

Archives, Reference and Research Advisory Board
January 19, 2022
Minutes

Present:

Board Members: Marco Carrion, Alison Cronyn, Sarah Gonzalez, Idilio Gracia-Pena, Brian Carlin, Pamela Cruz, Sarah Gonzalez, Glenda Grace, Richard Moylan, Rebecca Pou, and Eric Washington.

DORIS Staff: Pauline Toole, Sylvia Kollar, LaTonya Jones, Kenneth Cobb.

1. Review of minutes from the October 6, 2021 meeting.

The minutes from the October 6, 2021, board meeting were moved and accepted.

2. Remarks from the Chair, Marco Carrion.

Chair Marco Carrion announced that member Robert Snyder had resigned from the Board to write a history of the pandemic for Columbia University Press.

3. Board Member Check-in

Chair Marco Carrion asked if there were any questions or concerns. None were voiced.

4. Process and timeline for the Annual Report -Pamela Cruz

Pamela Cruz said that the A.R. committee would soon have a draft for review. Alison C asked if it was a report for the Mayor. Pamela Cruz responded, yes, it was mandated by the Charter and would be a collaborative effort. It needed to echo the Commissioner's goals and the Board's wishes for the future. The Committee members are Idilio Gracia-Pena, Pamela Cruz, Richard Moylan, Lilian Jean Baptiste, and Thomas Scherbenko.

5. Committee Reports

- a. Education Committee: LaTonya Jones reported that the Committee had met and were working on creating an educational resource for K-12, based on the 1918 flu epidemic. They would incorporate materials from the Municipal Library and Archives.
- b. Social Media Committee: Has not met recently; nothing to report. Commissioner Toole added that links to the agency blog and other social media content would be provided on a weekly basis.
- c. Neighborhood Committee: Has not met recently; nothing to report.

6. Commissioner's report.

Commissioner Toole reported on the successful opening of the new facility at Industry City on October 25, 2021. She added that DORIS was mandated to cut 3% of its budget, but unneeded funding for the electronic records management system project could be used to off-set the reduction.

Sylvia Kollar said her team was working with the Records Management Division to identify and transfer city agency records to the Archives that had met their retention. In other news, four new archivists had been hired with grant funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities; two for appraisal and accession activities, and two to assist with reference. The Archives also received a grant from the National Parks, "Save America's Treasures" program for a three-year project to preserve and improve storage for the 8,000+ Brooklyn Bridge drawings collection.

LaTonya Jones reported that there were two Americorps interns working on outreach. Her team were continuing the Neighborhood Stories and Women's Activism projects. The Neighborhood Stories project is being expanded to include Sunset Park, Brooklyn – in recognition of our new presence in that neighborhood. The external affairs staff are also coordinating the 9/11 risers transcription project and developing curriculum for K-12 students.

She added that more than 1,200 people had attended DORIS events since October 2021.

Commissioner Toole added that the end-of-year event for the Neighborhood Stories project was fabulous and really showed the diversity of the city.

Sylvia Kollar said she often referred to Idilio Gracia-Pena's master plan. Mr. Gracia-Pena said he had retried but was thinking about starting another Archives – maybe one for Harlem. He also inquired if DORIS used the work-study program for staff help.

7. ARRAB and ARB Merger.

Commissioner Toole reported that the merger plan would be brought to the attention of the legislative affairs unit in the new administration and perhaps the Mayor's emphasis on 'efficiency' would motivate action on the proposal. Commissioner Toole also planned to meet with Council Member Gale Brewer for her support.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.