

MINUTES

ABRAHAM LINCOLN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETINGS

Wednesday, November 18, 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 (absent)

Dan Monroe

Martin Sandoval

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

Brett Cox, Chief Fiscal 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 Joan Brodsky seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved

Public Comment

No public comment

Chairman Report

Chairman LaHood thanked the board members for their participation, time, and work they have been doing in respect to finding an Executive Director for the ALPLM. Chairman LaHood and Dave Kelm had a conversation with the search firm and decided that with the closing of the ALPLM, its best to suspend the Executive Director search for the time being. They believe it would be impractical to invite the four final candidates to the museum during its closure and with most staff not in the building. Due to the shutdown and holidays, the search may have to wait until the first of the year. It was noted that all four candidates are excited to move to the next round and visit the ALPLM.

Executive Director Report

All board members received the notice sent to staff stating that starting Friday, November 20th, the ALPLM will be closed for the next four weeks. The next couple of days, we will focus on finishing work that can't be done at home, working with IT to make accommodations for staff to work from home, and meeting with our Union Reps. There was no surprise that the ALPLM attendance had a dramatic drop with COVID cases rising and the administration asking people to stay at home as much as possible.

Thank you to Trustee Johnson and Trustee Brodsky for sending sample collection policies from institutions they worked with. After reviewing those samples alongside our current working collection policy draft, there was more internal work to be done before presenting to the board. Executive staff will send the draft policy to members in early December for comments, and then it will be discussed at December's board meeting.

After October's board meeting, ALPLM staff, ALPLF staff, and both chairmen met with potential donors. During the meeting, they discussed the vision for the Mr. Lincoln Theater and proposed a path forward to try and fundraise for this project. The foundation has also been working diligently to secure funds for our State of Sound exhibit that opens in April.

Chief Operating Officer Report

Due to the shutdown, ALPLM staff decided to leave the Gettysburg Address in the vault instead of putting it on display for the speech's anniversary. ALPLM staff are working hard to provide online content for the anniversary to patrons.

The ALPLM staff has worked and moved nimbly throughout the COVID conditions and have been good to work with.

Chief Legal Officer Report

Kelm reminded board members to complete their Harassment and Discrimination training for 2020. Training completion is due before the end of the year, and it's available on the OneNet DoIT website with the same login information.

Chief Fiscal Officer Report

There is a significant revenue shortage due to the ongoing pandemic, and the ALPLM budget is not looking good. A vast majority of our funding comes from the general revenue fund, tourism fund, ALPLM operating fund, and Direct support. Based on current revenue and if things continue the way it's going, the ALPLM will be out of money by the end of the year.

The most significant expense for the ALPLM is payroll, at 86% of all costs. Other large expenses are security, DoIT, utilities, and maintaining the building. To reserve some expenses, fiscal has been holding off on procuring items we don't need and not filling positions.

The direct support money the ALPLM receives from the foundation is taking a big hit, but our foundation did secure a grant for the PAL program, so that project is not in jeopardy. There have been conversations with the foundation on significant fundraising opportunities the ALPLM would like them to pursue.

Earlier, GOMB required a 5% cut on expenses and relied on ALPLM executive staff to make the needed cuts. GOMB may require our agency to make more cuts soon. If another cut is necessary, the ALPLM will start assessing staff and programs' needs and will continue not filling positions.

New Business

Discussion of the Lincoln Penny Resolution

The Lincoln Society in Peekskill, New York, reached out to the ALPLM and requested that we join in on the effort to put the Lincoln Memorial back on the penny for 2022. The Lincoln memorial first debut on the penny was in 1922, thus making 2022 the 100th anniversary. ALPLM staff have no firm recommendation on this request. The board would like more information on why in 2008, they changed the back of the penny to the shield. Also, something

to consider is there are current efforts to do away with the penny altogether. It was decided that staff would do more research, build a resolution on behalf of the board, and talk more about it at December's board meeting.

Foundation Update

The foundation is excited to welcome its new CEO, Erin Mast. She will start on January 11th and is ready to meet with the staff and get started on her duties. Mast will also be taking Rene's place at ALPLM board meetings and will be the "foundation person" from now on.

The foundation has funding proposals for the State of Sound exhibit, the Midwestern book series, and PAL. They have secured some marketing for the State of Sound exhibit from Comcast. Comcast will be doing a PSA/interview about the exhibit airing on December 1st at 11:00am.

Provenance Committee Update

Co-Chairs Dan Monroe and Nick Kalm met with ALPLM staff historians Jake Friefeld and Christian McWhirter on November 10th regarding their material culture expert search. The historians have reached out to 10 institutions that employ people with the expertise we are looking for. They have identified seven experts they think would be appropriate to bring to the Library and examine the hat. The co-chairs encouraged historians to reach out to these individuals and move forward.

At the beginning of the calendar year there will be a full subcommittee meeting to discuss and approve the recommended experts. The experts that are approved in the subcommittee meeting will be presented to the ALPLM board for approval. The foundation pledged a \$1,000 honorarium to match the funds that the ALPLM will provide to bring the experts to the ALPLM. Trustee Monroe reported that Nick Kalm has been a great co-chair, and the staff historians has been great to work with.

Trustee Kathryn Harris made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Martin Sandoval seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 10:23am