

Rhode Island Historical Records Advisory Board

Minutes of Meeting – September 6, 2006

Rhode Island State Archives

337 Westminster Street

Providence, R.I.

Attending: Mark Brown, Jane Civins, Allison Cywin, Donna DiMichele, Jonathan Galli, Stephen Grimes, Margaret Long, Marlene Lopes, David Maslyn, Marilyn Massaro, and Gwenn Stearn, chair.

Not attending: Michael Hébert and Leonard Panaggio

Also attending: Elliott Caldwell and Jay Gaidmore

Meeting called to order: 10:05 a.m.

I Minutes of the March 1, 2006 meeting

Maslyn moves to approve the meeting minutes. Long seconds the motion. Approved unanimously.

Minutes of the May 3, 2006 meeting

Long moves to approve the meeting minutes. Maslyn seconds the motion. Approved unanimously.

Stearn introduced Jay Gaidmore, recently appointed University Archivist at Brown University.

II 2007 meeting dates and Board appointments/re-appointments

Stearn distributed a list of proposed 2007 Board meeting dates and asked the Board to discuss whether they wanted to continue holding a spring meeting outside of Providence. The Board agreed to continue this practice. Jamestown was mentioned as a possible location for the spring meeting. North Kingstown was mentioned as an alternative site. Stearn noted that the 2007 dates included a meeting earmarked for review of the second cycle grant applications under the Board's NHPRC grant project. Discussion took place as to whether grant applications evaluation and awards would take place in executive session under the Open Meetings Act. Long explained the executive session process and Stearn is to explore the matter further before the November 1 meeting.

Stearn remarked that four members' terms expire on January 5, 2007. They are David Maslyn, Stephen Grimes, Marilyn Massaro and Jonathan Galli. All agreed to serve another term. Stearn will notify the Governor accordingly.

III Report on the Rhode Island EAD Consortium initiative

Stearn informed the Board about the EAD Consortium initiative which

is being spearheaded by Brown University. This consortium came into existence for purposes of marking up collections finding aids of Rhode Island repositories in EAD (Encoded Archival Description) and to provide a gateway on the web for viewing the finding aids and researching Rhode Island repositories' holdings. Grant funds are being sought to enable a pilot project.

IV Report and discussion on the Historical Records Re-grant and Training Project

Project Archivist Elliott Caldwell reported on the progress of the grant project. She discussed the BACE (Basics of Archives) curriculum, the Recordkeepers listserv for course takers, the Repositories listserv, and grant writing workshops for potential applicants in September (15th & 18th) and also in December.

V News and announcements

Galli announced the success of the annual conference of the Federation of Genealogical Societies held in Boston from August 30 through September 2, 2006. Frank Williams, Chief Justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court provided introductory remarks and introduced the Archivist of the United States Allen Weinstein.

Galli also announced that members of the genealogical community are mobilizing to write to their respective congresspersons regarding

the cut in funding to NARA and its services.

Galli also mentioned the formation of a commission to celebrate the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth.

Maslyn announced his appointment as Interim Dean of the University of Rhode Island Library. The University will advertise again for a permanent director.

DiMichele informed the Board of the death of Frank Iacono. Frank was a 32-year employee of OLIS (Office of Library and Information Services) and reference librarian of the OLIS library.

DiMichele announced the program for the fall meeting of the New England Archivists. The meeting will be held at the University of New Hampshire in Durham, October 20 & 21, 2006.

Stearn announced the issuance by the Public Records Administration of a new General Records Schedule (sections 1-6), as well as the adoption of Rules and Regulations for the Making and Management of Imaged Public Records. This regulation is applicable to both state and municipal agencies.

Stearn also announced the promulgation of a new regulation by the NHPRC (National Historical Publications and Records Commission) regarding their grant program.

VI Adjournment

Galli moved to adjourn and Maslyn seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Read and approved 11.1.2006