

Minutes for January 16, 2019 NJLA History & Preservation Section Meeting held at New Brunswick Free Public Library, New Brunswick, NJ.

The meeting was called to order at 10:31 AM. In attendance were Section officers Tom Ankner, Sarah Hull, Nancy Madasci, and Ken Kaufman. Also in attendance were Kim Adams, Hsien-Min Chen, Don Cornelius, Ken Geiger, Sarah Kiefer, Richetta Wilson Lobban, Maria Martinez, Fred Pachman, and Elsalyn Palmisano.

Introductions were made.

Ken presented the October 17, 2018 minutes for review. Elsalyn motioned and Kim seconded that the minutes be accepted. The motion passed unanimously.

President's Report

Tom spotlighted the good work of Colleen and contributors regarding the latest edition of "The Chronicle", and mentioned our upcoming continuing education programs at Plainfield Public Library in January and March. He also identified the need to submit a slate of officers for the upcoming fiscal year beginning on July 1st, particularly on finding someone to assume the vice president's position. The location for our March meeting has yet to be determined. Tom received a suggestion for the Great Falls in Paterson, but the federal government shutdown and other factors are making that choice less likely. Alternatives around Paterson were explored. Tom will make the announcement as soon as he finds a location.

Vice President's Report

Sarah submitted the Section's proposal for the annual conference programs, which are as follows: "In Their Own Words: Conducting Oral History Projects", "Is My House Haunted? House History Research", "What Do We Do With This? Managing Born Digital Records", "African-American Genealogy", "How to Organize and Care for Your Home Library", and the authors program. Journalists, Mark Dilonno and Hank Gola, are set to discuss their local sports themed books for the authors program. Fred asked about having all accepted programs on one day. Sarah said it will depend on the availability of the outside speakers.

Committee Reports

Professional Development – "Collection Management for Archival Collections at Libraries", the first of our sponsored programs, will be held next week at Plainfield Library. Archivists, Jeff Moy, Sarah Hull, Mary Hussey, and Erika Gorder, will be covering different aspects of managing archival collections. There is still room available for a last-minute registration. Plainfield Library is also the venue for our other sponsored program, "Identifying New Jersey Architectural Styles", presented by architectural historian, Janet Foster, on March 26th. There is a fee for this program. This and other registration details can be found at the NJLA website.

Awards – Nancy is seeking to add more nominations for the Susan Swartzburg Award. Elsalyn said nominations for the Roger McDonough Librarianship Award will be gathered later in the year.

Social Media – Danny sent Tom statistics on our Facebook page from December 17th through January 13th. Main page activity was light, but posts generated attention, as they reached 557 people with 148 likes, comments, or shares. Two posts reached a significant number of people: An announcement regarding our upcoming program on archives collections and an article on the re-enactment of Washington’s Delaware River crossing.

Archives – Gary sent Tom a status report. Most of the H&P Archives are in good shape. There do remain some files from History & Bibliography Section that need a volunteer for processing.

Bylaws – Ken reported that the committee has met, and will prepare changes for discussion at the next Section meeting. While there are multiple parts of the bylaws subject to committee attention, our first changes will focus on adding an exception to the consecutive term limit for the president position.

Other Reports

MARAC – Don gave the itinerary for the next MARAC meeting on January 31st at Monmouth University Library, which is open to NJLA members. After the business meeting, there will be a tour of the building (the former Guggenheim Cottage) and its archives, as well as a tour of the Bruce Springsteen Archives and Center for American Music. Beyond that, the group is involved with the SAA event at the New Jersey State Archives in February, and its Spring Conference will be in Morgantown, WV in April.

NJLA Archives – Fred is seeking Section advocacy for restarting work on the NJLA Archives. Efforts to sustain it since 2015 have stalled.

Announcements

Participants discussed materials acquisitions, projects, exhibits, and events at their organizations. Three municipalities are observing their anniversaries. Plainfield will turn 150 years old in 2019, while its City Hall will be 100. The Mayor’s January 5th kickoff ceremony was the first of a series of events planned throughout the year. Ocean Grove is also having a 150th birthday, and is celebrating with special summer events on July 4th, July 27th (Victorian Day), and August 10th. Ridgewood’s 125th anniversary will be acknowledged with an early history lecture at Ridgewood Library on April 29th.

The anniversaries of two institutions associated with New Jersey public library pioneer, John Cotton Dana, is the impetus for the exhibit, “Promoting Books and Objects: Empowering Newarkers”, from January 15th to August 31st at the main branch of Newark Public Library. The library is turning 130 years old while The Newark Museum will be 110.

A re-enactment of a woman's suffrage parade in New Brunswick is among the many activities being planned statewide in 2020 for the "NJ Women Vote: The 19th Amendment at 100" initiative.

The State Archives are halfway to realizing their goal of digitizing 90,000 land records of the East and West Jersey Proprietors collection.

Adjournment

Kim motioned for adjournment with a second from Sarah Hull. Without objections, the meeting adjourned at 11:41 AM.

The meeting was preceded by a tour of New Brunswick Free Public Library by Director, Robert Belvin, and followed by a visit to the library's archive, hosted by Kim Adams. Thank you Robert and Kim!

Next meeting: To be determined.

Submitted by Ken Kaufman