

Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites Corporation

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors in person and via Zoom

June 22, 2022

(Approved September 14, 2022)

Board members present: William Browne Jr., board chair; Andrew Dahlem, vice chair; Liz Witte, secretary; Gary Anderson; Melissa Caito; Fred Cate; David Go; Nancy Jordan; Thao Nguyen; Angila Retherford; Judy Singleton; Mary Walker; John Wechsler; and Robin Winston.

Board members absent: Andrew Briggs, Linda Conti; Jordan Gathers and Roland Shelton.

Advisory board members present: Steve Anderson; Greg Pemberton; and Alice Schloss.

Staff present: Cathy Ferree, president and CEO; Amy Ahlersmeyer, chief marketing officer; David Daum, chief financial officer; Susannah Koerber, chief curator and research officer; Brian Mancuso, chief officer of engagement; Kisha Tandy, curator of social history; Kevin Todd, AV technician; Marc Allan, director of communication; and Renee Bruck, manager of communication.

State-appointed representative present: Indiana District 82 Rep. David Abbott.

Partners present: Dan Bortner, director of Indiana Department of Natural Resources; and Meredith Lizza, senior operations director for the Office of Gov. Eric Holcomb.

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 12:03 p.m.

Consent agenda

The consent agenda consisted of the March 9, 2022 board minutes.

ACTION: The board approved the consent agenda as presented.

Investment Committee Report

Gary Anderson, Investment Committee Chair, provided an overview of the museum system's endowment. Goelzer Investment Management was commended for their performance in managing the museum system's investments during this volatile market, with a 5.2% net return this past year and a -4.9% net return over the past three months. The Investment Committee has requested of Goelzer to evaluate and report to the committee their determination of how much active managers have added to portfolio.

Finance and Budget Update

David Daum, CFO, shared a finance and budget update. As of May 31, 2022, total assets are \$16.662 million; total liabilities are \$4.400 million and total net assets are \$12.261 million. Total revenues are \$10.484 million; and total expenses are \$10.010 million resulting in an increase in net position of \$473k.

David presented the proposed Fiscal Year 2023 operating budget of \$12.815 million for board approval.

ACTION: The board approved the finance and budget update and the FY2023 operating budget as presented.

Collections

Kisha Tandy presented artifacts from companies that once made up the neighborhood surrounding the Indiana State Museum and White River State Park in downtown Indianapolis. Artifacts in the collection include items from Kingan & Co. Pork Packers; Kahn Tailoring Co. of Indianapolis; Bezso Kiss Shoe Repair; Acme-Evans Milling Co.; and the Oscar C. McCulloch School No. 5.

Governance

Melissa Caito presented the proposed board slate for election including Officers, renewing board members, and board advisors.

ACTION: The board approved the slate as presented including: officers Thao Nguyen as vice chair and Liz Witte as secretary, both with two-year terms, and Andrew Briggs as treasurer with a one-year term; renewing board members Liz Witte (third term), Mary Walker (third term), and Fred Cate (second term); and board advisors Andy Dahlem, Robin Winston, Alice Schloss, and Greg Pemberton, all for a one-year term.

The board recognized members Robin Winston and Andy Dahlem who are ending their board tenures. Mary Walker recognized Robin with much gratitude for his service to the board since 2014, and especially to the Levi and Catharine Coffin State Historic Site in Fountain City. Robin has provided a steady and guiding light to the museum system and board, was instrumental in the successful fundraising campaign of the Coffin interpretive center, and continues to be a strong advocate for the historic site and the museum system as a whole. In recognition of his service, Robin was presented with two photographs of the Levi and Catharine Coffin State Historic Site.

Fred Cate recognized Andy, who joined the board in July 2011 after being appointed by the governor. Andy has a long connection as a supporter of historical museums, understands the transformative power of what a museum can do for young and old, and has provided the board with a rare combination of vision and practicality. Fred credited Andy as the reason he chose to join the ISMHS board. In recognition of his service, Andy was presented with a cast of a juvenile mastodon tooth found at the mouth of Megenity Cave.

President's Report

Dashboard

Cathy Ferree presented the dashboard, noting ISMHS has recovered to about 73% of FY19 total attendance and 88% of FY19 paid daily attendance. Membership sales are bouncing back at near 3,000 households. The State Historic Sites had impressive spring attendance with Angel Mounds, Gene Stratton-Porter and T.C. Steele showing the strongest recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic. Cathy noted that the long-term goal for each site is to cover their total expenses before the shared services allocation. As of May 2022, Angel Mounds, Gene Stratton-Porter and T.C. Steele state historic sites have each reached this goal.

