

Indiana State Historic Records Advisory Board
Minutes – February 17, 2017
Indiana State Archives

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 10:15 a.m. by State Coordinator Jim Corridan.

Roll Call

Present: Jim Corridan, John Newman, Tom Krasean, Wes Wilson, Curt Witcher

Guests Present: Claire Horton, Connor McBride, Marilyn Fernandez, Jennifer Hodge

Approval of Agenda

Newman asked if we would be discussing Ancestry Day, and Corridan confirmed that this would be covered in New Business.

Motion to approve Agenda as amended. Witcher – Krasean. Motion carried.

Next Meeting

The date for the next meeting has not been determined, but will take place sometime in April or May.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from September 9, 2016. Newman pointed out a typo in Item 2, the Bicentennial Events, and the phrase “well come” was changed to “well done.”

Motion to approve amended Minutes of September 9, 2016. Newman – Krasean. Motion carried.

State Coordinator’s Report

1. New Employees

Deputy Director Marilyn Fernandez introduced herself. Corridan informed the SHRAB members that former Deputy Director Pat Cochran passed away in December. Marilyn Fernandez will be combining some of the duties of both former deputy directors. Before coming to IARA, Fernandez was the Deputy Chief of Staff for First Lady Karen Pence.

Jennifer Hodge introduced herself. She spent nineteen years working at the Capitol Tour Office. She will be developing educational programs, giving tours, and creating exhibits. This is a new position that will increase the amount of outreach the Archives does.

2. World War I Centennial Committee

Corridan reported that there will be an event at the War Memorial on April 6th to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the United States’ involvement in World War I. Governor Holcomb is planning to speak at the event. This will kick off the centennial events, which will also comprise of two other statewide events. In October 2018, there will be an exhibit and ceremony in Madison honoring Samuel Woodfill. In November 2017, there will be a graveside event in Evansville to honor James Gresham, the first US soldier to die in WWI combat. This event will include an exhibit and reception. There may also be an event in Indianapolis, as well as a liberty train event in Fort Wayne.

Newman inquired as to whether there would be press releases regarding these events, and Corridan confirmed that there would be. Corridan also reported that the State Archives hopes to digitize materials related to World War I, such as the Book of Merit and Gold Star records.

2. Indiana State Archives

Corridan reported that he recently met with the Budget Agency and we will likely be adding new positions at the State Archives, including an assistant electronic records archivist. Having two people in this department will ensure that the entire program does not stop if the electronic records archivist leaves for some reason. The State Archives will also be hiring someone to deal with communication and legislative matters, as well as an archivist who will focus on processing and creating a digitization plan. Corridan thinks that if we have a comprehensive plan for digitization, then it is more likely that we will receive money for digitization efforts. There are currently around 750 million pages in the archives' collection. About 13.5 million pages have been digitized, but these are almost all related to Ancestry. Corridan also said that we may ask for money to help with the storage and processing of ITT Tech student records.

Claire Horton demonstrated the AXAEM search pages and showed the SHRAB members how searches can be carried out both internally and by patrons. Corridan stated that we are hoping to someday get the existing administrative histories and finding aids put online, but it is difficult because they will need to be digitized first. Newman suggested using the Legislative Services directories or the WPA inventories.

Corridan reported that within the last week Senator Kenley stated that the State Archives building should be a priority, and the Senate budget will most likely include 25 million dollars for the building. However, the House budget will probably not include money for the building. Corridan said that the Governor may want to wait two years for the next budget, which may affect the IUPUI site. This would mean that the building won't be built for at least four years, which will also affect the cost. Corridan said that we really need 2 million more to allow for 15 years expansion, especially if the ITT Tech records are transferred to the archives. Witcher stated that he feels compelled to say that the 25 million number should have been considered to be a general estimate and that the real cost should be closer to 33-35 million. Corridan pointed out that another 5 million has already been set aside for furniture and fixtures. Wilson shared that the budget to renovate the existing Depauw Library is \$25 million, and Corridan said that the budget for the new Pennsylvania State Archives is \$60 million.

Corridan said that the space near the War Memorial has been suggested again. He said there are both pros and cons to building on the IUPUI campus. Krasean asked about the space near the State Museum, and Corridan said that the space is not big enough. The space near the IUPUI tennis courts was vetoed by IUPUI. Corridan said that the Archives has advocates, including former Chief Justice Shepard, the Bicentennial Commission, and the Pencses.

3. NHPRC State Grant Program

Corridan shared that he recently went to Washington D.C. and met with the National Association of Secretaries of State to talk about state archives. Many state archives report to the Secretary of State. They talked about funding, building projects, and the emerging issue of transparency and accountability of public officials. They discussed that there needs to be a national focus on compliance, especially in regards to electronic records. Corridan fears that there could be a black hole in record keeping because many electronic records weren't saved. He said that he felt the Secretaries of State were very receptive to the topic.

Corridan said that there is a good chance that Representative Jason Chaffitz will attempt to get rid of the NHPRC. He has already asked for information about grants given and denied in the past. However, Representative Mark Meadows serves on the subcommittee and he does support the NHPRC. He will

introduce legislative to re-authorize NHPRC. Corridan also reported that CoSA is asking for a seat on NHPRC and would also like to create a program similar to LSTA to fund state archives' projects.

The meeting recessed at 11:40 for lunch and reconvened at 12:00.

Corridan reported that SHRAB will not be giving out NHPRC mini-grants in 2017, but that these will start up again in 2018. There will continue to be a SHRAB intern.

Corridan said that IARA will be involved in an open records portal, which will allow people to make open records requests online. This will be a way to track compliance and to see what kind of records are being requested. Horton showed the SHRAB members the Open Records Portal used by the Utah State Archives.

Old Business

Ancestry Day will take place September 16, 2017. Corridan expects to generate \$20,000 for the Friends of the Archives. He expects over 1,000 people to attend. It is possible that the State Archives will host programs the day before.

New Business

Witcher asked Corridan for his take on the state of federal funding for archives. Corridan said that we would still be able to function without NHPRC. He thinks that President Trump isn't necessarily anti-arts, but wants to save money. Both NEA and NEH are in danger of being eliminated, but Corridan doesn't think anything will be cut before 2018. Witcher expressed concern over the likelihood of creating a new program like LSTA in this kind of environment. Corridan said that some people do not believe that federal funding should be used for state archives, but the archives do hold federal records like military records and Works Progress Administration records.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20.