

**California Historical Records Advisory Board**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**June 11, 2007**

Location: Secretary of State building, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor board room, Sacramento, CA

Members Present: Gary Brutsch, Gabriele Carey, Christine Figueroa, Wendy Franklin, Jim Henley, Jim Hofer, Gary Kurutz, Laren Metzger, Charles Palm, Chuck Wilson, Jennifer Martinez Wormser, Nancy Zimmelman

Members Absent: Waverly Lowell

The meeting was called to order by State Coordinator Nancy Zimmelman at 1:00 p.m.

### **Welcome and Introduction of New Members**

The State Coordinator introduced the two new members of the board: Gabriele Carey, an at-large appointee, and Wendy Franklin, the representative of the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Chuck Wilson offered two amendments to the minutes of February 21-22, 2007. A motion was made by Charles Palm and seconded by Gary Brutsch to approve the minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

### **State Agency Reports**

Nancy provided an overview of her report about the State Archives. She noted the addition of Sebastian Nelson as an Archivist I. The processing backlog project now has seven students employed. To date, 569 cubic feet of records have been processed since July 2006. The Archives went live with its online bibliographic catalog, "Minerva", last month. This new service attracted the attention of several media outlets. The Archives recently installed an exhibit featuring records from the Legislative Black Caucus, which is celebrating its fortieth anniversary this year. The Archives continues to be actively involved in the State Historical Collections Management Project. A conference will be held on September 17<sup>th</sup> in Sacramento that will include a wide range of repositories to consider the collecting of records of California history. The California Museum for History, Women, and the Arts recently opened a new exhibit that features selected items from the Hearst Castle.

Gary Kurutz offered a summary of recent activities at the State Library. Some collections have been relocated during the restoration work at the Library and Courts Building. Stacy Alderidge has been appointed as the Deputy State Librarian. The Library is holding a reception on June 19<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with its exhibit on African-American history in California. The California

newspaper project will hold a meeting at UC-Riverside to discuss the future of newspapers in the age of increasing digitization and online access to news.

Wendy provided a digest of information from the Department of Parks and Recreation. DPR is currently working on using bond money for cultural deferred maintenance projects, some of which impact its historical collections. These projects include the rehousing of photonegatives, the CCC photo project, care of framed art at Will Rogers State Park, and the Columbia State Park project. DPR is looking to consolidate existing structures that house historical collections to provide increased protection from flooding and enhance environmental controls. A new exhibit, "A Bird's Eye View of California", has been installed at the State Capitol Museum with the assistance of the State Library. The Department is moving forward to hire a new chief of the Archaeology, History, and Museums Division following the untimely death of Walter Gray.

### **Reports from Other Organizations**

Jennifer Martinez Wormser noted that the attendance at the Society of California Archivists' 2007 annual meeting in Long Beach was down compared to recent annual meetings. SCA will hold its annual meeting next year in Seaside. Chuck indicated that the California Council for the Promotion of History will convene its annual meeting in Arcadia during the last week of October 2007.

### **CHRAB Grants Update**

Laren Metzger noted that all the money has now been distributed from the board's Regrant Project. The first narrative reports from organizations that received funding is anticipated in the near future. The basic archives workshops continued to be well received. Laren and Gabriele Carey presented the workshop at the SCA annual meeting in Long Beach. Laren and Teena Stern will be co-teaching workshops in Santa Barbara in June and South Lake Tahoe and Chico in July. Laren will offer the workshop in Industry in October as part of the CCPH annual meeting. A final workshop will be given in the Bay Area this fall. The Regrant Project is scheduled for completion in early 2008.

Laren indicated that the board's current administrative support funding will expire in December 2007. A new administrative support application will be prepared in September 2007 for calendar year 2008 support. The board discussed the need to consider other sources of funding for its activities in the future, including legislation to establish the board as a state agency with its own funding or seeking financial support from the Secretary of State. A motion was made by Gary Brutsch and seconded by Charles Palm to ask the State Coordinator to approach a representative from the Secretary of State to discuss financial support for the board. The motion passed unanimously. The board asked the State Coordinator to invite the Secretary of State or an agency representative to attend a portion of the joint meeting with the Nevada SHRAB scheduled for tomorrow.

## **NHPRC Reauthorization Update**

Nancy indicated that the House and Senate committees providing oversight for the NHPRC reauthorization bill will soon be meeting. It is anticipated that NHPRC will be funded at its current level of ten million dollars.

## **Archivist Award of Excellence**

The board committee (Gary Kurutz, Waverly Lowell, Christine Figueroa) assigned to create standards for the award will soon begin its work. It is anticipated that the committee will have a draft completed for the review at the board's meeting in October 2007. Laren will send his file about the award to the committee.

## **Archives Month Update**

Jennifer continues to create a basic web page for Archives Month. She hopes to secure the domain name, "archivesmonth.org" for the board's use. The web page will include basic information about Archives Month with links to other repositories, the 2007 poster and previous posters, and a listing of repository activities. Laren will send posters in TIFF and JPEG formats to Jennifer, if available. The primary audience for the web site is archivists and allied professionals working with historical materials, although the general public will also be encouraged to use the site.

## **Replevin Legislation Proposal**

Chuck and Laren introduced the draft replevin bill that has been crafted by SCA's Government Affairs Committee. The intention is to plug a hole in the California Public Records Act by adding a section that will provide state and local governments a process by which to recover government records that have been removed from government custody. The draft has been forwarded to the SCA Board of Directors for its consideration. Several board members expressed strong reservations with the draft legislation. Some view the legislation as heavy handed, in particular, the penalty clause. In addition, some members feel that private collectors and non-governmental organizations have provided a real service over the years by rescuing and preserving old records that otherwise might have been lost or destroyed. Moreover, the sentiment was expressed that there is a significant difference between archival repositories that are now maintaining government historical records and individuals who are seeking commercial gain by attempting to sell government records in their possession. A motion was made by Gary Brutsch and seconded by Chuck to support the draft. An amendment was offered by Jim Henley and seconded by Gary Kurutz to table the motion until the board's October meeting. The amendment was accepted by Gary Brutsch and, upon a call for the vote, the amendment was passed unanimously.

## **Strategic Plan Review**

Laren provided some background about the strategic plan and the chart that was created to track progress in meeting the plan's objectives. Several members suggested that it would be more

useful to focus on the board's priorities and those objectives that relate to board responsibilities. To that end, it was agreed that Laren would prepare a summary of those objectives relating directly to the board and distribute same to the members with a deadline for a response that would state each member's five top priorities. This product will then become the foundation for a review of the strategic plan at the October meeting. It was also suggested that it would be helpful to provide a starting date for each objective.

### **Other Business**

Chuck offered a motion, seconded by Jim Hofer, to rename the Archivist Award of Excellence in honor of Walter Gray, past State Archivist and State Coordinator. Charles suggested that rather than just rename the current award, a new award should be created in honor of Walter. In this way, a value would be added to the board work and the profession generally. There followed a general discussion about how best to recognize the contributions of Walter and how to underwrite the costs of creating a new award. Jim Henley agreed that a new award would be appropriate. Wendy emphasized Walter's role as a mentor to so many people. Jennifer suggested that a new scholarship to the Western Archives Institute in honor of Walter would be beneficial. Others liked the idea of renaming an existing scholarship. It was agreed that Nancy will contact SCA about the scholarship proposal in the near future . The motion was withdrawn.

### **Next Meeting**

Charles offered to host the next meeting at the Hoover Institution. The preferred dates are October 17-19.

The meeting was adjourned by the State Coordinator at 4:57 p.m.