

Archives, Reference and Research Advisory Board
April 20, 2022
Minutes

Present:

-Board Members: Marco Carrion, Alison Cronyn, Lillian Jean-Baptiste, Brian Carlin, Pamela Cruz, Sarah Gonzalez, Glenda Grace, Jason Bauman, Richard Moylan, Rebecca Pou, and Eric Washington.

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

1. Review of minutes from the January 19, 2022 meeting.

The minutes from the January 19, 2022 board meeting were moved and accepted.

2. Remarks from the Chair, Marco Carrion.

Chair Marco Carrion announced that he had received a resignation notice from member Idilio Gracia-Pena, effectively immediately. He said Mr. Gracia-Pena had been immeasurably helpful to the Board and the City University of New York. Commissioner Toole added that as a former Commissioner of DORIS, and Director of the Municipal Archives, Idilio always supplied good advice and will have a lasting legacy at the agency.

3. Review of Draft 2021 Annual Report

Member Pamela Cruz circulated the draft ARRAB Annual Report for 2021. She said that it described the mission and goals of the Board, as well as the activities of the Municipal Archives and Municipal Library. It highlighted the new facility at Industry City. She asked for comments to be received by Friday April 22. She added that she would like to start preparing the 2022 report soon and asked for volunteers to assist in creating more robust content.

4. Update on Agency activities

Pauline Toole reported that she met with City Council Member Gale Brewer, a long-time active advocate for the Municipal Archives. She said Ms. Brewer was supportive of the Board merger [ARRAB and Archival Review Board] and will sponsor the necessary Council legislation. Commissioner Toole also added that the Mayor's Office Counsel was also supportive.

Commissioner Toole noted that a recent NBC -News (Channel 4) segment about the Municipal Archives generated positive feedback.

Commissioner Toole described planning for the upcoming conference on the 1936 Harlem report. The report had been commissioned by Mayor LaGuardia in the wake of the 1935 Harlem riots, but never released. The conference will explore "what if" the report had been made public. It will take place in conjunction with the New York Public Library at the Schomburg Center, in September.

Sylvia Kollar provided an update regarding the on-line publication of more than nine million historical vital records on the agency website. The "Historical Vital Records" site provides free access to high-quality copies of birth, death and marriage records. To date, the site has received more than 1.9 million views and 59,000 downloads.

Ms. Kollar also promoted the upcoming special two-day 'pop-up' exhibition of the Greensward Plan in celebration of Central Park designer Frederick Law Olmsted's 200th birthday. The exhibit will take place on April 22 and 23.

LaTonya Jones reported that the agency had sponsored ten events to date in 2022. She gave a special shout-out to member Eric K. Washington for his 'lunch and learn' presentation "The Legacy of Colored School No. 4". The program was recorded and can be viewed on Youtube:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eeJBZdG_pvw

Commissioner Toole also promoted the upcoming "Jane's Walk" event in conjunction with the Municipal Art Society. The Archives will offer tours of the new Industry City location on May 7.

5. Committee Reports

- a. Education Committee: Brian Carlin said his committee will be meeting more frequently. He reported progress in developing workshops for teachers on how to use archival material, and working with the Department of Education (DOE) to create curriculum about ‘hidden voices’ in the LGBTQ+ community. He said they will continue to share resources for the DOE newsletter. He also encouraged the drafting of more reflective articles.
- b. Social Media Committee: Member Sarah Gonzalez and her committee met recently; they will be working with the agency on a collaborative basis and will share posts.
- c. Neighborhood Committee: Has not met recently; nothing to report. Commissioner Toole added that member Eric K. Washington’s recent lunch and learn program showcased the importance of the school. She suggested Board assistance with landmarking efforts would be a worthwhile project.

6. Other business.

Chair Carrion asked if members had any other business to discuss. None was voiced.

The meeting adjourned at 4:41 p.m.