

Rhode Island Historical Records Advisory Board

Minutes of meeting – September 7, 2016

State House

Public Information Conference Room (Room 38)

Providence, RI 02903

Attending: Maria Bernier, Allison Cywin, Donna DiMichele, Russell Franks, Stephen Grimes, Marlene Lopes, David Maslyn, Lori Urso, and Gwenn Stearn, chair.

Not attending: Jane Civins, Jonathan Galli, Michael Hebert, and Peggy Long.

Meeting called to order: 10:05 a.m.

I Minutes of meeting – March 2, 2016

Urso moved to approve the minutes. Bernier seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

II Appointments and reappointments

Terms of appointment will expire on January 5, 2017 of: Jane Civins, Donna DiMichele, Peggy Long, Russell Franks, and Gwenn Stearn.

DiMichele and Franks expressed willingness to serve another term should the Governor choose to reappoint. Stearn will speak with Civins and Long, who were unable to attend.

III Protecting the Past-RI update

-Donna DiMichele

DiMichele provided background to Protecting the Past-RI. RIEMA has supplied excellent support and encouragement over the past months.

They are currently developing a Recovery Plan and she attended the initial meeting for ESF 6 Cultural and Natural Resources, including new participant, the RI State Council on the Arts. With regard to ESF 6, there will be follow-up with the Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission, and for archeological sites, DEM and DoT. RIEMA's Web EOC, effective for real-time communications, now includes MapIt for GIS coordinates and the ability to request resources for an incident. DiMichele participated in live training on Web EOC. Additional monthly training sessions will also be made available. In addition, she attends bimonthly RI Emergency Management Advisory Council meetings. The Council is to be reorganized.

DiMichele remarked that Lori Foley is currently associated with the Smithsonian and FEMA, as well as working with North East emergency managers. She and DiMichele presented at the Rhody Ready Preparedness Conference—a session entitled, Partners in Preparedness: Cultural Stewards and Emergency Managers, attended by 25 participants.

IV Department of State initiatives and news

Stearn spoke to a reorganization that will take place in the Department of State, with the State Archives, State Library, and Public Information to form one division, reporting to a newly created position of Director of State Archives, Library, and Public Information.

The Administrative Records Office and Kate Telford, Administrative Records and Technical Services Specialist, will be removed administratively and physically from the State Archives to the State House, and report to the new Director. The Director's position has been publicly posted, likewise the State Librarian's job, vacant since Tom Evan's departure from that position in June.

Earlier this year an Education and Public Programs position was created and has been filled by Lane Sparkman. A rotating "Treasures from the Archives" display of original materials at the State Library forms one of her responsibilities. The after-meeting tour will include the newly reconfigured State Library, the current "Treasures" and an opportunity to meet Ms. Sparkman. The State Archives recently worked in conjunction with her to submit a preliminary proposal for a grant application to the IMLS for a project entitled, The Path to Universal Suffrage in Rhode Island, 1663-1971.

Stearn remarked on the 2016 State Archives onsite exhibitions, online exhibits, and Treasures from the Archives displays.

With respect to a new State Archives facility, Stearn spoke to the Needs Assessment report prepared by consultants Michele Pacifico

and Tom Wilsted, that was funded by the Rhode Island Foundation.

V News and announcements

Bernier remarked on the RI Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission's April conference held in part in Watch Hill and a possible tie-in to emergency preparedness and planning, especially for the build environment.

Maslyn reported on the Director of Distinctive Collections open position currently posted for the (former) URI Special Collections and University Archives, with a closing date at the end of September. The position is at the Associate Professor level.

He has been involved in finding new locations for three antique printing presses for removal from the Library. One was moved to the Fine Arts Department, one is on permanent loan to South County Museum, and one was sold out of state—this to create a “Makers Space” at the Library for technology and cross-collaboration special projects.

Cywin spoke to the next phase of libraries' transition, including 3-D scanning, reverse engineering, and virtual reality. UMass-Dartmouth initiatives encompass imaging and multi-media space, two virtual reality spaces, stop-motion, and multi-touch projection. Visual literacy should include K-12 and through college. An emphasis on open source is growing.

Lopes reported on recent hires at Rhode Island College: President Frank Sanchez, Adams Library Director Carissa DeLizio, and head of Technical Services Deryl Freeman.

Franks remarked on Providence College celebrating its Centennial and using materials from Special Collections in those efforts. They have taken the opportunity to seek donations to Special Collections from alumni. Six new exhibit cases have been acquired to accommodate the influx and rotating displays of new materials.

Maslyn reported that the future of the HELIN consortium is unknown at this time. Executive Director Bob Asprey retired and another staff person has taken a job elsewhere. Academic libraries are moving to OCLC and ExLibris.

Stearn announced that there will be a presentation on the RI Historical Society's digital textbook EnCompass at the January 4th meeting of the Board.

VI Adjournment

Bernier moved to adjourn the meeting. Franks seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

A tour of the Charter Museum, reconfigured State Library and

Treasures from the Archives exhibition followed the meeting.

Approved January 4, 2017