

Rhode Island Historical Records Advisory Board

Minutes of Meeting – September 3, 2008

Rhode Island State Archives

337 Westminster Street,

Providence, RI 02903

Attending: Mark Brown, Jane Civins, Allison Cywin, Donna DiMichele, Russell Franks, Peggy Long, Marlene Lopes, Gwenn Stearn, chair.

Not attending: Jonathan Galli, Stephen Grimes, Michael Hébert, Dave Maslyn, Marilyn Massaro.

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

I Minutes of meetings: January 9, March 5, and May 7, 2008

Long moved to approve the January 9 meeting minutes. Cywin seconded the motion. Minutes approved unanimously.

Long moved to approve the March 5 meeting minutes. Civins seconded the motion. Minutes approved unanimously.

Long moved to approve the May 7 meeting minutes. It was noted that Hébert's first name required correction. Minutes approved unanimously.

**II Report on the Protecting the Past – RI project (IMLS –
Connecting to Collections grant) – Donna DiMichele,
Office of Library & Information Services**

DiMichele reported on the \$40,000 IMLS Connecting to Collections grant awarded to OLIS in partnership with the RI State Archives. The project, Protecting the Past – RI, encompasses a comprehensive statewide disaster planning effort to safeguard heritage collections, including those of libraries, archives, museums, historical & preservation societies, and municipal offices. Project components include adopting dPlan as the state’s standard for disaster planning, the adaptation of dPlan to fit RI circumstances, training institutions in its use, developing a series of disaster response networks, and disseminating information to state & local emergency management agencies and first responders. A steering committee of stakeholder representatives of all heritage agency types and geographical areas also includes the State Risk Manager and the RI Emergency Management Agency Planning Coordinator.

**III Report on the Intergovernmental Preparedness for
Essential Records (IPER) project (FEMA grant to the
Council of State Archivists (CoSA)) – Rich Hite, State
Records Coordinator, RI State Archives**

Rich Hite reported on the IPER summit held on July 21 and 22 in

Atlanta, Georgia. IPER, led by CoSA and State Archives across the US, is designed to be a collaborative effort involving state emergency management agencies, state IT agencies and State Archives personnel. The project's focus is on activities critical to protecting essential state & local government records and ensuring continuity of government operations following a disaster. The IPER project is being funded by a FEMA grant and coordinated by the Council of State Archivists (CoSA) to develop Web and CD-based training for state and local government personnel nationwide. Individual state teams will deliver training to agencies that will prepare them to protect records before, during and after disasters and other emergencies. Representatives from each state and US territory attended the Atlanta summit. Hite reported that representatives from each group (IT, EM and archivists) discussed their agency's priorities and elaborated on what assistance would be needed from the other agencies. Hite also mentioned the lack of participation from emergency management from the states, including Rhode Island. He noted that the individual states' representatives are responsible for organizing within the state and to adapt resources supplied by CoSA to meet the state's individual needs. Hite will keep the Board informed about the project's progress.

IV NHPRC grant review process

Stearn discussed the process for reviewing grant applications to the NHPRC from RI organizations. She specifically addressed the

disparity between evaluations from Board members who reviewed a grant submitted by the City of Warwick. Stearn noted that the NHPRC relies on input from state boards as well as external reviewers on how to best disburse the limited funds available. She suggested, and members agreed, it would be helpful to shepherd applicants through the grant-writing process in order to produce competitive grant applications.

V News and announcements

Lopes announced that Rhode Island College has a new president, Nancy Carriuolo, and a new library director, Hedi Ben Aicha. She also announced the publication of an oral history project in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the College's Mount Pleasant Campus.

Stearn reported on a broad-based effort to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the trans-Atlantic slave trade. The project, spearheaded by the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities, includes statewide participation through exhibits and programs, and a "Freedom Festival" during October 2008. In conjunction with this project, the State Archives has recently launched an exhibit entitled: "Bondage, Abolition and Beyond: A History of Slavery and African American Life in Rhode Island."

Stearn announced that Leslie McDonough, Library Director of the

North Scituate Public Library, is looking for someone to work on an oral history project documenting the history of the Scituate Art Festival. The Scituate Art Festival is in its 41st year.

VI Adjournment

Long moved to adjourn. Brown seconded the motion. Approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Read and approved 1/7/2009