

ALPLM Advisory Board Meeting
Governor's Office, Small Conference Room – JRTC, 16th Floor, Chicago, IL
Thursday, August 28th – 10:30am

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Steve Beckett called the meeting to order at 10:30am.

II. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Steve Beckett, Leigh Bienen, (arrived 10 minutes late) Charles Branham, Donna Carroll, Paula Kaufman, Dick Meister, Patrick Reardon, Craig Sautter, Sean Vinck (arrived 1.5 hours late)

Phoned-in: Ranjan Karri

Absent: David Spadafora

Also present: Julia Bachrach – IHPA Board of Trustees; Jennifer Baader – Representative from State Rep. Jack Franks's Office; Sunny Fischer, Chairman – IHPA Board of Trustees; Mindy Johnston – IHPA Board of Trustees; Garth Madison – IHPA Chief Legal Counsel; Eileen Mackevich – ALPLM Executive Director; Joan Walters; Chris Wills – IHPA Director of Communications

Also phoned-in: Justin Cajindos – Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor; Ken Crutcher – ALPLM Chief of Staff; Dawn DeFraties – IHPA Director of Human Resources; Kathryn Harris – ALPLM Library Services Director; Amy Martin – IHPA Executive Director; Catherine Shannon – IHPA Deputy Director

III. **REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes were deferred.

IV. **REPORTS**

Advisory Board: Steve Beckett

Beckett noted he called the meeting because various board members wanted to sit down together and discuss opinions regarding the May 2014 Spring Session legislation. The legislation is currently in the Illinois State Senate. Board members wanted to know whether or not the legislation could potentially be brought up in the Senate during the fall Veto Session. Legislation can indeed be brought up in the Senate during the fall Veto Session.

Beckett stated that Representative Franks has reached out to him regarding the future of the ALPLM. Representative Franks' State Government Administration Committee will hold a legislative hearing on October 1, 2014 strictly to discuss the legislation; there will be not vote taken on the bill during this hearing.

Beckett suggested all board members should have an opportunity to express their thoughts and concerns regarding the legislation.

V. **ALPLM ADVISORY BOARD COMMENTS REGARDING NEW LEGISLATION.**

A. Donna Carroll

Carroll said that she was adamant about the need to holding a meeting. She stated that she was initially deeply concerned regarding the legislation but has since realized this could potentially be an opportunity for the ALPLM. She called for the clarity surrounding the leadership in all three bodies.

Carroll stated she feels strongly that this should have a collaborative end and that all should recognize these types of things happen with young organizations; this situation does not mean that the governance structure is dysfunctional. She believes the Board should take time to explore how it might work better in service of the Library and Museum, as well as in service to the State; the Board should also work with integrity and at a level of consciousness that the Advisory Board is representing the Library and Museum in all that it does.

Carroll expressed her concerns that the deliberations at this point will reflect on the viability of the State to host another Library. Carroll relayed her feelings that the Board has an obligation to work through this issue, put a new governance structure into place, and to take advantage of this public situation.

Carroll called for a mutual respect and trust between the three boards.

B. Craig Sautter

Sautter previously sent an email to the entire ALPLM Advisory Board (included in each meeting packet) that expressed his views regarding the current situation and wished to not restate his opinion. He stated that there is a governance structure that the Board has not tried to make work. He believes that Board could do more harm than good if it changes the current bureaucratic structure.

Sautter called for a joint statement with the IHPA Board of Trustees (press release of some sort) in order to address the donor concerns currently facing the ALPLM; Steve Beckett and Sunny Fischer agreed that they will work collaboratively to do so.

C. Dick Meister

Meister expressed his opinion that the current situation cannot continue and that has governance implications. He believes that the present structure is not working and has not worked for the last ten years, and should be modified. Meister state that he does not understand the role the Advisory Board plays. He sees the Board as a function for the Library, not the Museum and does not think link the two together due the name of the Board (ALPL Advisory Board). Meister was also frustrated that the Board is not mentioned on the Museum's website and believes Eileen Mackevich has a nominal role within the structure of the ALPLM.

Meister noted the Advisory Board is brought nothing in terms of the Museum (i.e. the Spielberg exhibit, hiring, technology, etc.) and questioned what their role is; he believes it needs clarity.

