

**MINUTES**  
**ABRAHAM LINCOLN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETINGS**

September 16, 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

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

Brett Cox, Chief Financial Officer

Tammy Grant, Human Resources Director

## **Public Comment**

Springfield resident Miranda Bailey Peets launched a petition drive for former State Historian Dr. Wheeler. Chief Legal Counsel, Dave Kelm, provided the board with Peets' written document, petition signatures, and any comments that went with the petition.

Trustee Beckett expressed his frustrations on not getting answers to why the former state historian was fired and feels constrained and uncomfortable asking those why questions. He believes it's appropriate the Chairman or acting Executive Director responds to the individual that submitted the public comment. Trustee Kathryn Harris concurred with Trustee Beckett. Trustee Spitzer-Johnston referred to her experience with the IHPA board and how they would tell the trustees more information than they are getting now.

Kelm explained that the statute clearly states, the board does not have responsibility for personnel matters. In terms of specifics, what the board was provided is everything that can be shared when dealing with personnel issues.

## **Consent Items**

Minutes from the August 20, 2020, Public Meeting.

*Trustee Gary Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2020, public meeting. Trustee Dan Monroe seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.*

## **Chairman Report**

Chairman LaHood was invited to virtually attend the ALPLF's selection committee meeting with their search firm. This meeting was to discuss potential candidates for the Foundation's CEO position. The committee reduced the number of candidates they are interested in to six. The foundation will interview them during a two-day period to reduce the number of candidates to three.

## **Executive Director Report**

Attendance at the ALPLM is down 72% from the prior year but is on par or better than other cultural institutions. The ALPLM is still screening guests when they enter the building, and Saturdays are our busiest days.

Recently, the ALPLM hired a new Human Resources Director, Tammy Grant. Grant has an extensive history with state service spending 30 years at DCFS. She has 13 years of personnel

work and 3 years specifically related to labor relations experience. She looks forward to the opportunity to serve as the HR Director at the ALPLM.

### **Chief Operating Officer Report**

October 5-9th is the Illinois History Conference that the ALPLM puts on annually. This year our Illinois Midwest historian Jake Friefeld is leading the conference. The conference will be a virtual and free event.

### **Chief Operating Officer**

There have been changes from past ethics training that some board members have taken before. Kelm and Tedrow are in the process of working with DoIT on figuring out usernames and passwords for members to take the 2020 ethics training that is required.

Trustee Beckett is the first board member to come up for board appointment renewal since his term is for one year. We are working with the governor's office and Jesse Ruiz to get Beckett's reappointment letter out. No member of our board has been confirmed by the Senate yet; hopefully, it will happen during the veto session. After a board member is reappointed, their new term lasts for 6 years.

### **New Business**

#### **Discussion and approval of Vault Policy**

Every board member received a copy of the proposed vault policy for the inner vault to review. The policy included tracking who has access, where items go, and why the items have been taken out and when they come back. There are two primary staff members with the inner vault code and act as gate and record keepers.

After much discussion about who has access and why, keeping records, security, rewording guests, and viewing inner vault artifacts, it was decided to amend point #3 to authorized guests instead of guest.

*Trustee Beckett made the motion to approve the vault policy with the amendment. Trustee Gary Johnson seconded the motion. The vault policy with the amendment was unanimously approved.*

#### **Provenance Committee update**

Trustee Monroe reported that the co-chairs met with Lincoln Historian Christian McWhirter and Historian Jacob Friefeld earlier in the month. During their brief meeting, McWhirter and Friefeld communicated to the co-chairs that they are still processing former State Historian Sam Wheeler's research and getting up to speed. The co-chairs encouraged them to move forward finding an antebellum period costume expert to come in and examine the hat.

Trustee Brodsky voiced her frustrations about the amount of money it will cost to bring these experts in, and probably not get a definitive answer. She also stated that she has been personally involved with the hat provenance for many years and believes co-chair Nick Kalm already knows what the experts will say because, in the past, the Foundation has brought in experts before.

Chairman LaHood responded, stating the goal is to get to some finality, not by going off what someone says but using experts' opinions. None of the other board members have been intimately involved in this as she has, and it's the ALPLM board's responsibility to try and get an answer. Trustee Monroe followed up by saying that he said that the verdict could be ambiguous at the first board meeting, and that's okay, but it needs to come from a professional and have the evidence. Also, the cost to bring in these experts will be modest.

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 Mindy Spitzer-Johnston seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved.

*Board went into Executive Session at 10:30am*

*Return from Executive Session to Public Session at 12:29pm*

*Trustee Martin Sandoval made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Steve Beckett seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.*

*Meeting adjourned at 12:30pm.*