

**MINUTES**

**ABRAHAM LINCOLN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETINGS**

Thursday, August 20, 2020

9:30 am

**DRAFT**

**PRESENT**

Trustees

Ray LaHood, Chair

Steve Beckett

Joan Brodsky

Jessica Harris

Kathryn Harris (late?)

Gary Johnson

Melinda Spitzer Johnston

Jason Lesniewicz

Dan Monroe

Martin Sandoval

Eunice Santos (absent)

Guests

Rene Brethorst, Chief Operating Officer, ALPLF

Staff

Melissa Coultas, Acting Executive Direct, Chief of Staff, Interim Human Resource Director

Toby Trimmer, Chief Operating Officer

Dave Kelm, General Counsel, Ethics Officer, FOIA Officer

Hannah Ross, Executive Assistant

Brett Cox, Chief Financial Officer

Lisa Horsley, Library Services Director

## **Minutes from June 17, 2020, Public Meeting**

*Trustee Gary Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2020, public meeting. Trustee Joan Brodsky seconded the motion. The Minutes were unanimously approved.*

### **Chairman Report**

Chairman LaHood stated that everything he would like to discuss is on the agenda.

### **Acting Executive Director Report**

Acting Executive Director Melissa Coultas reported that the ALPLM has been reopened for seven weeks and runs at 20% of normal attendance this time of year. The ALPLM has been working with Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau to welcome back tour groups with limited capacity and appropriate precautions. In welcoming back tour groups, we hope to see an increase in our attendance.

The ALPLM has been working internally on the 2021 calendar and focusing on programming. There have been discussions with other agencies about what programs have been working, what hasn't, and what ones we might want to try. We will also be re-engaging our advisory groups that assessed our Spies Exhibit to hear what they think our community wants to see regarding programming and how we can be a better partner. Any board member is welcome to be a part of those discussions and send an email to Melissa to be included.

The ALPLM website is set to go live with phase one at the end of August/early September. There will be three phases to continue updates. The draft website looks excellent, and everyone is excited to see that project move forward. Melissa would be happy to send a link to the draft website to any board members and welcome feedback.

### **Chief Operating Officer Report**

Chief Operating Officer Toby Trimmer reported that three years ago, the ALPLM received a grant from the General Assembly to put together space in the Library that showcases the Stevenson family. A year ago, is when work got started on this space, and it looks phenomenal. It will be a meeting space and a small exhibition of the Stevenson Family. The Stevenson Room will be completed at the end of September. Discussions are happening on what the opening event will look like.

With the recent passing of Governor Jim Thompson, many media outlets reference interviews and discussions that are credited to ALPLM's Oral Historian, Mark DePue. DePue spent many days interviewing Governor Thompson on his life and career.

The ALPLM's Facility Director, Lawrence Patterson, has been busy working with contractors to fix some exterior doors at the Library and Museum that were leaking. Our facility staff is busy keeping our buildings looking spotless and sanitized.

### **Chief Legal Officer Report**

Chief Legal Officer Dave Kelm reported that there would be two Ethics Trainings coming up that all board members and State of Illinois employees must take. Board members will receive letters and notifications by email starting now till the end of the year.

The first training is annual Ethics Training. This training will open after Labor Day and close mid-October. The next training is the Sexual Harassment training that will open in late October and close early December. At the end of the year Kelm has to report to the Governor's Office and several other administration bodies to make sure we are covered by these instances.

### **Chief Financial Officer Report**

Chief Financial Officer Brett Cox reported at last month's board meeting he presented to the board members a proposed Direct Support spending budget through the Foundation. As explained during July's meeting, Direct Support is earned income deposited by the Foundation through the café, gift shop, and catering. Cox estimated in the proposed Direct Support budget that there would be a 60% decrease because of COVID and was only looking to spend new income that would come in.

After the board approved the proposed budget, Cox sent the budget to individual division at the ALPLM. Cox received a lot of feedback on overlooked things, had some financial arrangements with credit cards that we can't do through the state, or items that already had contracts with the Foundation.

The revised budget seeks to use \$114,000 of the balance that remains from the previous year. This money would be about 13% of our existing Direct Support balance. Cox requested approval of the revised budget.

*Trustee Steven Beckett made the motion to approve the revised Direct Support budget. Trustee Martin Sandoval seconded the motion. The revised budget was unanimously approved.*

### **New Business**

#### **Policies**

There are no new policies ready to be presented to the board at this time.

#### **Resolution of the Illinois State Historical Society**

Chairman LaHood disclosed that he had a discussion with trustee Dan Monroe who is a member of the Illinois State Historical Society, about this resolution. Chairman LaHood agreed to meet with the society virtually to answer any questions he can, with the help of Dave Kelm and Melissa Coultas.

