

MINUTES

ABRAHAM LINCOLN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETINGS

Wednesday, October 21, 2020
9:30 am

DRAFT

PRESENT

Trustees

Ray LaHood, Chair

Steve Beckett

Joan Brodsky

Jessica Harris

Kathryn Harris

Gary Johnson

Melinda Spitzer Johnston

Jason Lesniewicz

Dan Monroe

Martin Sandoval (absent)

Eunice Santos

Guests

Rene Brethorst, Chief Operating Officer, ALPLF

Staff

Melissa Coultas, Acting Executive Director, Chief of Staff

Toby Trimmer, Chief Operating Officer

Dave Kelm, General Counsel, Ethics Officer, FOIA Officer

Hannah Ross, Executive Assistant

Consent Items

Minutes from the October 21, 2020, Public Meeting.

Trustee Steve Beckett made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2020, public meeting. Trustee Gary Johnson seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Chairman Report

Chairman LaHood reported that the board has good candidates to review in closed session today. The board is looking forward to advancing in the Executive Director search.

Executive Director Report

The ALPLM is a pillar in the Springfield community, and with COVID numbers increasing, the next couple of months will be challenging. The ALPLM gets its COVID guidance and directives from the Department of Public Health officials. To prepare for another shutdown, we asked staff to start working on work from home plans for their employees that come into the building.

Even with COVID numbers on the rise, our attendance has been steady, and on Columbus Day, the ALPLM reach capacity at 370 guests. There have been a couple of days when we reached 300 guests and are confident that we will continue to draw patrons during the holidays.

The ALPLM has focused on having a strong virtual presence, and the first phase of our new website has gone live. Patty Knepler has put countless hours into this new website project and has done a great job. The next phase of the website will be virtual enhancements with an updated sites map, teasers on upcoming programs, and making our in-house exhibits virtual. We encourage the board to review the website and give any feedback they have.

The ALPLM received a grant from the Secretary of State to create the Stevenson Room, and this project is now complete. The exhibits staff accomplished the room by the deadline and under budget. The executive team is working with the Stevenson family to put together a virtual viewing of the room for the family and some dignitaries that helped with this project's funding.

Chief Operating Report

The Stevenson Room is a \$265,000 investment from the state, and our exhibits team custom-built many items in the room. Exhibits Director Lance Tawzer spearheaded this project and did an incredible job.

The ALPLM's annual Conference on Illinois History was virtual this year because of COVID. The research division made the online conference very successful, and the feedback was very positive. There will be assessments done by the research division to evaluate the pros and cons of the virtual conference since this was the first year doing it online.

Earlier this month, we gave a tour to first lady Mrs. Pritzker. We presented Mrs. Pritzker with six portraits and asked her to choose one to display in our Governors Conference room in the Library. Mrs. Pritzker chose a portrait of Henry Horner, and from now on, the ALPLM would like to make it a tradition to have future first ladies select a portrait for display in that room.

Chief Legal Office Report

Chief Legal Officer Dave Kelm thanked the ALPLM board and staff for completing the required annual ethics training on time. Before the next board meeting, Kelm will ask the board to complete the required yearly sexual harassment training that will open on onenet November 1.

The Governor has reappointed trustee Beckett for a 6-year term. Sometime in the spring session, we are hoping to get all board members approved by the senate.

The ALPLM has been forced to threaten legal action on the Steward Johnson Foundation to remove the return visit statue. The return visit statue in front of the museum was supposed to be removed in late September/early October. The foundation has been told the statue must be gone by the end of October.

New Business

Discussion of the collections policy

The ALPLM has been working under the IHPA's collection policy but, now that ALPLM is a standalone agency, it's time to have its own system. The staff finished a large portion of the draft policy and will present to the board next meeting. We will rely on the board member's expertise and send an email for input on policy.

White House Loan

In 2018 the White House requested a loan of a portrait in our collection to be displayed in the Vice President's office. The White House asked for an extension of the loan for six months. The ALPLM loan committee suggests that we extend the loan but with conditions. The conditions for the extension of the loan are that the White House provides us a condition report of our portrait, and there will be a rotating piece from the ALPLM's collection in the White House.

Trustee Beckett made the motion to approve the extension of the loan with the conditions. Trustee Monroe seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Foundation Update

ALPLF held its first virtual fundraiser with Harold Holzer and sold 126 tickets. The foundation received positive feedback, lots of interaction, and are thankful to Christian McWhirter for moderating the event.

The foundation thanks Trustee Kathryn Harris for helping them tour the Rauch Family Foundation.

The foundation is in round 2 of interviews for their CEO position. The staff is excited to name their new leader soon.

On October 27, the foundation will host a webinar with their partner Union Pacific Railroad Museum. Union Pacific's Curator, Patrica LaBounty, will be talking about Lincoln and the railroads.

This week the foundation will be applying for a Healing Illinois grant. They will be working with Roger and Chaz Ebert Foundation on the Ebert film festival in Champaign Urbana.

Trustee Beckett made a motion to go into executive session to discuss matters involving 5ILCS 120/2(c)(1) and asked for a rollcall vote. Trustee Kathryn Harris seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Board went into Executive Session at 10:30am

Return from Executive Session to Public Session at 1:38pm

Trustee Dan Monroe made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Eunice Santos seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 1:40pm.