

## **Michigan State Historical Records Advisory Board Meeting**

**March 19, 2013**

**Michigan Historical Center, Lansing, Michigan**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Mark Harvey, State Archivist.

Present were: Sandra Clark, Director of the Michigan Historical Center, Mark Harvey, State Archivist, Nicole Garrett, Archivist at Albion College, Tawny Ryan Nelb, Nelb Consulting, Frank Boles, Director, Clarke Historical Library at Central Michigan University, and Mary Jo Remensnyder.

Present by Conference Call: Erik Nordberg, University Archivist at Michigan Technological University, and Patrice Merritt, Executive Director, Detroit Public Library Friends Foundation.

### **Welcome New Board Member**

Mark introduced Nicole Garrett as our new board member. Nicole is Albion College's Marilyn Crandell Schleg Memorial Archivist and Special Collections Librarian, and the United Methodist Church West Michigan Conference Archivist, and works out of the Stockwell-Mudd Library at Albion College. She has been at Albion College full-time for about a year and a half. She had previously worked at the Archives of Michigan for about six years.

### **Confirmation of Board Meeting Dates**

The next dates of the board meetings to put on your calendar will be: May 30, August 8, and September 26, 2013.

### **Approval of Past Minutes**

Mark is working on sending out the minutes of June 20, 2012 and the most recent March 19, 2013.

### **Board Member Updates**

Tawny Ryan Nelb is working with private families and churches to produce oral history presentations.

Sandra Clark announced that the Michigan Historical Commission will be 100 years old in 2013.

Jeff Gray is meeting with statewide organizations. One topic is trails and new trails' historical interpretation. An effort will be made to involve local history groups. DNR land management plan has to be looked into. Many existing trails could be linked to new trails.

Patrice Merritt noted in the *New York Times*, there was an article naming major cities constructing trails, and Detroit was not listed in this article.

Sandra Clark noted that we are starting to re-do some of our exhibits in the Michigan Historical Museum, some date back to the opening of the building in 1989.

Frank Boles noted that we continue to make progress with the NEH Digital Newspaper project. We sent our first batch in to them. Also they purchased at auction a diary of the Hemingway's third child (Ursula Hemingway.) Also a new exhibit opened at the Clarke Historical Library on "Brine." It is a nice local history subject and is very informative and includes chemistry information.

Erik Nordberg reported that on October 26, 2012, the Michigan Technological University Archives suffered a fire in the stacks area. The fire did not cause much damage, but it set off two sprinklers, and 1,500 boxes were damaged by water. Seven hundred boxes were saved, and the rest were sent out for recovery/treatment (Gamma radiation). To date, only 250 have been returned so far and the rest are still being salvaged. This process has been slowed by Hurricane Sandy. Erik is confident that structural repairs are almost done. The reading room should re-open on April 2. Michigan Technological University will have an exhibit on the Centennial of the 1913 Copper Country Strike from July 23, 2013 to April 13, 2014.

Erik announced that he will be taking a new position as the Executive Director of the Michigan Humanities Council effective May 1, 2013. This will enable him to be in person at more of our Board meetings.

Patrice Merritt stated the Detroit Public Library Friends Foundation has received a staffing grant for the Coleman Young project in the amount of \$89,500 to process 1,500 boxes. Wayne State University is offering two graduate students to help in this endeavor. Letters of support for this grant came from Kevin Boles, Tom Sugrue and Heather Thompson. Also the Detroit Public Library Friends Foundation will give the Burton \$35,000 to begin the digital management system for photographs that are not at this time available to the public. Wayne State University wants the photographs out of their storage. The Request for Proposal has to be completed first. There will be more money coming as the project matures.

Nicole Garrett reported that she held a DACS training through Society of American Archivists, and 1/8 of the collections are processed, none in WorldCat yet. Nicole said she was featured in the *Albion Recorder* and *Battle Creek Enquirer* newspapers on the appointment as a new Board member for MSHRAB.

Mark Harvey reported that the Michigan Historical Museum opened its newest temporary exhibit in late September 2012 "Put It On Paper" which has been well received.

