of the entire agency and our mission. Eileen Mackevich will talk about the mandates under the jurisdiction of the ALPLM and the State Historical Library.

Catherine Shannon stated that in February she attended a museum advocacy event in Washington D.C. It was an opportunity to network with other museum staff.

She talked with congressional members about the importance of museums and the money brought into communities and the importance of charitable giving to get the full credit for donation/tax credit. Deputy Director Shannon stressed the importance of being visible in the museum world. She suggested that the Museum become a Blue Star museum which grants free admission to active service members from Memorial to Labor day.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

No Report.

X. NEW BUSINESS

No Report.

XI. MEETING CALENDAR

The next ALPL Advisory Board meeting will take place at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield at 10:30 a.m. on June 13, 2014. All future meetings will begin at 10:30 a.m.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 12:32; no motion noted.

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

June 13, 2014, 10:30 a.m. – Springfield

October 10, 2014, 10:30 a.m. – Chicago