

Rhode Island Historical Records Advisory Board

Minutes of Meeting – March 2, 2005

Rhode Island State Archives

Providence, R.I.

Attending: Jane Civins, Donna DiMichele, Jonathan Galli, Stephen Grimes, Marlene Lopes, David Maslyn, and Gwenn Stearn, Coordinator.

Not Attending: Marie Bennett, Mark Brown, Allison Cywin, Marilyn Massaro, and Leonard Panaggio.

Meeting called to order: 10:15 a.m.

I Minutes of the meeting of January 5, 2005

Maslyn moves to approve the meeting minutes. DiMichele seconds. Approved unanimously.

II Board reappointments and appointments

Stearn reported that she had sent a letter to the Governor regarding the reappointment of Board members and new appointments. After receiving no response, she sent a follow-up letter. A standardized

response was later received from Deborah A. Smith, the Governor's Director of Appointments. Copies of Stearn's letter were distributed to members. To date, no action had been taken by the Governor's Office. The Secretary of State's Chief of Staff, Tim Patterson, will speak to the Governor's Chief of Staff on behalf of the Board.

III National Historical Publications & Records Commission funding crisis

Stearn informed the Board that the NHPRC has been zero-funded in President Bush's proposed budget. A grass-roots effort by archival organizations (SAA, COSHRC, NAGARA etc.), institutions, and individuals to persuade Congress to restore funds is ongoing. Copies of a National Archives press release and other information were distributed. Stearn also distributed a draft letter for member's review, which she will send to the Rhode Island Congressional delegation on behalf of the Board. Members made various suggestions about this, and for mobilizing RI organizations and institutions that have benefited directly or indirectly from NHPRC funding. Stearn asks to receive copies of any additional letters written so that she can forward copies to COSHRC, as they have requested.

IV Review of NHPRC grant application components

Stearn distributed a list of the Board's NHPRC grant application

components under the headings of Archival Education and Re grants. Members discussed the list and what would be acceptable uses of grant monies by applicants. The Board agreed that the records management component would not be included, and that applicants should be encouraged to produce a finding aid or report at the conclusion of their grant-funded project.

Maslyn inquired about the status of a grant-writer. Stearn responded that a suitable candidate might be available and that she hoped a draft would be ready by the May meeting.

V News and announcements

-Maslyn informed members that there had been a delay in the public launch of the register to Senator Chafee's records on the URI-Special Collections website. The new date for the event will be March 15th at 10:30 a.m. All Board members are invited.

-Stearn reported the appointment of the new Archivist of the United States.

-DiMichele informed members that the Massachusetts State Archives and Massachusetts Historical Records Advisory Board are looking to expand their database of archival consultants.

-DiMichele distributed information on a program at the Providence Athenaeum to be held March 5th at 1:00 p.m. The program is entitled "The Brilliance of Cloth book covers: 19th Century Decorated Bindings". Sue Allen, a faculty member of the University of Virginia, Rare Book School, will present a slide lecture.

-DiMichele also mentioned that the OLIS library would be relocating from its present location to a smaller space on the 4th floor of the Department of Administration building.

-Lopes told members about the publication of part two of an article published in the RI College newsletter on the identification of William Gross, a janitor at the old Normal School.

-Stearn reported that Steven Lubar has been appointed the new professor of American Civilization at Brown University. He is in charge of the John Nicholas Brown Center and also the establishment of a new master's program in public humanities at Brown.

-Stearn informed members that Leonard Panaggio was unable to attend because he had broken an ankle. He had offered a contact name at the Naval War College, a possible site for the Board's spring meeting. Due to security issues, however, a list of all attendees would be required before the meeting. Because Board meetings are subject to Open Meetings Act requirements, this venue was therefore deemed unsuitable. Alternate sites were discussed. It was agreed that the meeting should be held in Newport and Stearn would contact Bert Lippincott of the Newport Historical Society about hosting the meeting.

-Stearn reported that RI Historical Society Executive Director, Bernard Fishman, had asked to address the Board. Members agreed that he should be invited to do so at the May meeting.

-Marie Bennett, President of the Rhode Island Town and City Clerks Association, has asked Stearn and Tracey Croce, State Archives,

Local Government Records Analyst, to present a program on preservation at the April 22nd RITCCA meeting.

-Stearn reported that the Local Government Records Program would begin the second year of preservation grants to the cities and towns.

-Stearn also informed the Board that the online filing of meeting minutes and agendas on the Secretary of State's website began in July and that the public interface was now operational.

VI Adjournment

Galli moves to adjourn. Civins seconds. Approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Read and approved. May 4, 2005