Trustee Monroe explained that the society had a board meeting, and the Wheeler termination was put on the agenda by some members that were upset by the termination. After hashing it out at the board meeting, the members wanted to express their concerns about what happened to Dr. Wheeler, that the State Historian position is vacant, and their willingness to help get the job filled quickly. Trustee Monroe received great feedback from members of the society at Chairman LaHood's willingness to talk to them.

#### **Loan to IDNR for Executive Mansion**

Library Services Director Lisa Horsley stated that six paintings have been on loan at the Governor's Mansion Since June 2018. IDNR is requesting a 1-year extension on these paintings. The loan committee met on this request and isn't comfortable with another 1-year extension since they have already been on display for two years. The committee recommends a 6month

extension to give Mrs. Pritzker enough time to pick new pieces from our collection and revise the loan. The committee is also requesting a standard facilities report. When the original loan was completed, that report was waved, but now it is required. We are requesting the approval of the 6month extension of the loan to IDNR for the Executive Mansion.

*Trustee Gary Johnson made the motion to approve the loan's 6month extension to IDNR for the Executive Mansion. Trustee Mindy Spitzer-Johnston seconded the motion. The extension of the loan was unanimously approved*

*\*Trustee Mindy Spitzer-Johnston left meeting\**

### Lincoln Leadership Update

Rene Brethorst, Chief Operating Officer at the ALPLF, noted the Lincoln Leadership event was held on February 19, 2020, and the award was given to philanthropist David Rubenstein. Lifetime foundation member Doris Kearns Goodwin presented the award to Rubenstein, and lifetime foundation member Bill Curtis was the master of ceremonies. The Merit School of Music of Chicago performed at the event, and portrait artist, William Chambers painted the portrait of Mr. Rubenstein that will hang in the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. Five hundred individuals attended, and this was the 3rd most successful Lincoln Leadership event to date. The Carlyle Group donated the takeaway book, *The American Dream*, and Reputation Partners donated public relation services. Mr. Rubenstein donated \$100,000, which was matched by Foundation Board Member John Nau. The event brought in \$1 Million and planning for the 2021 Lincoln Leadership event has begun.

Trustee Beckett asked Brethorst, compared to the other events with “major celebrities” like President Clinton or Steven Spielberg, where does she compare the financial success to this one. Brethorst answered, stating that it’s hard to put a number on an individual, but it’s more on how much time there is to fundraise for the event. Trustee Brodsky asked how much they netted from this event and requested an expense breakdown of the event. Brethorst provided an expense breakdown (attached).

### Discussion of Future Board meetings & update meeting from search firm

Chairman LaHood stated that there would be a board meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of each month till the end of the year. The next Board Meeting will be September 16, 2020, at 9:30 am. Kelm noted that the Governor had not extended the executive order at this point, allowing us to meet virtually. Still, it is anticipated with our contacts at the Governor’s office that there will be an extension.

*Chairman LaHood requested a motion to go into Executive Session Close pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1) and 5ILCS 120/2(c)(11) at 10:20 am. Trustee Steven Beckett made a motion to go into Executive Session. Trustee Gary Johnson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.*

*Returned from Executive Session to Public Session at 10:48 am.*

### Closing Remarks

Trustee Kathryn Harris reported that she was attending the designation for the Springfield 1908 Race Riot to become a national monument at the Lincoln Home. With this designation, we have

become a member of the African American Pathway to Freedom from the National Park Service.

Chairman LaHood asked Trustee Monroe to give the board an update on the Provenance Committee. After Dr. Wheeler was terminated, Trustee Monroe reached out to Co-Chair Nick Kalm, who then set up a zoom meeting with the two historians on staff, Christian McWhirter and Jacob Friefeld. They assured the Co-Chairs that they had been given the same charge as Wheeler and that they are pursuing the directive and getting up to speed.

Trustee Steven Beckett expressed that his understanding is the State Historian position will be selected by the ALPLM Executive Director, subject to board approval. In 2013-2015 when he was Chairman of the Advisory Board, they did not have a State Historian. Beckett was a part of the national search and hiring process for the State Historian position and wanted to note that it is not an easy task. Chairman LaHood explained that in his discussion with Deputy Governor Jesse Ruiz about the State Historian position, there is an idea of making the position similar to a Poet Laureate. Changing the position to a Poet Laureate would be a lesser term of service, traveling the state, and visiting universities and organizations. This changed would have to be done by legislation.

*Trustee Kathryn Harris made the motion to adjourn meeting. Trustee Jessica Harris Seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.*

*Meeting adjourned at 10:54 am.*