The Archives of Michigan recently purchased *Preservica* software. Keith Creagh, Director of the Department of Natural Resources, and Mark Hoffman, Chief, took a tour of the Archives and pushed through the State contract for this purchase in about two weeks' time which was quite an accomplishment. This gave the Information Technology unit a new story to report on as well. This software provides 24-hour technical assistance and has migration features. Caryn Wojcik, Government Records Archivist, will give a demonstration at the Michigan Archival Association meeting. County clerks have shown great interest in this new program. The cost is \$12,000 a year and the Archives is negotiating lower rates.

Michigan is the first state to utilize this program. Kentucky is in the process of acquiring too. We will have more information coming on this and conference sessions.

Mark Harvey reported that our new David and Betty Morris Learning Center was officially opened with a reception on February 28, 2013. Governor Rick Snyder was here with the Executive office staff and the Department of Natural Resources officials. The Learning Center has been in the planning stages since 2007.

The Archives of Michigan introduced Saturday research hours beginning at 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The first Saturday we had 70 people use the Archives.

Kris Rzepczynski joined the Archives of Michigan in July of 2012 as a new full-time staff. Last fall, Kris gave 22 talks/presentations at various Genealogical societies in less than two months' time. The July 2013 Family History Seminar is set and ready to go.

Sandra Clark reported that **Michigan Modern** is preparing an exhibit at Cranbrook on modern architecture that will run from June 13 to October 13, 2013.

### Review of SNAP Grant

## **Narrative:**

Mark Harvey sent out materials for review. A partial award from NHPRC was received for \$12,000. The survey questions need to go out—Mark may ask for an extension for this grant.

Frank Boles said that we need to keep audience (workshops) focused on smaller groups. We discussed the groups that are listed and Frank suggested adding the Gerald Ford Library.

Patrice Merritt suggested we add the African-American Museum (Charles Wright) and the Arab-American Museum.

Erik Nordberg said to add the Native American Museum in Zebewaing. Perhaps the Keweenaw Historical National Park might be a possibility if we offer them travel money?

Tawny Ryan Nelb asked if there are any religious Archives groups we might have missed?

Patrice Merritt said she will check into this. Patrice also mentioned that the Assistant Director at Wayne State University, Kathleen Schmelling is not in that position anymore.

Mark Harvey asked if all was in favor of amending the contact list. All were in favor.

## **Budget:**

Mark Harvey said the first summit for the SNAP grant could possibly be held at the Kellogg Center on the campus of Michigan State University. Mark will have to check on the pricing for different venues, as six months have gone by and the pricing may have increased. Mark said we can pay with Michigan Historical Center Foundation funds the cost for a facilitator for the Summit (previous SNAP grant money is available.)

We all agreed that the travel budget stipend should be reduced, but we still need to provide a free lunch. People will not likely attend if there is no lunch provided!

Frank Boles suggested a Summit site might possibly be in Brighton? Patrice Merritt said that some will not travel to Detroit at this time. Possibly the Detroit Golf Club (which is over 100 years old) may be a place to hold the Summit as some people have never seen the Golf Club and are curious. It is located near Six Mile and Woodward Avenue.

Erik Nordberg suggested that some workshops could have the same core information and be presented at different locations throughout the State.

**Review of Survey Questions:**

The board decided to change question number 5 to say: What do you see as your institution's biggest challenge?

The board decided to change question number 6 to say: Are you aware of the MSHRAB and of our purpose? Mark Harvey will re-write the questions and send out a new draft.

Patrice Merritt noted that we need to state somewhere where people could get help from us and who to call.

**New Business:**

Mark Harvey said we still need to draft a new website for MSHRAB on [seekingmichigan.org](http://seekingmichigan.org).

Durand Union Station is changing bylaws to disassociate itself with the Michigan Historical Museum.

Mark Harvey said that Terrance McDonald will replace Francis Blouin as Director of the Bentley Historical Library in Ann Arbor. Terrance McDonald holds a Ph.D. from Stanford University (1979), and was dean of the University of Michigan School of language arts.

The meeting was adjourned and had lunch at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Remensnyder, Recording Secretary