

# **Rhode Island Historical Records Advisory Board**

## **Minutes of Meeting – January 8, 2014**

**Rhode Island State Archives**

**337 Westminster Street, Providence, RI 02903**

**Attending: Allison Cywin, Donna DiMichele, Russell Franks, Michael Hebert, Jonathan Galli, Marlene Lopes, and Gwenn Stearn, Chair.**

**Not attending: Jane Civins, Stephen Grimes, Peggy Long, Dave Maslyn, and Marilyn Massaro**

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

### **I Minutes of meeting – November 6, 2013**

**DiMichele moved to approve the minutes. Galli seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.**

### **II Demonstration and update on the RHODI project**

**- Chelsea Gunn, Project Coordinator, RI Historical Society**

**Gunn presented an overview of the accomplishments of the RHODI project including the completion of 122 surveys (including onsite visits), launching a website (RHODI.org) and the completion of a**

**white paper for distribution in 2014. Additionally, the project applied for an IMLS grant to implement RHODI phase 2 that will include conducting additional surveys, workshops on collections care, and educational and scholarly programming. Gunn reported that project field staff found that many organizations asked for guidance on such topics as fundraising, strategic planning, outreach, and collections care and management. The Board discussed issues and barriers associated with promoting, as well as providing training to volunteer-driven cultural organizations, with a consensus that one-on-one training was likely to be more successful.**

**DiMichele inquired whether the RHODI project will be presented at the RI Library Association meeting and moved to make a motion by the Board to endorse a proposal to RILA for a presentation of the RHODI project. Franks seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.**

### **III Report on Protecting the Past-RI**

**- Donna DiMichele**

**DiMichele reported that the Protecting the Past-RI Summit on December 4, 2013 related in part to ESF11 (Emergency Support Function, encompassing cultural resources and property) and included a presentation by the Executive Director of the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA) Jamia McDonald, about how the ESFs work and what happens when an emergency takes place. A survey form was distributed to attendees at the Summit and**

**Stearn and DiMichele explained its purpose to identify support and resources that ESF11 partners could provide in the event of an emergency or disaster. Stearn explained that the ESF11 elevates cultural heritage to an action item in the State's emergency response, rather than as part of recovery.**

**DiMichele also informed members that Protecting the Past has produced a 2014 calendar (to be distributed shortly) that highlights Rhode Island cultural collections and provides hints and actions repositories can take to protect their assets. DiMichele stated that Protecting the Past is funded through May of 2014.**

#### **IV Discussion on RI grant applications to NHPRC**

**Stearn discussed the response of members provided for the grant applications submitted by the Redwood Library and the Providence City Archives. She stated that the variety of opinions and comments helps her provide a balanced summary of the applications to the NHPRC. Stearn also informed members that she received a letter in December from the NHPRC stating that the grant application received from the Rhode Island Historical Society had not received funding.**

#### **V New and announcements**

**Cywin informed members that UMass, Dartmouth had successfully merged the library catalog system/db (PRIMO) with the database**

**(LUNA) into one user interface for use by faculty and students. Despite a problem with harvesting data, the overall outcome is good. Cywin also informed the Board that she was assisting RISD in the transition of their catalog to a DAM (Digital Asset Management) system and helping them with a lexicon. Finally she has worked on combining all UMass Dartmouth Facebook pages/blogs etc. into one primary Facebook page for the University.**

**DiMichele informed members that the Rhode Island Foundations is accepting applications for preservation grants under the Ott Fund.**

**DiMichele also reported that Brigitte Hopkins is the new director of the Westerly Public Library, and Jack Martin is the new director of the Providence Public Library.**

**Galli informed the Board that the New England Regional Genealogical Consortium conference will be held in Providence during April 15-19, 2015**

**Lopes informed the board that the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society has launched a major exhibit at the Rhode Island Historical Society's John Brown House.**

## **VI Adjournment**

**Cywin moved to adjourn. Lopes seconded the motion. Approved**

**unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m.**

**Approved 3/5/2014**