

**Rhode Island Colonial Charter 350th Anniversary Commission
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Draft Minutes of the Meeting of

Wednesday August 15, 2012

2:00 P.M.

Rhode Island State House, Providence

Secretary of State's Public Information Center Conference Room

- 1. Chairman Ted Sanderson called the meeting to order at 2:00 P.M. In addition to Chairman Sanderson the meeting was attended by Commissioners Jon Stevens, Betty Capozzi, Paul Caranci, Gwenn Stearn, Al Klyberg, Erik Hertfelder, Clark Greene, Sue Ellen Kroll and Ruth Taylor. Also in attendance were Ali Mays and Shana Weinberg.**
- 2. Commissioner Jon Stevens noted the desire and need for someone to coordinate grants activities. To that end he introduced Shana Weinberg, a recently graduated Humanities student from Brown University. Shana expressed an interest in supporting the Commission's work on a part-time basis as she seeks full-time employment and has been highly recommended by Commissioners Kroll and Lubar. Her work with the Commission would be subject to our obtaining a grant for that purpose.**
- 3. Commissioner Stevens also addressed the administrative void that currently exists. Once the various committees meet and suggest a course of action, there is no administrative staff to complete each task. The burden tends to fall to Stevens who has quickly become**

overwhelmed with the enormity of the task before us.

4. Upon a motion by Commissioner Sanderson, second by Commissioner Klyberg, the minutes of the July 17, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

5. Ms. Ali Mays provided a summary of grant applications that have been or will be submitted and potential uses of the funding if known.

a. Any funds received from the Kimball Foundation will be used towards an event planner for the gala.

b. A letter was sent in July to the John Carter Family Trust requesting a grant in the amount of \$250,000.

c. A letter was submitted to the Champlin Foundation in July requesting \$90,000. The Champlin Foundation however, has indicated that the Commission must have funds totaling \$250,000 by October in order for it to receive a Champlin grant.

d. Commissioner Stevens noted that there are other people and organizations that might be able to provide funding. They include David Rubenstein and Chuck Williams. He welcomed ideas from other members. Commissioner Kroll reported that there is an education grant available from the RI Council for the Humanities that is K-12 specific. The application deadline is in two weeks. There is another major grant opportunity in the fall. Commissioner Kroll also noted that Pell Humanities Caucus might be a potential source to identify people who might be willing to donate. Other commissioners expressed the concern about being able to raise significant amounts of money prior to promoting and publicizing the work of the Commission. This task may become easier once the full Commission

approves the Work Plan.

e. Commissioner Kroll also opined that fundraising might be easier if the website could be better developed and more up to date. Commissioner Caranci indicated that once developed, the Secretary of State's staff expressed an interest in helping to maintain it. Commissioner Kroll further noted that a proposal to RICH is due in two weeks and was not indicated in the Work Plan.

4. Commissioners reviewed the Work Plan as presented. Upon review, a motion was made by Commissioner Stevens to adopt it. Commissioner Greene expressed concern that it might contain too much detail to be an effective work plan tool. The majority of commissioners present agreed. Commissioner Stevens agreed to create a more concise version of the plan for presentation to the full Commission for adoption.

a. Commissioner Greene discussed his plan of action for engaging teachers. He suggested identifying a group of educators willing to rally and solicit their help. Early September is the ideal time to do that as the teachers are returning to their classrooms. We have a great opportunity to introduce videos and other virtual components into the classroom as learning tools.

b. Commissioner Kroll said that the Rhode Island Foundation funds such programs that revolve around continuing education as opposed to the encasement, visitor's center or gala which it will not fund.

c. Commissioner Stevens noted that Pembroke College, Roger Williams Alma Mater, has a 15-member traveling chorus that will perform at the Colony House in Newport next summer. Plans have

been made to have this event in conjunction with Charter celebrations. He also expressed the need to seek out people to participate in the celebration as debate moderators, panelists, and college or university hosts for the events.

5. The meeting was adjourned at 4:03 P.M.