



LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES
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Preservation, Restoration, Education and Recreation

DATE: January 9, 2017

MEMO TO: Craig Taylor, Chair
Operations Committee

FROM: Nan Buckardt
Director of Education

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend approval of a Resolution approving the transfer of cultural items from the Lake County Discovery Museum's collections to the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION SUPPORTED: Organizational Sustainability

FINANCIAL DATA: No Impact.

BACKGROUND: The Lake County Forest Preserve District owns and operates the Lake County Discovery Museum. The Museum's Collections Policy guides the collecting scope for the Museum. Under this Policy, guidelines have been established for the care of Native American human remains and associated funerary objects. These guidelines are aligned with those established by the American Alliance of Museums' policies on the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

NAGPRA is a federal law that requires federal agencies and public and private museums that receive federal funding to return certain Native American cultural items -- human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony -- to lineal descendants, and "culturally affiliated" Indian tribes. "Cultural affiliation" means a relationship of shared group identity that can be reasonably traced historically or prehistorically between members of a present-day Indian tribe and an identifiable earlier group.

Included in the Museum's permanent collections are the remains of a minimum of 13 individuals and associated funerary objects. The accession records for these items contain incomplete information regarding from where the remains were acquired by the privately owned Lake County Museum of History, prior to 1965. Ownership of the remains was transferred to the District in 1989 from the County of Lake, which had previously acquired the collections from the private museum in 1965.

Working through a NAGPRA consultant, the Museum was put into contact with Willie Johnson, chairman of the Michigan Anishinaabek Cultural Preservation and Repatriation Alliance (the "Alliance"), to discuss the best course of action to repatriate the remains of unknown location and unknown cultural affiliation. Mr. Johnson agreed to present this item to the Alliance and at a meeting in April 2016 the Alliance recommended the remains be transferred to the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians for repatriation.

Following up on this recommendation, in June 2016 the Museum requested that the Secretary of Interior, through the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Review Committee (the “Committee”), approve this transfer. The Committee supported the recommendation and a letter dated September 9, 2016 on behalf of the Secretary of Interior from the National Park Service Associate Director, Cultural Resources, Partnerships, and Science affirmed the Secretary’s support of the transfer.

In accordance with NAGPRA regulations, a Notice of Inventory Completion for the human remains of unknown location was published for 30 days in the National Register, Vol. 81, No. 217 dated November 9, 2016. During the posting period any tribe with a cultural affiliation to the remains may claim them. The 30-day posting period ended on December 9, 2016 and no additional tribes have since come forward.

According to the Museum’s collection policy (which is consistent with NAGPRA), “If the cultural affiliation of Native American human remains and associated funerary objects is established the museum, upon the request of a legitimate claimant, shall expeditiously return such remains and associated funerary objects...” (Section V. Deaccession). The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians has expressed a desire to receive the remains of their ancestors at the earliest possible opportunity.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: Chief Operations Officer, Superintendent of Educational Facilities, Exhibitions and Collections Manager, Corporate Counsel.

PRESENTER: Nan Buckardt

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS
COUNTY OF LAKE)

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
REGULAR JANUARY MEETING
JANUARY 17, 2017**

MADAM PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

Your **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE** presents herewith "A Resolution Approving the Transfer of Cultural Items to the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians" and request its approval.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:

Date: _____ **Roll Call Vote: Ayes:_____ Nays:_____**
 Voice Vote Majority Ayes; Nays: _____

**LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF CULTURAL ITEMS
TO THE SAULT STE. MARIE TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS**

WHEREAS, the Lake County Forest Preserve District (the “District”) owns and operates the Lake County Discovery Museum (“LCDM”); and

WHEREAS, the LCDM’s collections include certain Native American remains and funerary items; and

WHEREAS, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (“NAGPRA”) is a federal law that requires federal agencies and public and private museums that receive federal funding to return certain Native American cultural items, such as human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony, to lineal descendants, and culturally affiliated Indian tribes; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to NAGPRA, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, represented by the Michigan Anishinaabek Cultural Preservation and Repatriation Alliance, has requested that certain cultural items, specifically the human remains and funerary objects listed on Exhibit A attached to this Resolution (the “Repatriated Objects”), be returned to it; and