Cathy discussed the State of Indiana's Pulse Survey and highlighted increases in ISMHS' employee engagement and leadership since the 2019 survey. Andy has reviewed the Pulse Survey responses and indicated the results were positive with an increase in the overall survey score from 3.92 in 2021 to 4.03 in 2022. A Pulse Survey Task Force comprised of staff from across the ISMHS system will be formed to review the most recent survey responses, determine recommendations to address concerns, and report back to the staff and board.

FY22-23 Capital Project Updates

Susannah Koerber shared several capital project updates.

Work continues as the museum system prepares for an upcoming construction project at the Angel Mounds State Historic Site interpretive center, as well as work on a cultural landscape report and experience research at the location. RATIO Architects is nearing the end of the schematic design phase for the interpretive center, and the project is expected to be bid out by the end of 2022. The cultural landscape report is bringing in a wealth of information about the historic site and the work will continue into next year. The experience research project, which is funded by a planning grant from Lilly Endowment, is considering what the visitor experience will be and how it interfaces with the outdoor experience, making it one cohesive experience for the visitor.

Much of the work at Corydon Capitol State Historic Site has been completed, including the renovation of the gazebo on the downtown square and improvements to the patio at the First State Office Building. A water feature that was not useful was removed from the patio and a retaining wall has been repaired to allow for a much more flexible space.

Work at Culberson Mansion State Historic Site is ongoing. The bracket windows are being glazed and primed. Floors had begun to sag under the weight of marble fireplaces and mirrors due to duct work, so a master mason took the marble portions apart and reset them, while conservation staff did work to secure and renovate the mirrors. Carriage House moisture mitigation and repairs also are in progress. The Carriage House is used by the Friends group for the annual Literally, A Haunted House program; the museum system needs to restore the structure and mitigate moisture intrusion. Work will continue to take place over the next year in hopes that the structure can be used in the future for additional programming.

The Bank Barn at Gene Stratton-Porter State Historic Site is a project expected to be completed during FY23. The barn needs to be re-sided and the museum system is currently looking for 18-foot-long boards and other materials that will take the barn back to what it originally looked like. This project will add cupolas back to the barn, and a painting project will return the barn to its original yellow color. The Cabin at Wildflower Woods and garden shed also need log replacement work to be completed due to moisture issues.

A multi-year project at Lanier Mansion State Historic Site will begin with work to the walkways nearest the mansion. All sidewalks and walkways will be taken up and reinstalled in the historic herringbone pattern. This work is part of the master plan for the location.

Work at Levi and Catharine Coffin State Historic Site's lower barn where the false-bottom wagon is parked is in process. Restoration efforts cannot use modern methods and the museum system is respecting the way the barn was originally designed for future generations. Work is also ongoing for moisture mitigation in the Coffin house.

Solar lighting at the Limberlost State Historic Site's parking lot has been installed. Susannah noted the museum system chose to honor Gene's philosophy by choosing to install the solar-powered light. Master masons also were able to restore a 20-foot section of Gene's stone wall and worked on another 60-foot segment that needed work as well.

The longest wall in the museum system, which surrounds the Harmonist Cemetery, at New Harmony State Historic Site received needed repairs. Tuckpointing and brick repair at Thrall's Opera House is needed and will be completed at a future date.

A log replacement project at Vincennes State Historic Sites' Fort Knox II is ongoing. This project has been a bit of a struggle as crews are looking for the logs needed to install them in the same footprint that is there currently. Other projects in progress at Vincennes include the replacement of some siding on the Territorial Capitol that has deteriorated, as well as glazing windows. A moisture study at the Old State Bank will be completed in FY23 with any mitigation and repairs made in the future.

Following the locks and aqueduct engineering study at Whitewater Canal State Historic Site, several future projects have been identified. The largest project will most likely be the locks and aqueduct. Lock 24 will be used to showcase the lock-through experience. Lock 25, which is located near the Grist Mill and is the one the public most identifies with, also needs work. The waterwheel is currently being replaced, and the aqueduct will need significant work in the future. The painting project of bridges over the Whitewater Canal has been completed.

At the Indiana State Museum, the exterior cleaning project has been completed and work on the 92 County Walk icons have been completed. Upgrades to Firefly Landing have been completed following the addition of new restroom facilities and tiny toilets for our youngest visitors. Tables and chairs in the L.S. Ayres Tea Room have been refurbished as well.

Work continues for systemwide security upgrades. A multi-stage project to add security cameras that can be centrally monitored is ongoing, as is the lock core project. A signage project at the state historic sites has been completed.

While some Capital Repair & Rehabilitation (CR&R) projects are more visible than others, all projects are important to the communities where our sites are located, and the projects are needed so that locations can continue to be here for future generations.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned. Board members entered into executive session at 1:48 p.m.

Minutes recorded by: Renee Bruck, manager of communication, Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites

Minutes submitted by: Liz Witte, secretary

Upcoming Board Meetings

September 14, 2022

December 14, 2022

March 8, 2023

June 14, 2023

September 13, 2023