Meister believes he has observed IHPA "dysfunctional micromanaging" the ALPLM and that should be rectified. He used the issue of the search for the State Historian

as an example of this “dysfunctional micromanaging.” Meister asked for Steve Beckett to give an update about the State Historian.

Beckett said that the Ad Hoc Committee (chaired by Steve Beckett) engaged in a search with Dawn DeFraties to find a reputable State Historian. The search only yielded one candidate that met the minimum qualifications. The search is currently postponed per the Ad Hoc Committee’s recommendations.

Meister went on to state he believes the State Historian role/search is a disaster in terms of structure – State Historian is hired by the IHPA, reports to the IHPA and not Kathryn Harris (Library Services Director) or Eileen Mackevich (Executive Director of the ALPLM) all the while working on curatorial issues within the Library. Meister believes this will create administrative chaos that should be rectified by State legislation. Meister would like to see steps taken to resolve this issue. The current governance structure erodes the position of the Director of the ALPM. He also stated he feels a sense of urgency on IHPA’s part to fill the State Historian role regardless of the chaos it would create.

Meister stated he sees erosion of executive authority of the ALPLM Executive Director – used the Education Director as an example. Education Director has been appointed to the ALPLM and Meister believes Eileen had very little input into the hiring of the individual.

Meister stated that Eileen has been criticized for not moving along with Strategic Planning for accreditation. Meister believes that the IHPA hinders the accreditation process because the ALPLM is too dependent on the IHPA; there has not been a push by the IHPA for a three-body accreditation planning committee according to Meister.

Meister concluded the current situation cannot remain.

D. Patrick Reardon

Reardon expressed his frustrations with the governance structure, stating he believes it is awkward – three board, two executive directors. He believes this can be, and is being, addressed legislatively in order to remedy it.

Reardon went on to say he believes that the Board would not be where they are today if communication had been better from the beginning. He said that he, along with the rest of the Board, felt the IHPA did not want them there.

He stated that he believes the structure can be changed if it needs to be, but if there is a way to move forward and communicate better and find common ground, there may be ways to make things better than they are now without legislative action.

Reardon vehemently expressed that less will be accomplished if everyone is pulled into disputes; need to find ways to be collaborative.

E. Paula Kaufman

Kaufman stated the structure is overly complex without reason. The Board should only want what is best for the ALPLM and does not have reason to rush to conclusions that it would run better if it were on its own as there is no evidence to support the claim.

Kaufman suggested that all three boards should sit down and figure out what their respective roles are, what the expectations are of each board, seize the opportunity to better the institution rather than wrangle with each other, and take an opportunity to better understand the cultures of the other boards.

F. Leigh Bienen

Bienen said the Advisory Board is completely dysfunctional. They have no authority to act, their role is not understood, and she personally has no interest in serving on a board with no function. She expressed that she is growing impatient.

Bienen voiced her concerns surrounding the inability to hire a State Historian, and shared the concerns with the possibility of a new Presidential Library and Museum in the State.

Bienen ask rhetorically if the Board should agree to a mass resignation as an illustration of the problem.

G. Charles Branham

Branham concurred with Dick Meister's points of concerns, calling for clearer lines of responsibility, more resources, transparency, and the importance that the Board should not be perceived as political.

Branham also expressed need for clarification regarding the State Historian position – how can the job be made more attractive, who does the historian report to? Branham stated he believes the State Historian should be reporting to the Director of the Library/Museum. He also called for clarification on appointment of the Education Director.

Branham stated that the administrative structure is overly complex and suggested reducing the three boards to two.

H. Ranjan Karri

Karri stated he believes there is a line of confusion between the ALPLM and the IHPA; IHPA calls the shots and the ALPLM director reports to the ALPLM director.

Karri expressed his opinion that the IHPA's mission should be more focused toward State historic sites and that the ALPLM is more national in scope. He also shared fellow board member frustrations regarding the Advisory Board's role between the Library and Museum. Karri state in order for the Advisory Board to be relevant to improve the Library and Museum, the ALPLM needs to be a separate agency, IHPA does not need to be in charge, and the Board needs more relevance/responsibility.

Karri called for a structural change, stating that is the only way to fix bureaucratic issues such as hiring, reporting, etc.

Karri stated the proposed Study Panel is grandstanding.

VI. IHPA BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMENTS REGARDING NEW LEGISLATION

A. Sunny Fischer

Fischer apologized for the misperception of dismissal/dislike the Advisory Board felt from the IHPA Board; it was unintentional and not their goal but she sympathized and recognized where they were coming from.

Fischer clarified what the Advisory Board's role is; quoting Eileen Mackevich from the Board's first meeting: "It was to advise the Library and staff about potential programs, expansion of services, and accessibility to collections." Fischer stated the IHPA Board was under the impression that the Advisory Board was going to do and when there started to be questions about what their role was, the confusion started. Fischer also stated that she would like to take responsibility and apologize for not having called Steve Beckett after the first meeting; she believes if she had done so, there would not be the communication problem there is today.

Fischer expressed that the publicity made the situation more problematic, citing that donors are turning away because they see something they don't know what they're investing in.

Fischer said the Study Panel was not her idea, but a staffer's idea who had been watching and suggested a panel be put together of all of the boards; it was Fischer's idea to include community members so that there would be more of an independent perspective. She believes the Study Panel is the best way for representatives from all three boards to get together and hash out the best way to make the current governance structure work or to find the best new structure to work. Fischer wanted to make clear that, contrary to what the press has been reporting, she has not been controlling the process of the Study Panel. She suggested that she and Steve should not serve on the Panel. The ALPL Foundation has appointed two members; IHPA Board has appointed two members; (Julia Bachrach and Mindy Johnston) the Advisory Board has appointed no one at this point.

Advisory Board members responded to Fischer that they could not serve on the Panel due to private responsibilities. Beckett informed Fischer that he did not approve of the Panel, but would not stand in any board member's way of serving if they so choose. Fischer urged for Advisory Board members to step forward to provide representation.

Fischer went on to explain the Study Panel is. Per Chris Wills, a handout was passed around to all individuals present (later emailed to those on the phone) that outlined the purpose of the Study Panel; handout was drafted by Chris Wills with Sunny Fischer's guidance.

Fischer clarified misinformation regarding the Stevenson collection. She said it took IHPA six months once they received the paperwork for the collection and was voted on at the next IHPA Board meeting, was approved, and received \$20,000 for the collection.

Fischer addressed the issue of the State Historian. In January of 2014, Steve Beckett, Amy Martin, Eileen Mackevich, and Dawn DeFraties put together the job description. Fischer stated she had concerns regarding the position early on and suggested making it similar to the Poet Laureate (1-2 year, honorific) and was shot down; many felt the position should be a long-term position. The State Historian is not just the ALPLM/Lincoln Historian, but is the Illinois State Historian and should focus on all aspects of Illinois State history, which is why the position would report to

the IHPA Director as well as the ALPLM Director; the position would be housed at the Library and would functionally report to both directors.

Fischer addressed the concerns of the ALPLM website. IHPA did not design or approve the ALPLM website; it was done by the ALPLM Director.

Fischer next addressed concerns with the Education Director. Fischer was under the impression that Eileen was in every meeting regarding the hiring of the Education Director considering the two would work so closely together. Dawn DeFraties went on to explain the process for the hiring of the Education Director – interview panel consisted of the IHPA Director, IHPA Deputy Director, ALPLM Director and Dawn DeFraties. Everyone had the opportunity to communicate individually with the candidates during the interviews; each panel member ranked the candidate. Both IHPA and ALPLM Directors were involved the entire way of the interview/hiring process; decision was made on consensus. Exhibits Director search has been halted.

Fischer ended her comments stressing her hopes for two Advisory Board members to come forward as representation for the Study Panel.

B. Mindy Johnston

Johnston thanked the Advisory Board for allowing IHPA Board members to attend and speak during the meeting. Johnston stressed that she believes you cannot separate a library and museum; they have to work together because they are so complimentary of each other.

Garth Madison (IHPA Chief Legal Counsel) interjected to clarify the confusion regarding the name of the Advisory Board. The only reason it is called the “Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Advisory Board” is because of an act in statute that defines library to mean the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. The Board has always advised both the Library and Museum.

