

ABRAHAM LINCOLN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, July 15, 2026 - 12:00 PM

Rockford Room, 555 W Monroe, Chicago, IL
and
Governor's Conference Room, 112 N 6th St, Springfield, IL

Call to Order

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 12:15 pm and asked that the roll be called.
Board Secretary Pam Waldeck called the roll.

Trustees Present

Chicago

Gary Johnson, Chair
Joan Brodsky
Jason Lesniewicz
Melinda Spitzer Johnston

Springfield

Kathryn Harris
Jacob Friefeld
Rikeesha Phelon
Margaret van Dijk

Absent

Jessica Harris
Dan Monroe
Maitin Sandoval

A quorum was present.

Staff Present

Chicago

Christina Shutt, Executive Director
Mark Mahoney, Chief of Staff
Gl01ia Legette, Chief Legal Counsel
Pam Waldeck, Board Secretary

Springfield

Kristin DiCenso, Chief Operating Officer
Jennifer Aring, Chief Fiscal Officer
Chris Wills, Communications Director
Frederik Heller, Library Services Director
Jeramy Tedrow, Chief Information
Officer

Guests Present

Nathan Cooper

Public Comments

none

Chairman Report

Chairman Gary Johnson introduced newly appointed Trustee Rikeesha Phelon. Trustee Phelon provided a brief overview of her professional background, experience and expertise.

Chairman Johnson spoke on the success of events commemorating America 250 around the state.

Chairman Johnson requested a motion to approve proposed meeting dates, January 20, 2027 and February 10, 2027, both meetings to be scheduled for 12:00 noon, for ALPLM Board of Trustees meetings.

*Trustee Jason Lesniewicz moved to approve the proposed dates of January 20, 2027 at 12:00 noon and February 10, 2027 at 12:00 noon. Trustee Melinda Spitzer Johnston seconded the motion. All in favor. **Motion Carried.***

Chairman Johnson asked for a motion to approve the March 11, 2026 minutes.

*Trustee Kathryn Harris moved to approve the March 11, 2026 minutes. Trustee Margaret van Dijk seconded the motion. **Motion Carried.***

Administrative Reports

Executive Director Report

Executive Director Shutt introduced newly appointed Chief Operating Officer, Kristin DiCenso, Chief Fiscal Officer, Jennifer Aring and Library Services Director, Frederik Heller.

Executive Director Shutt provided a comprehensive update on upcoming exhibits and events and how the ALPLM is engaging the public to participate in events happening at the ALPM and around the state. She also mentioned the ALPLM's partnership with Google and the recent closeout of the A.I. Google transcription project. Updates were given on other various upcoming and ongoing work at the ALPLM. Executive Director Shutt stated that America 250 was a great success, and 2400 people visited the museum at the time of the July 4th celebration.

Executive Director Shutt reported on recent high-profile programming, highlighting a special event hosted at the Museum featuring Congressman Jim Clyburn. Congressman Clyburn discussed his recently published book, which includes a feature on the civil war and reconstruction era hero Robert Smalls. Executive Director Shutt noted that Congressman Clyburn extended his stay at the ALPLM by an additional day to generously speak with and to address the ALPLM Interns.

Chief of Staff Report

Chief of Staff Mahoney gave updates on staffing and onboarding of various positions.

A brief update and highlights regarding the ongoing agency projects and developments were given on the EV charging stations and solar panels which will power the parking garage and Union Station.

Chief of Staff Mahoney addressed the audit findings and updated the board on efforts to address the findings and improve agency processes going forward. Gratitude was given to Trustee Margaret van Dijk for her expertise and guidance regarding improvements on agency policies.

Senior staff have continued training and coaching through CMS and the trainings have been beneficial and have made a difference in team morale.

Various board members expressed their appreciation to Chief of Staff Mahoney for keeping the Board updated regularly on agency events and operational happenings.

Chief Operating Officer Report

Chief Operating Officer Kristin DiCenso updated the Board on the 2026 Future Presidents of America program and the success of the extended invitation to students outside of the state of IL.

Chief Operating Officer DiCenso announced details of the upcoming 28th Annual Conference on Illinois History.

Chief Operating Officer DiCenso provided an update on the Citizen City children's exhibit fabrication and installation. The procurement process is moving forward with the pre-bid meeting scheduled and bids due August 17th, 2026.

Chief Operating Officer DiCenso reported that the ALPLM has completed and submitted a federal grant to the Institute of Museum and Library Services which was a joint effort with Chief Fiscal Officer Jennifer Aring.

Chief Legal Counsel Report

Chief Legal Counsel Gloria Legette thanked the board for their participation in completing their Statement of Economic Interests and the Supplemental Statement of Economic Interest and that the required document reporting is in compliance.

Chief Legal Counsel Legette reported that work was being done to update the agency's revolving door list and that notices will be sent out regarding each board member's status on the H list before the next board meeting.

Finance Report

Chief Fiscal Officer Aring gave a brief background on her professional career. She also gave her report and briefed the board on progress of the department and on the budget for FY27.

New Business

Executive Director Christina Shutt announced her intention to leave the ALPLM when her contract concludes in January of 2027. Discussion and appreciation for Executive Director Shutt's service was given by several board members.

Executive Session

It was moved to adjourn into a closed session; a majority vote was made. ***Motion Carried.***

Old Business

None

Upon return to original session Chairman Jonson asked for a motion to keep the Executive Session of the ALPLM Board of Trustees confidential.

*Trustee Jason Lesniewicz moved to keep the Executive Session confidential. Trustee Melinda Spitzer Johnston seconded the motion. All in favor. **Motion Carried.***

Adjournment

*With no further business, Chairman Johnson moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Trustee Katheryn Harris to adjourn. **Motion Carried Unanimously.***

Meeting adjourned at 2:10pm.