

Indiana State Historic Records Advisory Board
Minutes – May 13, 2016
Indiana State Archives

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 12:10 p.m. by State Coordinator Jim Corridan

Roll Call

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

Guests Present: Claire Horton

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve Agenda. Witcher – Newman. Motion carried.

Next Meeting

The date for the next meeting has not been determined.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from December 7, 2015. Newman pointed out a typo in Item 1 of the State Coordinator's Report to change "used fixed shelves" to "use fixed shelves" as well as a change to add Krasean to the discussion about nitrate film found in the State Library.

Motion to approve amended minutes of December 7, 2015. Witcher – Wilson. Motion carried.

State Coordinator's Report

Corridan stated that Phil Bantin will leave the board as he has retired. Bantin has suggested that Dina Kellams join this board as his replacement. The Governor's Office is looking into appointing Kellams, as well as someone from Northwest Indiana.

1. Indiana State Archives

Corridan reported that IU has signed off on the location for the building, and it will be located on Indiana Avenue near the Madame Walker Theatre. The building will be about 60,000 square feet. The University System has been made aware that it is very possible that additional pieces will be added over time, as the holdings of the State Archives will fill the building shortly after moving in. Corridan also shared that there may be opportunities to apply for grants to use towards the building.

2. Agency Software

Corridan reported that the software team has been in Indianapolis all week to train the staff in using the new software. The program will be rolled out in different phases. The Staff is currently using test data to train. They will then update the current data before going live to the public. Newman suggested seeing if the Governor could make an announcement once everything goes public. Corridan also said that the new software and new building has caused IARA to rethink some processes and policies. The archives will be moving toward using a page to retrieve boxes. The new building will use a high-bay system, so transitioning to a page will help prepare for this situation.

3. Ancestry Day

Corridan said that Ancestry Day has been put on hold until bicentennial projects are finished. There is a possibility that it will be held in late fall or next spring.

Newman asked about Ancestry statistics. Corridan shared that the ancestry data will be available June 1st. The Archives has already received the hard drive, and there is a small amount that needs to be rescanned. The original estimate for the project was 13 million images, and the project ended up with 16.9 million images. This makes it one of the largest vital record projects Ancestry has taken on. The State Archives is currently negotiating with Family Search and Ancestry to share the vital records between the two entities. Family Search has already digitized some vital records from Indiana counties. Corridan reported that the vital records equal 96 terabytes of data. The probate records will also be coming soon, and they equal another 870 terabytes of data. With other electronic records, the State Archives has a total of 1 petabyte of data. The rest of the state's active storage totals 2 petabytes. The Archives is currently working with IOT to determine how to use cloud storage effectively.

Corridan suggested working on a year-end report to send to the Governor listing issues to keep him up to speed.

The meeting recessed at 12:40 for lunch and reconvened at 1:03.

4. Society of Indiana Archivists

Corridan reported that SHRAB gave \$1000 to SIA for the annual meeting and will sponsor the annual meeting each year. Corridan is concerned that the organization is overly academic and needs more outreach to archives that are not academic. Wilson pointed out that it is a very healthy organization right now.

5. NHPRC State Grant Program

Corridan reported that grants have not yet been released for this year. He spoke to Washington and said we are not ready to do it until the software is in place. The new software will require new standards for digitization projects. Corridan will ask for an extension.

6. IARA Bicentennial Events

Corridan shared that an exhibit will open next Friday in Vincennes at the Old Cathedral Library and will stay there for three weeks. The exhibit includes the original constitutions from 1816 and 1851, a French document regarding slavery in Indiana, the original state flag, and paintings of Jennings and Harrison. It will be a narrative about early statehood. After Vincennes, the exhibit will move to Corydon from June 10th to June 29th, which corresponds with the time of the constitutional convention. Corridan also shared that 200 years ago today, Indiana voted delegates to the constitutional convention. The exhibit will move to Indianapolis in December.

Other bicentennial events include a parade in Corydon on June 8th, which will mark the first time the constitution has returned to Corydon since 1825, and ceremonies in Charlestown and Corydon on June 29th. Governor Pence and his wife will go to Charlestown for last of the grave-site ceremonies for the constitutional delegates. After the ceremony, the Pences will go to Corydon and leave with the constitutions. Pence will speak about constitutional government. The State Archives is also heavily involved in the mobile visitor's center for the Torch Relay. The mobile visitor center will be at the first and last county of the relay each day.

Corridan also reported that the Archives has had a lot of requests for speaking engagements and for research related to the Bicentennial. He will speak to the state annual DAR conference tomorrow. Corridan is also COSA's representative to National Coalition for History, which keeps him aware of what other large historical organizations are doing.

Old Business

Newman said that he has been continuing work on his Franklin County processing project. He shared that there was a law passed in 1806 to allow county clerks to issue marriage licenses. The law repealed a 1792 law that allowed the Governor to issue marriage licenses. He is interested in the possibility that some of these marriage licenses may have survived. Corridan suggested that they may be at the Knox County Library.

New Business

2016 - NHPRC State Grant Priorities

Applications for the next grant cycle will begin in June. Corridan suggested having a conversation about priorities to emphasize for the grants beginning June 2017. SHRAB has money for workshops, grants, an intern, posters, and COSA dues. The current grant priority is education and digitization. Wilson agrees that this is what people need right now. Newman suggested that some grants be given to SIA to bring in people from the non-academic community for preservation and training of amateur archivists. Witcher suggested shifting focus to church or ecclesiastic archives that do not have the benefit of a trained archivist. Wilson agrees that this is a big need and that many local churches do not have the resources to maintain records. Krasean referenced a survey that was done earlier that included churches. Newman expanded Witcher's thought to include fraternal organizations. His experience with Franklin County records has shown him that there is a lot more material out there.

Corridan suggested reaching out to Ancestry and Family Search to help fund a project where they match the SHRAB grant to work with church and fraternal organizations. It would be an effort to train the organizations to maintain records and make them accessible. Wilson shared that Ancestry scanned Methodist Church's records. Newman suggested that Ancestry Day would be a good opportunity to have a panel including church and fraternal organizations to educate people that some of these records may be in private hands.

Corridan also shared that the records of many cemeteries haven't been kept up. His experience with the delegate project showed that many records have been lost. Witcher wondered if Find-a-Grave could help with the project due to the images they've already collected. He also shared that BillionGraves urges people to capture GPS coordinates.

Corridan said he will talk with NHPRC to see how they feel about the project, and will then reach out to Ancestry and Family Search to see if they are interested. He also mentioned the possibility of hiring an intern. Witcher shared that Family Search has a scanner in the Allen County Public Library to serve as a digitization center. People can bring documents in to get scanned.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 pm by State Coordinator Jim Corridan.