Digital Commonwealth Board Meeting
Minutes
October 10, 2020

10:05 am meeting called to order by President Justin Snow

Present (via Zoom): Danielle Sangalang, