

**ALPLM Advisory Board Meeting**  
**JRTC, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 9-034 – Chicago, IL**  
**Friday, October 1st<sup>0</sup> – 10:30am**

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

Vice-chairman Richard Meister called the meeting to order at 10:32am.

II. **ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Charles Branham, Ranjan Karri, Dick Meister, Patrick Reardon, Craig Sautter,

**Phoned-in:** Steven Beckett, Donna Carroll, Sean Vinck

**Absent:** Paula Kaufman, Leigh Bienen, David Spadafora

**Also present:** Sunny Fischer, Chairman – IHPA Board of Trustees; Eileen Mackevich – ALPLM Executive Director; Kathryn Harris – ALPLM Library Services Director; Joan Walters; Carla Knorowski – ALPL Foundation CEO

**Also phoned-in:** Garth Madison – IHPA Chief Legal Counsel; Catherine Shannon – IHPA Deputy Director; Office of the Governor; Jennifer Baader – Illinois House of Representatives; Ryan Plunkett – Office of the Governor

III. **REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The June 13, 2014 and the August 28, 2014 meeting minutes were approved.

IV. **REPORTS**

**Advisory Board Chairman's Report:** Steve Beckett

Chair Beckett and Chair Fischer worked on a press release consistent with what was discussed at the last meeting and circulated it to everyone.

Beckett moved on to discuss the October 1st hearing from his perspective: There were approximately 15 Representatives present, many engaged and asking good questions. Beckett relayed to the Board his remarks to the Committee, which included his feeling that the statute is confusing, which in turn created organizational dysfunction. Prior to the October 1st hearing, Beckett met with many ALPLM staff member as a whole and individually and assured everyone anonymity. Beckett summarized that staff is upset with the situation, the structure, and with the way they feel they are treated. Beckett said the staff ten years ago could not wait to go to work. Now they do not like working at ALPLM; they strongly criticize management and leadership.

Beckett also told the Committee that initially he was opposed to the study panel discussion review, due to the IHPA not thinking there was a problem where he thought there was a one, and he did not think it a worthwhile approach. Subsequently, Sunny Fischer reached out and they have discussed many things. Beckett told the Committee he believes that he, Chair Fischer and Chair Whalen should meet. Following the hearing Chair Fischer has been trying to schedule a date that accommodates all three Chairs in order to share concerns. Beckett stated he believes this may be more worthwhile than the Study Panel.

Beckett stated candidly that the two Executive Directors' (Directors Mackevich and Martin) reports at the October 1st hearing was "proof that we have a major problem." Beckett believes the two respective reports prove the lines of authority are blurred, there is no shared vision, and there is a "blame game." Beckett says he believes the statute sets up the entire problem of "dueling directors."

Beckett said he does not believe that the statute is set up for the ALPLM Director to answer to the IHPA Director, and claimed that set-up (flow chart) is "someone's fiction" as the three Boards are not in the statute.

Beckett told the Board that Representative Willis (who has a background in library science) was specifically interested in collections policy. Representative Willis asked specific questions about collections policy and strategic planning. Beckett said he told the Representative that as an Advisory Board, they cannot implement a collections policy or a strategic plan until the IHPA Board of Trustees acts upon their suggestions and that that is part of the problem.

Beckett said that Representative Franks originally voted "no" on the legislation introduced last May because he was not aware of the problems surrounding the ALPLM. Beckett believes that Representative Franks now understands the nature of the problems judging from his remarks and questions at the October 1st hearing.

Beckett said he believes collaboration is a good idea; Beckett, Chair Fischer, and Chair Whalen will make an effort to see where they agree. Beckett stated that his goal is to have a viable institution with good fundraising capabilities.

Beckett stated he believes another hearing will be set for November 2014 during the Veto Session in Springfield.

**Study Panel Representatives Report:** (Charles Branham, Paula Kaufman [absent])

Branham stated that the Study Panel's goals include: clarification on lines of authority, examination of issues surrounding a strategic plan, accreditation, staff position vacancies, defining responsibilities of the State Historian, collections policy and how changes would affect funding. Branham feels any report to come out of the Study Panel could potentially be moot depending on future hearings and legislation; he would also like to avoid politicization of the issues.

**State Government Administration Committee Hearing: Update**

Chair Fischer reported her perspective of the October 1st hearing. She asked for IHPA General Counsel Garth Madison to clarify the governance structure of the IHPA/ALPLM, as written in statute. Madison concurred that the ALPLM Director does in fact report to the IHPA Director: The IHPA Director is designated as the CEO of Agency and that includes the ALPLM; henceforth, the job description for the ALPLM Director (from 2010) specifically says that the ALPLM Director reports to the IHPA Director. Fischer said she is not sure another hearing is needed, as she is not sure what it would produce. Her interpretation of the October 1st hearing was that the legislators were clear on "why can't you all just get along and figure this out internally" and she's not sure efforts have been made toward that.

Jennifer Baader, representative from Representative Franks' office, stated that the plan is to have another hearing, as individuals from outside the organization have requested to testify and would like to have a forum to testify. The hearing may have

to be before or after Veto Session, given that there will be a lot of activity during Veto Session.

ALPL Foundation CEO Carla Knorowski reported that, concurrent with the Committee's suggestion, the ALPL Foundation is on board with anything that gets the three boards to the table together in order to discuss any issues. She also stated that it was quite humbling to be put on the floor testifying in front of a legislative committee.

Director Mackevich reported that Chairman Franks instructed her to have a continued discussion with others regarding the future of the ALPLM. Mackevich would like to see the Springfield hearing focus on the future of the ALPLM as well as the clarification of issues at hand. Mackevich stated that Representative Willis reached out to her, expressing interest in any documents related to accreditation and collections management.

Dick Meister stated that he was impressed with the setting and seriousness with which the legislators took of the October 1st hearing. Meister felt that legislators were attentive and encouraging the three boards to continue their dialogue. Meister said he also shared with the Committee his frustrations with the convoluted structure. He found the effort to have be emblematic of the problems within the structure. Overall, Meister stated he was impressed with the hearing

**Governance/Restructuring Report:** Ranjan Karri

Karri stated that there are unclear reporting guidelines. He believes there is an undermining of authority of the ALPLM Director on the part of the IHPA. Karri does not believe it is appropriate for the IHPA Director to interfere with the authority of the ALPLM Director. Karri laid out two governance structure model options for the ALPLM and the IHPA: 1) the ALPLM separate from IHPA, thus creating two separate agencies; 2) the Advisory Board to mentor and give advice directly to the IHPA Director who will relay directives to the ALPLM Director, thus creating a collaborative structure in which everyone works together. Karri stated, based on past experience, that the latter is wishful thinking and called for the Advisory Board to move for the ALPLM to separate from the IHPA. Called for Board to come to conclusion on either alternative.

Patrick Reardon stated he believes governance structural change can only come through legislation or a new state law. Reardon expressed that until there is a change in the legislation, the more cooperation, the better things will be.

Dick Meister suggested Advisory Board members should share with Charles Branham and Paula Kaufman, their views on the governance structure and what they would like to see happen, in order for the two of them to take said views to the Study Panel for further discussion.

The Board moved for Karri to draft proposals for each proposed governance structure model to be voted on at the next meeting.

**Library Services Report:** Kathryn Harris, Director

Harris reported on several series of successful events that have transpired at the Library including the *Treasures* book release and the Conference on Illinois History.

Harris stated that along with ALPLM Chief of Staff Ken Crutcher, IHPA Facilities Manager Mike Norris, Conservation Manager Bonnie Parr, and ALPLM Executive Director Eileen Mackevich, a Disaster Plan is currently in being developed.

**ALPLM Staff Report:** Eileen Mackevich, Executive Director

Mackevich addressed the fact that the Conference on Illinois History does not mention the ALPLM and is listed only as the Illinois Historic Preservation Council's event, even though the first item in the ALPLM budget is listed as \$20k+ for the Conference on Illinois History; it is also put together by staff from the ALPLM.

