

Rhode Island Historical Records Advisory Board

Minutes of Meeting – March 7, 2012

Rhode Island State Archives

337 Westminster Street, Providence, RI 02903

Attending: Mark Brown, Jane Civins, Allison Cywin, Donna DiMichele, Michael Hebert, Marylyn Massaro, and Gwenn Stearn, chair.

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

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

Due to a lack of a quorum at the start of the meeting, approval of the minutes was delayed until DiMichele arrived. Members agreed to proceed, starting with item III on the agenda.

I Minutes of meeting – January 4, 2012

Massaro provided a correction to the minutes. Brown moved to approve the amended minutes. Massaro seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

II Report on Protecting the Past-RI project

DiMichele reported on the activities of the Protecting the Past-RI project. She informed members that a new project manager, Theresa Woodmansee, had been hired. Meetings are in process of being scheduled in the various regions of the state. The purpose of these meetings is to bring the cultural heritage community together with first responders and state emergency management personnel. Protecting the Past-RI incorporates FEMA's "Whole Community Approach" and the Coordinated Statewide Emergency Preparedness (COSTEP) models.

DiMichele asked Board members to assist in contacting cultural heritage organizations that could benefit from these meetings and the programs offered by Protecting the Past-RI. She explained that they are presently targeting institutions in the Blackstone Valley region for a meeting on March 19th at the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission headquarters in Woonsocket.

DiMichele also informed members about the workshops that will be offered again this year, including workshops for creating a dPlan-RI, workshops using tabletop exercises to simulate emergency situations, preparing disaster plans (Disaster Response Planning and Preparation workshop) and hands-on disaster response and recovery practice workshops (Response and Triage of Wet Materials).

III U.S. Newspaper/National Digital Newspaper Program

Stearn reported in follow-up to questions at a previous meeting regarding the digitization of Rhode Island newspapers earlier

microfilmed under NEH grants. She informed members that she had contacted the Rhode Island Historical Society to inquire if they would be applying to NEH for grant funds to digitize the microfilm. Stearn was informed by Phoebe Bean Simpson that the Rhode Island Historical Society does not have the resources to apply for the grant but that they had been approached by an unnamed academic institution about the feasibility of pursuing the grant opportunity. Bean did not know when this would happen and that the academic institution would have to apply for rights and reproduction in order to use the RIHS's microfilm for digitization.

IV Resolution honoring Leonard Panaggio

Stearn informed the Board that she had created a draft resolution honoring Leonard Panaggio, who was a long-time member of the RI Historical Records Advisory Board. Members discussed the draft, suggested content and made stylistic changes. The resolution will be given to Mrs. Panaggio. DiMichele suggested that the resolution be read into the General Assembly record by a Newport legislator. Stearn said she would contact the Office of the Secretary of State to that effect. DiMichele moved to accept the resolution as amended. Civins seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

V News and announcements

Cywin informed members that she is on a committee of the Tiverton Public Library that is charged with implementing a digitization program. The program is funded from a bond as well as money to be

realized from fund-raising efforts.

Stearn reported on the creation of the Rhode Island 1663 Colonial Charter 350th Anniversary Commission, of which she is a member. She further informed members that the Commission was created by Executive Order of the Governor. The Executive Order outlines the functions and duties of the Commission. Additional information is available on the Commission's website: <http://www.rhodeisland1663charter.com/commission/index.html>.

DiMichele inquired about the repositories survey concerning Civil War related materials being conducted on behalf of the Rhode Island Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission. Stearn stated that the survey will begin once the Commission's website is up.

Stearn remarked on the new exhibit at the State Archives, entitled "The People Speak: The Right of Petition to the General Assembly, 1738-1971. The exhibit runs through July.

VI Adjournment

Brown moved to adjourn. DiMichele seconded the motion. Approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

Approved November 7, 2012