

Archives, Reference and Research Advisory Board

2019-03-12 Meeting Minutes

- I. Call to Order at 9:35 by Joan Millman
- II. Introductions
 - a. Present: Joan Millman, Pauline Toole, Richard Moylan, Kenneth Cobb, Kayhan Irani, Idilio Gracia-Pena, Pamela Cruz, Lillian Jean Baptiste (by phone), Glenda Grace (by phone), Gregory Jost (by phone), Mary ? (by phone), Peter Williams (? by phone) Kenneth Cobb
- III. Review/Adoption of Minutes: Approved and accepted.
- IV. Report from DORIS and update on Archives, Library and Public Programming Activities:
 - a. Artist in Residence program – DORIS is one of four agencies selected to host an artist as part of the City’s Public Artists in Residence program. Through their work at the agency the artists address pressing civic issues through their creative practice. DORIS has selected artist Julia Weist. She will interpret the Archives’ New Amsterdam-era records as a way of engaging a wider audience.
 - b. The Central Park book will be available for purchase beginning April 16.
 - c. The Feeding the City exhibit will remain on display through March. The next exhibit, “The Lung Block,” will be formally opened on April 25. The exhibit illustrates how reformers characterized a block in the old Lower East side to justify demolition for the Knickerbocker Village complex. The curators are Kerri Culhane and Stefano Morello.
 - d. Sale of redeemed stocks and bonds – hundreds of boxes—(samples were on display for the members). Proceeds from the sale will go to the Municipal Archives Reference and Research Fund, not the city’s general fund.
 - e. DORIS will shortly promote the sale of copies of blueprints of Ebbets field and baseball related photographs to coincide with opening day of the baseball season. Those revenues will go to general fund. Update on Archives and Library Activities (notes submitted by Sylvia Kollar)
 - f. With funding from the New York State Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund acquired film scanner which will enable digitizing the NYPD surveillance films. We expect demand for this material will generate revenue.
 - g. The Municipal Archives will be launch (internally only) of ArchivesSpace- a tool the public and staff can use to search across collections. Training staff will happen in the next couple of weeks, and updated public access computers. The application will not be available to the public outside of the building until approximately the late fall of 2020.
 - h. Nearing completion of project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities to process the records of Department of Health Commissioners- 830 cubic ft. dating from 1929-1990.
 - i. Current finding aid projects include: Central Park, Brooklyn Bridge, Queens Borough President Photographs, Jury Census, and Handschu Collections.
- V. Report from the Annual Report Committee:

- a. Content is being prepared, completion goal is end of April.
- b. The report will be circulated to the full Board and will include a letter from the Chair.
- c. Work is beginning on the 2019 report.

VI. Next meeting: June 11

VII. Joan Millma adjourned meeting at 10.15