

Rhode Island Historical Records Advisory Board

Minutes of Meeting – May 8, 2013

Rhode Island State Archives

337 Westminster Street, Providence, RI 02903

Attending: Jane Civins, Russell Franks, David Maslyn, Marilyn Massaro, & Gwenn Stearn, Chair.

Not attending: Allison Cywin, Donna DiMichele, Jonathan Galli, Stephen Grimes, Michael Hebert, Peggy Long, and Marlene Lopes.

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

I Remembrance and a minute of silence for our esteemed colleague Mark Brown.

II Minutes of Meeting – November 7, 2012

Due to the lack of a quorum, approval of the November 7, 2012 minutes will be taken up at the September 4th meeting..

III Report on Protecting the Past – RI project - Theresa Woodmansee, Project Manager

Although Woodmansee was unable to attend at the last minute, Stearn reported on the current status of the project. She mentioned that some grant money had not been spent and that IMLS had been contacted about extending the grant. The project would continue workshops, wet recovery, and table top exercises. She informed members of positive outcomes, including the number of libraries, museums, and repositories that now have a dPlan, and that heritage and cultural communities had developed relationships with first responders, local EMAs, and RIEMA. She remarked that RIEMA had facilitated WEB EOC to act as a central repository of information about cultural institutions for use by first responders in the event of an emergency. Stearn also mentioned that Protecting the Past – RI partners had presented a session at the New England Archivists spring meeting.

IV Discussion concerning recommendations for Board vacancy

The Board discussed the vacancy left by the passing of Mark Brown. Members suggested and discussed several candidates. Due to the lack of a quorum, further discussion and a vote will take place at the September 4th meeting. Stearn will thereafter write to the Governor Office with the Board's suggestions.

V Royal Charter 350th anniversary celebration and events

Stearn reported on activities and events planned to commemorate the

anniversary of the Royal Charter. As a member of the 1663 Colonial Charter 350th Anniversary Commission, its Executive Committee, and Co-Chair of the Exhibition Committee, Stearn provided an overview of the upcoming celebrations and the creation of a new climate-controlled Charter Room Museum in the State House. It will exhibit documents and artifacts to tell the story of the colony's beginnings, including its principles and foundations, through to Charles II granting our Charter. A grand opening of the Charter Room, daytime events and activities at Roger Williams National Park, and an evening gala at the State House are planned for June 22nd. The gala will help raise funds for the Charter's re-encasement to the standards developed by NIST for the National Archives' Charters of Freedom and further developed by MIT for the Massachusetts State Archives' founding documents.

VI News and announcements

Maslyn reported on the progress of the HELIN led initiative for a statewide digital repository. There will be a half-day symposium with 40 invited stakeholders from across the state to discuss the possibility of applying for a planning grant with the Davis Educational Foundation or NEH.

Franks inquired about the Rhode Island Historical Society's RHODI survey. Stearn remarked that the project had surveyed 30 organizations, 18 more are scheduled, and 18 asked to be

re-contacted at a later date. RHODI project staff will be contacted by Stearn and asked to provide an update at a future meeting.

Stearn mentioned the State Archives' current exhibit commemorating the 170th anniversary of the state's first constitution, entitled "Rights of the People: A Rhode Island Constitution Established" The exhibit runs through May and will be followed by an exhibit surrounding the Royal Charter.

She also informed members about the State Archives developing an online catalog of its holdings with ARCHON, which also acts as a collections management tool. Archives staff, headed by Kate Telford, have been systematically populating the database with administrative history, record group, and series information, among other data elements.

VII Adjournment

Maslyn moved to adjourn. Massaro seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 11:39 am.

Approved November 6, 2013