WHEREAS, based on NAGPRA and its procedures, the District’s Board of Commissioners hereby finds that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, represented by the Michigan Anishinaabek Cultural Preservation and Repatriation Alliance, is culturally affiliated to the Repatriated Objects; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest and serves the purposes of the District to transfer the Repatriated Objects to the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, represented by the Michigan Anishinaabek Cultural Preservation and Repatriation Alliance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of the Lake County Forest Preserve District, Lake County, Illinois THAT:

Section 1. Recitals. The recitals set forth above are incorporated as a part of this Resolution by this reference.

Section 2. Approval of Deaccession and Transfer of Repatriated Objects. The deaccession of the Repatriated Objects from the LCDM’s collections is hereby approved. The Director of Education is hereby authorized and directed to transfer the Repatriated Objects to the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, in a manner that is consistent with NAGPRA and (to the extent it does not conflict with NAGPRA) the Collections Policy for the LCDM. The President, or her designee, is hereby authorized and directed to execute any document necessary to complete such transfer.

Section 3. Effective Date. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval in the manner provided by law.

PASSED this ____ day of _____, 2017

AYES:

NAYS:

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2017

Ann B. Maine, President
Lake County Forest Preserve District

ATTEST:

Julie Gragnani, Secretary
Lake County Forest Preserve District
Exhibit No. _____

Exhibit A

DECEMBER 2016 DEACCESSION LIST FOR NATIVE AMERICAN REMAINS LOCATION SITE UNKNOWN

ACCESSION NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
70.0.2	Assortment of skeletal remains	BAY 1; SHELF 1; BOX 1, BOX B
70.0.6	Assortment of skeletal remains	BAY 1; SHELF 2; BOX 4
70.0.8	Assortment of skeletal remains	BAY 1; SHELF 3; BOX 6
70.0.9	Assortment of skeletal remains and burial soil	BAY 1; SHELF 3; BOX 5; BOX B
70.0.14	Assortment of skeletal remains	BAY 1; SHELF 4; BOX 7
70.0.16	Assortment of skeletal remains	BAY 2; SHELF 1; BOX 10
70.0.17	Assortment of skeletal remains	BAY 2; SHELF 1; BOX 13
70.0.18	Assortment of skeletal remains	BAY 2; SHELF 1; BOX 12
70.0.24	Assortment of skeletal remains, pottery, and stones	BAY 2; SHELF 2; BOX 19
70.0.25	Assortment of skeletal remains	BAY 2; SHELF 2; BOX 20
70.0.32	Assortment of skeletal remains	BAY 2; SHELF 4; BOX 27
70.0.35	Assortment of skeletal remains	BAY 2; SHELF 4; BOX 30
70.0.41	Skull	BAY 3; SHELF 1; BOX 1
70.0.43	Skeletal Remain	BAY 3; SHELF 1; BOX 3
70.0.44	Skeletal Remain	BAY 3; SHELF 1; BOX 4
70.0.45	Skeletal Remain	BAY 3; SHELF 2; BOX 5
70.0.48	Skeletal Remain	BAY 3; SHELF 2; BOX 8
70.0.49	Skeletal Remain	BAY 3; SHELF 3; BOX 9
70.0.51	Skeletal Remains (one being an animal)	BAY 3; SHELF 3; BOX 11 -
70.0.52		BAY 3; SHELF 3; BOX 12 -
70.0.53		BAY 3; SHELF 4; BOX 13
70.0.54		BAY 3; SHELF 4; BOX 14
70.0.55	Skeletal Remain	BAY 3; SHELF 4; BOX 15
70.0.56	Skeletal remains	BAY 3; SHELF 4; BOX 16
70.0.57		BAY 4; SHELF 1; BOX 17
70.0.58	Assortment of skeletal remains	BAY 4; SHELF 3; BOX 36
70.161	Bird skull	BAY 3; SHELF 2