

## **1696 Historical Commission Meeting Minutes of October 8, 2015**

The Commission is set to expire on October 15, 2015 and will not hold any further meetings therefore the minutes are approved by Secretary of State Nellie M. Gorbea, Chairperson.

The members of the 1696 Historical Commission met on October 8, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. in conference room 501 at the Rhode Island Department of Education – 255 Westminister Street Providence, RI.

### 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, Community Stakeholder, Pawtucket School Department  
Geraldyn Ducady, Haffenreffer Museum, Brown University  
Elyssa Tardif, RI Historical Society  
Barrymore Bogues  
Mary Gwann

### Commission members absent:

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

### Staff present:

Ken Carlson, Reference Archivist, 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:

Commissioner Dr. Ken Wagner, Rhode Island Department of Education

#### I. Welcome/Call to order

Secretary Gorbea called the meeting to order at 8:41 a.m.

#### II. Remarks by Commissioner Dr. Ken Wagner

Commissioner Wagner spoke briefly about his background in education and as a former middle school principal. He mentioned that New York's structure has the education department, archives, and cultural affairs in the same department which provides for a nice synergy. He agreed with the concept of starting the proposed curriculum in Middle School, as students are at a good stage of learning. Commissioner Wagner stressed the importance of implementing the Commission's work by integrating it into the hands of our teachers. As Commissioner, wants to empower teachers and principals.

### III. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Rochelle Lee and seconded by Mary Ann Snider to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2015 Commission meeting. The minutes were approved by a vote of 10-0.

### IV. Chairperson update on curriculum consultant funding

The grant application was submitted to the Black Philanthropy Fund September 17 by the Rhode Island Historical Society.

Members of the Commission met with the Rhode Island Foundation on October 6, 2015 to give an update on the Commission's work to date and seek additional funding. The Foundation wants to make sure the curriculum is sustainable. They will review the information and advise on possible foundation support.

### V. Discuss Draft Commission Final Report

The Chairperson opened the discussion regarding the development of the final report. Some of the items the Commission agreed to include are as follows:

- Initial curriculum development will focus on Middle School.
- Adequate funding is critical in order to hire a curriculum consultant
- The Rhode Island Historical Society will serve as the fiscal agent for grant funding and is forming a task force so that the Commission can continue its work.
- The task force will be moving forward with the support and involvement of Rhode Island Department of Education
- Host a public meeting
- Request meeting with the General Assembly
- Establish a vision for sustainability and expansion of curriculum
- Develop an instructional support system with teachers and curators
- Incorporate a commitment to technology

VI. The Rhode Island Historical Society will form a task force that will take over the efforts of the 1696 Commission. Commission members will all be invited to join the task force and continue working on the development of the curriculum. The task force' first meeting is scheduled on Tuesday, December 1, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. at the Aldrich House, 110 Benevolent Street, Providence, RI.

There was a recommendation to issue a press release outlining the commission's work and accomplishments. This would provide some positive media coverage regarding the commission.

### VII. Public Comment

Julius Kolawale expressed his gratitude for the Commission's work and moving the project forward.

### VIII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 a.m.

### Hand-outs:

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