

State Historical Records Advisory Board Meeting

06 December 2013

11 a.m.

Attendees: June Lloyd, Mike Dabrishus, Sue Hamburger, Heidi Abbey, Heidi Mays, Lee Arnold, Marilyn Parrish and Alexis Macklin. **Staff:** David Haury, Josh Stahlman, Dave Shoff, Teresa Szekeres, and Linda Ries

David Haury (DH) called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. Members introduction and welcome.

Dave Shoff (DS) reviewed the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania NHPRC grant. Josh Stahlman (JS) stated there were 4 submissions, positive, 92 lowest score. Concern was not including archivist salary and other numbers were askew. Susan Hamburger (SH) asked question on why some interns were paid and some were not. Mike Dabrishus (MD) said that University of Pittsburgh interns can be paid or unpaid, depending on what is agreed upon. They usually, work 10 hours/week. Not too alarmed at the use of interns versus volunteers. Couldn't really determine who was responsible for collecting/digitizing or the management and selection of images. SH said there was no background on the collection; MD hoped staff will pick the collection but there was no plan in the proposal. Collections are significant but digital quality needs to be considered. 15 minutes – per photo for collection of over 600-quite a few hours conservative. Who does what and when? Lee Arnold (LA) 40 minutes per item is what the Historical Society of Pennsylvania uses thought 15 minutes is shy. LA questions and also agrees that he didn't understand if the interns were paid or unpaid and stated that the numbers did not add up. DH stated that the institution will receive summary of all comments that they can reply to. Final proposal due in 8 months will be revised. Heidi Abbey (HA) – impressed with summary need more detail on high priority.

The Review of the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission (PHMC) grant took place and PHMC staff was recused.

DH reported on the NHPRC meeting-3 weeks ago. DH went as an observer for CoSA. He state that the federal budget was in chaos and NHPRC must cut another 200K from grants. There was no travel money for the commission. 14 members were there; 5 in person, the rest called in. Staff was working under difficult circumstances; they had 2 weeks unpaid vacation. Prepared a statement to President on how important the NHPRC programs are with NARA's overall mission. A national campaign is planned. At this point they haven't discontinued any program. Discussed grant deadlines and how each grant category had reduced the amount of money available. SNAP grants survived, helps pay for SHRAB operations, COSA dues, activities.

DS reported on the progress of the current SNAP grant. Passed out a handout on the cost of meetings, and explained "Archives without Tears" (AWOT). There were two days, one on records, and the other on disaster. Averaged 25-30 people each workshop.

The Archives and Records Management Seminar this year was scaled back-186 attendees this year but will take a year or two off from the large Seminar. The Seminar had 4 tracks. Terry Kutscher was the plenary Speaker. Mark Myers from Kentucky spoke on electronic records. Josh Stahlman (JS) did most of the planning.

Poster-if you have photos for the Archives month poster, let the State Archives staff know so we can highlight; it is not all about state collection. HA asked if there was a theme to tie into.

Linda Reis and JS reported on the Civil War ancestors' workshop. Very popular with the genealogy crowd and the 10 slots were filled immediately.

HA stated that the AWOT workshops were excellent. Penn State Harrisburg has 35 doctoral candidates that are eager to learn about Archives & twice as many Master's degree students. DH state he would like to have the AWOT program twice a year outside Harrisburg and every other year in Harrisburg.

JS and rare book librarian Ira Snavelly went to the Army Heritage Center to encourage students to come into the archives & use material for primary resources for 2015 Nat'l History Day. LA said in Philadelphia they have their own History Day and teachers come in with students. Linda Ries (LR) and SH said she judges for many History Days and finds it rewarding.

The 2014 SNAP grant has \$2,000 remaining. What did SHRAB want to spend it on? SH said SAA workshops. DH suggested we pay for current SAA workshops in PA. Deadline to spend is December 2013. The 2015-16 SNAP grants are for \$20,000. \$4-5,000 is for CoSA dues, money for poster and AWOT but \$6 -10,000 left for other workshops.

