

Rhode Island Historical Records Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes – March 5, 2014

Rhode Island State Archives

337 Westminster Street, Providence, RI 02903

Attending: Maria Bernier, Jane Civins, Allison Cywin, Donna DiMichele, Russell Franks, Michael Hebert, Marlene Lopes and Gwenn Stearn, chair.

Not attending: Jonathan Galli, Stephen Grimes, Peggy Long, Dave Maslyn, and Marilyn Massaro.

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

I Introduction of new Board member Maria Bernier & Board member introductions

Bernier introduced herself to Board members as the Assistant Director of the Redwood Library in Newport and former archivist at the Salve Regina University Archives, among her other accomplishments. Board members reciprocated introductions.

II Minutes of meeting – January 8, 2014

Cywin moved to approve the minutes of January 8, 2014. Franks seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

III Report on Protecting the Past-RI

- Donna DiMichelle

Due to a delay in DiMichele's arrival, Stearn provided the Board with an update on developments. She informed members that the project Steering Committee had begun to look at its organizational governance structure going forward and to set-up working groups to pursue several objectives. These include establishing incident assessment teams, providing caches of disaster response supplies to be located strategically throughout the state, collections relocation sites, continuing to maintain and update WebEOC information, and a statewide master price agreement for records recovery. With respect to the last noted, she has been in contact with the state Division of Purchases about piggybacking on the state of Georgia's MPA with major disaster recovery vendors for such services.

IV Update on the RI Digital Repository initiative from the Annual HELIN

Conference

- Russell Franks and Marlene Lopes

Franks reported that HELIN is moving forward to create a digital repository but as this is early in the initiative's development, not

much detailed information is available. HELIN has reached out to the Rhode Island Foundation and other sources about funding. Lopes provided an excerpt of a proposal regarding the initiative.

V Presentation on the Newport Cultural Consortium's NewPortal, an online

collaborative collections database

- Maria Bernier

Bernier introduced an initiative by Newport County cultural institutions to enable researchers to access information about collections from those institutions through a central portal online database (<http://newportal.weebly.com/>). The project group includes the Redwood Library and Athenaeum, the Newport Historical Society, the Newport Restoration Foundation, the Newport Art Museum, and the Preservation Society of Newport County. Financial support has come from the Rhode Island Foundation and the Newport County Fund. Bernier informed members that the group hired a specialist to pull together information from each institution, map out database fields based on Dublin Core, and to look at different available off-the-shelf databases. The group decided to build something specific to their needs and goals. They issued a RFP and hired Project Evolution from Providence. Project Evolution will harvest the data, will code in open source, and host the database and website. A visual demonstration was provided of what the NewPortal may look like.

VI Information on proposed new NHPRC grant categories

Stearn reported that the NHPRC had announced proposed new grant categories (comment period ends March 31) that would have implications for the Board. If adopted, the Board would only review one category of grant applications -- Access to Historical Records. Electronic records grants would no longer come before state Boards. She distributed information and members discussed the pros and cons of applying for NHPRC grants. The Board also discussed the possibility of applying for a grant under a revised state Boards' category going forward. Stearn remarked that a new Secretary of State will take office in January and, as previously discussed, would be invited to the Board's March 2015 meeting.

VII Venue for May 7th meeting

Stearn announced that the Board meeting for May 7th will take place at the Pawtucket Public Library, 13 Summer Street, Pawtucket. At the conclusion of the meeting there will be a tour of their Special Collections.

VIII News and announcements

Stearn reported that the Redwood Library had received a \$3,750 grant from the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities. The grant will

support research and planning for an exhibition on Newport-based colonial artist Robert Feke.

Stearn announced that the State House will host "Civil War 150" a traveling exhibit by the Library of America from March 3 - 21, 2014. She also noted that the Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission will host a conference in early summer and will send further information to members as it becomes available..

DiMichele remarked that extra copies of the Protecting the Past 2014 wall calendar were available.

IX Adjournment

Bernier moved to adjourn. Civins seconded the motion. Approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.

Approved May 7, 2014