

Rhode Island Historical Records Advisory Board

Minutes of Meeting – May 4, 2011

Museum of Natural History

Roger Williams Park

1000 Elmwood Avenue, Providence, RI 02907

Attending: Mark Brown, Jane Civins, Allison Cywin, Donna Longo DiMichele, Michael Hebert, Russell Franks, Marilyn Massaro and Gwenn Stearn, chair.

Not attending: Jonathan Galli, Stephen Grimes, Peggy Long, Marlene Lopes and Dave Maslyn.

Also attending: Mark Sweberg, Assistant Curator, Museum of Natural History.

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

I Minutes of meeting – March 2, 2011

Cywin moved to approve the minutes. Brown seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

II Report on Protecting the Past-RI project

(IMLS Connecting to Collections – Implementation Grant)

Stearn and DiMichele provided an update on the latest activities of the Protecting the Past-RI project. The Newport Restoration Foundation hosted the project's Partners in Emergency Preparedness: A Whole Community Approach to Protecting Newport County's Cultural Heritage. This event brought the cultural and heritage community together to meet with local first responders. Presenters provided updates from various initiatives such as the Protection of Cultural Resources and Historic Properties Annex to Rhode Island's Emergency Operations Plan (ESF-11). It was an opportunity for local officials and emergency responders to meet and understand the inter-relationship between the needs and responsibilities of the cultural and emergency management communities. Other presenters included Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts, David Smith (RIEMA), Lori Foley from Heritage Preservation, Richard Nicklas (FEMA), and Howard Boksenbaum, Protecting the Past-RI.

III Strategic Plan Objectives

Cywin led members in a discussion of proposed objectives to the Board's strategic plan. After suggested minor changes, DiMichele made a motion to adopt the objectives as part of the strategic plan. Hebert seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

IV News and Announcements

DiMichele reported that the Rhode Island Center for the Book's annual meeting will be held on Monday June 7 at 7:00 pm in the Department of Administration atrium. The guest speaker will be John Cole of the Library of Congress Center for the Book. Awards will also be presented to winners of the Letters about Literature contest sponsored by the Library of Congress Center for the Book and the Rhode Island Center for the Book.

Stearn informed members that Brown University's NHPRC grant interim report indicated that they had hired a project archivist, Christopher Gessler, previously of the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute.

DiMichele also reported that Providence Public Library has hired a new Special Collections librarian and that there is now a vacancy at the Rhode Island Historical Society.

V Adjournment

Hebert moved to adjourn. Franks seconded the motion. Approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

Approved September 7, 2011