

Archives, Reference and Research Advisory Board
May 19, 2023
Minutes

Present:

Board Members: In-person—Marco Carrion, Brian Carlin, Pamela Cruz; Via Zoom—Jason Baumann, Alison Cornyn, Rebecca Pou.

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

1. Marco Carrion called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.
2. Review of minutes from the January 25, 2023 meeting.

Marco Carrion asked for comments or questions regarding the minutes from the January 25, 2023 board meeting. Member Pamela Cruz said she had amendments to items 3. and 4. on the agenda and would send them to Kenneth Cobb.

3. Board Chair Carrion made opening remarks noting that it was great to meet in-person. He congratulated Kenneth Cobb for his Sloan Public Service award.
4. Commissioner Toole's Report

-The Mayor's Office of Management and Budget had authorized the department to fill vacant positions. Four archivists have been (or will be soon) hired.

-The Department is working with the New York Archival Society to raise funds necessary to process the Edward Koch congressional papers. The records had been transferred from Congress to the Municipal Archives in the late 1970s. The papers contain significant documents relevant to many issues today—impeachment, gun violence, health insurance, etc.

-The Department is coordinating the transfer of mayoral records stored at 111 White Street to Municipal Archives. The building is slated to become a new prison.

-The ARRAB annual report that will take the form of a video production is well underway and the member interview segments will be completed by 30 June.

5. Agency Updates

LaTonya Jones reported on activities of the Outreach and Communications Division:

-The agency held ten events this year, to-date, with 431 attendees.

-Programs currently underway or upcoming:

Amended podcast listening and discussion series (grant-funded through Humanities New York).

Screening of “The Federal Artist” at DCTV Firehouse Cinema with a Q&A with documentary producer.

Photoville exhibit – “NYC Undercover: Post-War Sound and Vision from NYPD Surveillance & WNYC Radio” curated by archivist Chris Nicols.

Down the Barrel (of a Lens) exhibition at Brooklyn Army Terminal
Artist/Archivist Talk with the Department’s Artist-in-Residence,
Kameron Neal.

-New staff in communications and educational outreach are being onboarded and trained, and the unit is searching for new coordinator of public programs.

Commissioner Toole added that the Photoville festival this year will be held in the spring and the Department’s installation will be an innovative compilation of historic NYPD surveillance films matched with audio from WNYC radio broadcasts.

Pamela Cruz asked if there was a calendar of events in one place so that the ARRAB members could help with outreach. [Subsequent to the meeting, LaTonya Jones emailed each Board member links to the [Library Newsletter](#) and [Events](#) mailing lists and noted that members will be added to the Events distribution list, and suggested that the Exhibits and Education [page](#) can be consulted for more information about our upcoming events.]

Sylvia Kollar was unable to attend the minutes but asked Kenneth Cobb to read the following information about Municipal Archives activities into the Minutes:

-DORIS hosted a group of educators and curriculum developers for social studies in February. These District Points provide teachers with resources to supplement civics curriculum. Rossy Mendez and Katie Ehrlich presented a comprehensive overview of the Library and Archival collections.

-This was a great success, and we were asked to present again to a group of 40 educators from the District Achievement and Instructional Specialists for Social Studies group in the Bronx. This time, Rossy Mendez and Katie Ehrlich presented collections and resources related to a list of current issues the Bronx Team provided including gun violence, healthcare, food waste and athletics in schools.

-DORIS provided a tour and introduction to the collections at Industry City to a group of VIP Municipal Arts Society members. Katie Ehrlich and Cynthia Brenwall presented the District Attorney, Board of Education and vital records collections. The group also viewed the conservation/preservation lab and the digital lab.

-The Family History Vital records production team has improved their productivity in recent months thanks to changes and updates to the order applications and workflows.

-In June, Rossy Mendez will be hosting a DORIS table at the Bronx Museum and Civics Fair, where high school students will be presenting Civics projects and NYC cultural institutions can display and share resources from their collections.

6. Other business

Board Chair asked for further comments or questions. None were voiced.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:26 p.m.