HA asked what the feedback was from AWOT, should there be an AWOT II? LR said yes, they would like to follow up with a more detailed workshop and also basic conservation techniques. June Lloyd suggested a copyright workshop would be very valuable because it's complicated.

DH said that 3 or 4 simultaneous tracks are hard for the October seminar. Maybe just 2 tracks with 50 or 60 people. Marilyn Parrish (MP) would like a workshop on digital preservation. One on Cloud storage. These are issues at Millersville. DH suggested a workshop on how to use Archives Space. LA said he attended one and was disappointed. MP suggested an outreach & instruction workshop and MD suggested one on social media. DH suggested one on how to save Facebook and Twitter. Will continue the discussion in the spring. Would like a good slate of proposals. DH and JS will send email soliciting input. SHRAB will meet before grant goes in in September but will need to finalize by July.

PHMC Archives grants are no longer given. Only larger museums get money. This year some smaller museums got some money. Board was disappointed there was no money for the archives.

HA asked if there was an NHPRC calendar with deadlines. DH said the NHPRC website has deadlines. DS said they will try to have April and December meetings for SHRAB.

Institutional Reports/Concerns

University of Pittsburgh- MD said they got 4 tractor trailer loads of Arlen Specter records. One was shredded and the other 3 loads went to Pittsburgh. Philadelphia University could not handle the large political collection and Penn, Yale & others didn't want and no money came with it. UPitt rescued them with institutional support. There are election records in the collection. The Archives staff at Philadelphia University was not in on the discussion with Senator Specter. Maybe there should be future discussions on how to avoid these pitfalls.

York County Trust- JL says Lincoln on display. 4th year of York County Journal-priority given to collections. Use of Archives- Rick Atkinson, Pulitzer Prize winning author used the YCHT General Devers papers for some of his research for the third volume (Guns at Last Light) of his World War II trilogy.

Penn State- SH-June Chicago-Chip Kid-book illustrator (did the Jurassic Park cover) papers donated to Penn State. Civil War Center on campus to historical societies and libraries and bring in civil war collections to digitize.

Cheney University has 300 scrapbooks on African American topics. Mostly newspaper clippings. University does not have a proper HVAC system and asked Penn state for help. They plan to microfilm and then digitize. New conservator at Penn State starts in January.

Historical Society of Pennsylvania –LA says the Society has renovated and needs more space and security system.

House of Representatives Archives- Heidi Mays (HM) said they were still doing the oral history program. Their newsletter is very popular. The speakers book is being rewritten since the previous version was inaccurate.

Penn State Harrisburg –HA said Alice Marshall's Women's History Collect started using Flickr for exhibits. One is "Got advertising"- focused on products. Penn State Harrisburg will 50 in 2016. Did "night at the Archives in Oct." which worked out well. Focusing on growing the collections including local history.

Heinz Center- AM just finished a NHPRC grant and will have 90% intellectual control over collection. Will be getting rid of a lot of stuff that doesn't fit the collecting policy. Had serious storage issues. MD asked about duplicate books. AM said yes, they made recommendation to give to other institutions first before selling. They are not a lending library so no need for multiple copies.

Millersville -MP talked about leaving the library two years ago and are now back in their renovated building. They have climate control and security now. SSHELCO with professor support is exploring using FEDORA. Millersville has a strong German collection; active instruction program as well. Concerned they only have static shelving now. Usually have about 10 students working all the time.

PA State Archives- DH talked about the State Archives renovations. A feasibility study to make case for new building was done. PHMC hired architect-looked at 20 sites within 5 miles. Came up with three recommendations.

Legislation

Pennsylvania is the only state where "state archives" is not included in legislation, it only talks about the PHMC. Would like to have legislation to have Governor's records come to the State Archives.

Discussed replevin and contacts with sellers of stolen or missing documents from the State Archives.

Ancestry. Com will scan 7.5 million death certificates and 15 other record series and then take a year to index. Pennsylvania is one of about a dozen states with similar agreements. 3 million hits on the website already without any publicity.

JS took a photo of the Board.

Adjourned 2:45 p.m.