Mackevich reported on this year's fourth education workshop, which will work on creating curricula surrounding Lincoln, race and slavery, is a collaborative project with the Illinois Supreme Court Historic Preservation Commission and the Illinois State Board of Education.

**Accreditation Issues**

The Advisory Board moved to vote on all accreditation issues at the next board meeting.

V. **IHPA Report:** Catherine Shannon, Deputy Director on behalf of Amy Martin, Director

Shannon addressed ALPLM/IHPA budget concerns that stemmed from the budget analysis provided to the State Government Administration Committee for the October 1st hearing.

Shannon stated that while the IHPA does not dispute that there are 18 people currently listed on the ALPLM payroll (information provided per a budget analysis that was provided to the State Government Administration Committee for the October 1st hearing), those eighteen employees are performing integrated services for both facilities. Example: six engineers are on the ALPLM payroll, but provide services to the ALPLM as well as all of the historic sites in downtown services. Shannon explained that benefits must be paid out of the ALPLM budget because the money gets transferred into the ALPLM operating fund, a change that occurred under Governor Edgar and Governor Ryan. State law requires any non-GRF (General Revenue Fund) funded position must pay those benefit costs out of their budget.

Sean Vinck commented that while Shannon's analysis was correct, discussions in respect to IT have been about consolidation with Central Management Services and to have those services delivered contractually. Vinck stated frankly that it is a problem to have internalized the function of network administration and infrastructure

Shannon also explained that the budget is not appropriated to the ALPLM. By law, the money is appropriated to the IHPA for any one of its four divisions: 1) Historic Sites Division, 2) Preservation Services Division, 3) the ALPLM, 4) Executive Office. Because the ALPLM is its own division within the IHPA, it would not be considered one of 57 state sites; it is one of four IHPA divisions and it is the largest division.

Shannon clarified that the Conference on Illinois History has been run through the ALPL Foundation since the Foundation has been around. She stated that the Conference cost \$24K, but \$19K is taken in through conference and registration fees, making it a money-in, money-out event.

Shannon offered to meet with Joan Walters and Ranjan Karri in order to further explore the budget with them in order to prepare for the next State Government Administration hearing.

VI. **ALPL Foundation Report:** Carla Knorowski, CEO

Knorowski informed the Board that the Foundation has been working collaboratively with the ALPLM and IHPA (and is now in the agreement stage, the major role of the Foundation) to bring the exhibit *To See Jerusalem Before I Die*, to the ALPLM for the summer of 2015. The Foundation will have its member opening for *Undying Words* exhibit on November 20, 2015. Knorowski stated that the Foundation's capital campaign is at the 52% completed and they are working vigorously to meet all their goals for the campaign for FY15.

VII. **New Business/Discussion**

Joan Walters, formerly the Budget Director for Governor Edgar and his administration, and more recently a volunteer with the ALPLM, (The Papers of Abraham Lincoln) is currently working on a pro bono basis to develop the initial steps in strategic planning for the ALPLM toward accreditation. Walters stated that in order to set the stage for strategic planning she has been speaking with as many people as possible, both within the agency and out, to learn the strengths of the organization. Walters said that strategic planning gives the opportunity for reflection on the past in order to appreciate the future, as well as an opportunity for introspection; what have we done, what are we like now, and what do we want to become? Walters said she views the strategic planning process as a way to build bridges.

Walters said she has spoken with Director Mackevich and would like to recommend key staff, a member of the ALPL Foundation, and a member of the IHPA's top staff to join Director Mackevich and herself in setting forth the initial steps in strategic planning. Walters stated she believes creating a strategic plan creates a reason for all parties involved to come together and to focus on the best interests for the organization. Walters asked for allowance to move forward with strategic planning and hopes to have something on paper by the anniversary of the Museum, April 2015.

VIII. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the Board meeting adjourned at 12:39pm.