

# **Rhode Island Historical Records Advisory Board**

**Minutes of Meeting – June 3, 2009**

**Providence College, Phillips Memorial Library**

**549 River Avenue, Providence, RI 02918**

**Attending: Mark Brown, Jane Civins, Allison Cywin, Donna DiMichele, Russell Franks, Jonathan Galli, Michael Hébert, Marlene Lopes, Gwenn Stearn, chair.**

**Not attending: Stephen Grimes, Peggy Long, Dave Maslyn, Marilyn Massaro.**

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

**I Minutes of meeting: March 4, 2009**

**Brown moved to approve the minutes. Civins seconded the motion. Minutes approved unanimously.**

**II Report on initiatives**

**Protecting the Past – RI**

**DiMichele reported that to date, seventy six (76) individuals had been trained in the use of dPlan at hands-on workshops conducted around**

the state. The individuals represented historic sites, museums, public libraries, historical societies, archives and municipal clerks. The last scheduled workshop will take place on June 9, however, DiMichele is looking into the possibility of offering additional sessions. She noted that dPlan has been accepted and adopted by many institutions because it is available online, can be easily updated and because much of the research has already been done for them, thus requiring institutions only to populate fields. Additionally, many voices are speaking for and about dPlan. Notably, many city and town clerks have attended workshops, and in the case of East Greenwich, the clerk attended along with the town manager and the emergency management director. Other Protecting the Past – RI activities include: Project Manager Eileen Warburton’s contact with Providence Journal writer David Brussat and his subsequent editorial; a press release in conjunction with MayDay noting Heritage Preservation’s recognition; a September stakeholders’ meeting, which will evaluate the project and plan ongoing activities after the grant period; the release of the URL for dPlan-RI in September. Going forward it is intended to use MayDay/May for updating dPlan. Maslyn is to be asked to speak to dPlan-RI at a CRIARL meeting or to request an invitation for a dPlan briefing at a future CRIARL meeting.

### **Preserving the American Historical Record (PAHR)**

Stearn reported that she had sent letters in May to (U.S.) Representatives Patrick Kennedy and Jim Langevin asking them to co-sponsor and/or support H.R. 2256, the Preserving the American

**Historical Record Act. She had followed up with a phone call to Representative Langevin's district office where she has a contact. It is generally felt that letters, emails and phone calls to the RI delegation from local stakeholders about PAHR would give the Representatives clear evidence of its importance and subsequently they would be more likely to support it in Congress. The 'Repositories' email distribution list can be used to inform stakeholders and request that they contact their Congressman. Brown and Cywin offered to draft a letter explaining the PAHR Act and a letter that stakeholders could then email to their Representative. Stearn will provide information and any assistance to them.**

### **III News and announcements**

**Massaro had telephoned with a request for input about funding sources to replace a compressor/ condenser unit at the Roger Williams Park Museum. Members suggested the RI Foundation, Champlin, and NEH emergency funds. Stearn will provide the information to her.**

**Brown remarked that Brown University received a \$5 million donation to reconfigure the Special Collections Reading Room. Broadsides and staff processing areas will be removed from that space.**

**DiMichele noted she will attend a two day Connecting to Collections conference in Buffalo and will report at the September board meeting. Stearn reported that in President Obama's FY10 budget, \$10 million**

**(up from \$9.25) has been requested for NHPRC grants. There would be a shift in grant award priorities: \$4.5 million for “Founding Fathers” online publications, \$2 million for publishing historical records, and \$3.5 million for archives preservation, access and digitization grants. The FY10 budget request for other federal programs includes: Teaching American History grants – no increase, and NEH – a \$16.3 increase.**

**RI Council for the Humanities small grants have been awarded to the Little Compton Historical Society for an exhibit on children’s pastimes, and to Nancy Kougeas for a research project on slaver trader Captain John Sabens.**

**After some discussion, it is decided that the Board’s strategic plan will be reviewed at the September meeting.**

#### **IV Adjournment**

**Galli moved to adjourn. Cywin seconded the motion. Approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.**

**Approved September 2, 2009**