

Archives, Reference and Research Advisory Board
January 24, 2024, 4 p.m.
Minutes

Present:

Board Members: In-person—Alison Cornyn

Via Remote—Marco Carrion, Pamela Cruz, Lillian Jean Baptiste, Richard Moylan, Eric K. Washington, Sarah Gonzalez, Brian Carlin, Jason Bauman.

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

1. Marco Carrion announced there was a quorum and called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. He asked for a vote to approve the agenda and meeting minutes from November 15, 2023. The agenda and minutes were approved. He added that the ARRAB was his favorite of the various boards he served on.
2. Commissioner Toole's Report

Commissioner Toole reported that the agency's budget reductions had been accepted and that the third possible round of cuts may be postponed. She added that further reductions were not possible without significant impact to agency operations.

Commissioner Toole said she had met with the Mayor's Legislative Affairs office and that they were amenable to the proposed merger of the ARRAB with the Archival Review Board. If the proposal is not added to the Mayor's legislative agenda, they will suggest that Council Member Gail Brewer sponsor the action.

Commissioner Toole reported on the upcoming 250/400 anniversary celebrations. She said the Mayor has met with the 'America at 250' group and will appoint a Commission to coordinate activities in New York City. The Mayor's Office asked DORIS to survey and convene city agencies to track their plans and projects. After an initial meeting in December, 24 agencies responded with their plans; many involve some aspect of the waterfront. Commissioner Toole noted that the celebrations in 1976 also took place during a period of financial problems (the fiscal crisis) but

agencies successfully rallied to clean-up the city. One of the themes of the upcoming celebrations will be collecting on the promise of the Revolution.

Board member Jason Bauman asked who at the New York Public Library responded to the survey. Commissioner Toole said she would let him know and added that she would forward information about an upcoming meeting to be held on 29 January by the various organizations involved in planning events.

3. Archives Report

Sylvia Kollar provided information about the 1890 Census project, funded by the Stacpoole Foundation. She said a digital technician has been employed and will complete project activities by the end of the year. She reported that the Manhattan Building Plans project funded by the New York State Library is proceeding on schedule and project staff will have completed processing 10,000 plans by the end of June 2024.

Director Kollar noted that Pace University has received funding for a collaborative project involving Municipal Archives and Library resources, that will focus on 250th anniversary-related themes and materials.

Director Kollar noted that the Archives is awaiting notification from the National Endowment for the Humanities for a project to gain intellectual control and develop a processing plan for the records of the legislative branch. The Archives is also awaiting word from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission for a project to process records of the City Commission on Human Rights.

4. External Affairs Report – LaTonya C. Jones

Ms. Jones reported that DORIS had held 14 events recently attended by 280 people, including “Uniting the Boroughs” a collaborative exhibit with the MTA Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority celebrating the Triborough Bridge. She added that more than 100 volunteers have been trained for the Neighborhood Stories and Women’s Activism initiatives. Work is proceeding on website updates, curriculum development and outreach materials.

5. Other Matters.

Commissioner Toole asked the Board if they would be open to holding another joint meeting with the Archival Review Board. Board Chair Marco Carrion said yes.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:32 p.m.