

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

Present:

-Board Members: Marco Carrion, Alison Cornyn, Lillian Jean-Baptiste, Pamela Cruz, Richard Moylan, Glenda Grace, Jason Bauman, and Eric K. Washington.

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

1. Marco Carrion called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.
2. Review of minutes from the July 20, 2022 meeting.

Marco Carrion asked for comments or questions regarding the minutes from the July 20, 2022 board meeting. Member Alison Cornyn noted her name had been misspelled in the Minutes. Chair Carrion accepted the Minutes, with the necessary correction.

3. Marco Carrion thanked Commissioner Toole and the DORIS team for the very successful Harlem Commission Conference that took place on September 20.

Commissioner Toole thanked Marco Carrion for his work as moderator and added that she had received much positive feedback.

4. Commissioner Toole asked the Board if they thought the committee structure was effective. She said that the committees had been established a year ago so that members could take a more active role, but was not sure if it was working.

Chair Carrion opened the meeting to discussion on the subject.

Richard Moylan remarked that the neighborhood committee on which he served had not been very active and needed fresh ideas.

Pamela Cruz suggested a task structure as an alternative to the committee model. Alison Cronyn and Glenda Grace agreed with this suggestion.

Commissioner Toole said the conversation was helpful and suggested that the task of developing a teacher workshop, possibly modeled on the White House Historical Commission, might serve as a model. The members agreed and Glenda Grace confirmed that it would also include college teachers.

Pamela Cruz added that the task-oriented structure should still be thought of through the lens of the committees. We should not lose sight of those big buckets in doing the task, she concluded.

Alison Cornyn suggested a longer meeting to flesh out the tasks. Jason Bauman added that perhaps that meeting should be in-person.

Commissioner Toole said the next step will be reach out to Brian and Glenda to come up with a description of the teacher workshop; what needs to be done and what resources would be necessary.

5. Commissioner Toole reported on DORIS activities. She echoed Chair Carrion's remarks about the Harlem Conference and said the morning and afternoon sessions had been recorded and could be viewed on the DORIS website. She added that a graduate-level course being developed at CUNY, "Protest in the Schoolhouse" had developed from the conference.
6. Commissioner Toole said the agency was putting together an online auction of gifts given to the mayor that did not have research value. A significant quantity had accumulated and the proceeds from the auction would support the Archives mission.
7. Commissioner Toole said there had not been any momentum on the ARRAB and ARB board merger.
8. Agency Updates

Kenneth Cobb reported the conference he attended: "Intoxicating the Archive – Preserving Narcotic Heritage and including Marginalized Voices in Collections and Libraries." Mr. Cobb described how the government response to the narcotics issue could be researched in records available at the Municipal Archives.

Sylvia Kollar provided an update on the Municipal Archives:

-The acquisition of Preservica to provide the public interface to digital assets.

-Ms. Kollar also described two new Mayoral initiatives: 1) to improve the processing time for patron-submitted reproduction orders and 2) to survey historic photographs and a/v materials still held in city agencies.

LaTonya Jones remarked that the External Affairs unit onboarded two new staff, a program officer and volunteer coordinator. A grant had been received to evaluate the volunteer program. She said an exhibit in 2023 would feature the work of the agency's artist-in-residence. The agency website update was continuing.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:44 p.m.