Johnston stated she supports the Study Panel, arguing that it is a great opportunity to evaluate as a team how to build and serve ALPLM. She urged for two members of the Advisory Board to volunteer their services for the Study Panel.

C. Julia Bachrach

Bachrach thanked the Advisory Board for the opportunity to be present. She commented on the remarks that have been made suggesting IHPA’s role should be only to look after state historic sites, leaving ALPLM to run on its own. She stated that IHPA is mandated by the National Park Service, is the State’s historic preservation office, and is the State Agency responsible for interpreting and preserving Illinois culture and history. Most state’s historic preservation agencies are responsible for their state’s historic library, as well as for their state’s archives; Illinois’ archives are in Secretary of State Jesse White’s purview, which has not been addressed.

She stated that all state historic sites connect with the State Library.

She addressed the issue of the State Historian, and the thought process that it would be an anomaly to get someone reputable to fill the position. She expressed that

many of the employees who work at the state historic sites are extremely intelligent and have great energy; finding a State Historian is not impossible.

VII. ALPLM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Eileen Mackevich stated that she has an open-door policy and is willing to talk and share opinions from many perspectives. She believes the Library the “pedagogical heart” of the institution. She would like to keep the two entities together and requests the kinds of resources that are needed to grow into the 21st century.

VIII. IHPA DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Amy Martin expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to give remarks. She stated that the IHPA has given its full support to the Study Panel. Martin called for the Advisory Board to give two members to the Study Panel.

IX. DISCUSSION

After hearing from all Advisory Board and IHPA Board members, Beckett defended his move to prepare and draft the legislation that was introduced to the Illinois House of Representatives. Beckett claimed he was concerned with what was happening with the Library and the staff and what he was hearing at board meetings.

Beckett concurred that he does not agree with the Study Panel, but said he never told the Board members he would lobby them one way or the other. Sunny Fischer stated she read directly from an email Beckett sent to her stating he “does not agree with the Study Panel, but would not stand in the board members way.”

Charles Branham stated he believes a mass resignation on the part of the Advisory Board would not remedy the donor fiasco the ALPLM is facing, but would in fact make it worse.

Sunny Fischer expressed her faith in the Study Panel, arguing that it is not grandstanding, but a way for everyone to work collaboratively in a way that has not been done before.

Dick Meister called for a motion to have two members of the Advisory Board volunteer for the Study Panel. Steve Beckett said no action could be taken at this meeting but suggested that those who wished to volunteer to do so. If two board members have not volunteered for the Study Panel by the next Advisory Board meeting, it will be made into an agenda item in at the next Advisory Board meeting on October 10.

Craig Sautter, as well as the rest of the board, asked for an explanation regarding the legislative bill process – can it be brought back up during the Veto Session or will it have to continue to be reintroduced? Sean Vinck stated the bill can be brought up for a vote during Veto Session.

Jennifer Baader, representative from Representative Franks' office, stated Franks' committee will be looking for comments, written statements, etc. from the three boards for his hearing on October 1.

Sunny Fischer stated the Study Panel will go forward with representation from the Advisory Board or not; it would be ideal for the Advisory Board to have representation.

Donna Carroll stated that many of these issues are governance issues, while others are structural issues. Fixing governance issues does not necessarily mean that it fixes the structural issues and vice versa.

Dick Meister reiterated that there should be two members from the Advisory Board serving on the Study Panel. Stressed that the two individuals that do serve as serving as representation of the board, not as individual members; the two volunteers should keep the Advisory Board's interests in mind. He also called for one or two meetings to have been completed by the October 1 Committee hearing.

Paula Kaufman expressed her concerns regarding the amount of time the Study Panel will have to take in and what the parameters are. Kaufman called for Steve Beckett and Sunny Fischer to work together to fine-tune the charge for the Panel.

Craig Sautter agreed with representation from the Advisory Board on the Study Panel.

Donna Carroll expressed interest in serving on the Study Panel for the Advisory Board depending on logistics and timing.

X. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

No committee reports

XI. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Board meeting adjourned at 12:34pm.