

## 1696 Historical Commission Meeting Minutes of September 10, 2015

The members of the 1696 Historical Commission met on September 10, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. in Room 203 of the Rhode Island State House.

### Commission members present:

Secretary of State Nellie M. Gorbea, Chairperson  
Keith Stokes, Mayforth Group  
Mary Ann Snider, RI Department of Education, Vice Chairperson  
Joyce Stevos, RI Black Heritage Society  
Valerie Tutson, RI Black Storytellers  
Theresa Moore, T-Time Productions  
Rochelle Lee  
Geraldyn Ducady, Haffenreffer Museum, Brown University  
Elyssa Tardif, RI Historical Society

### Commission members absent:

Barrymore Bogues  
Mary Gwann  
Paul Gaines, Retired Educator  
Marcia Ranglin-Vassell  
Joanna Doherty, RI Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission  
Julia Jordan-Zachery, Providence College

### Staff present:

Tracey Croce, Local Government Records Analyst, RI Department of State  
Tom Evans, State Librarian, RI Department of State  
Jason Martiesian, Director of Legislative Affairs, RI Department of State  
Jason Hernandez, Director of Community Relations, RI Department of State

### Guests:

There were no guests in attendance.

#### I. Welcome/Call to order

Secretary Gorbea called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.

#### II. Approval of Minutes

Secretary Gorbea stated that the Rhode Island Indian Council clarified the correct reference with regards to persons "native" to the country as Native Americans. The Rhode Island African American History Curriculum Guide will be revised to include the correct reference. A motion was made by Rochelle Lee and seconded by Elyssa Tardif to approve the minutes of the July 27, 2015 Commission meeting. The minutes were approved by a vote of 9-0.

#### III. Subcommittee Report

##### Curriculum Consultant Grant Application:

The Rhode Island Historical Society has agreed to submit the Black Philanthropy Fund grant application on behalf of the Commission. The application is due on Thursday, September 17, 2015. Keith Stokes will assist in drafting the application.

Commission members gave an update on their meeting with the Choices Program. Choices recommended focusing the curriculum to a specific grade level, they suggested starting with middle school as the scope and scale for the curriculum is massive for K-12. In addition, Choices advised to get teachers involved and get their input early.

Keith Stokes drafted a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a curriculum consultant. The Commission reviewed the RFP.

IV. Commission Work Plan – Next Steps

The Commission decided to postpone the public forum until a curriculum consultant is hired. It was noted that the Commission is set to expire on October 15, 2015. The next meeting of the Commission will be scheduled at the Rhode Island Department of Education. Commissioner Dr. Ken Wagner will be invited. Commission members preferred a morning meeting.

V. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

VI. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

Hand-outs:

Rhode Island African American History Curriculum Guide Outline

1696 Historical Commission Meeting Minutes of July 27, 2015

Black Philanthropy Fund Overview

Black Philanthropy Fund Grant Application

Request for Proposals: Design an African Heritage History Curriculum for RI K-12 Schools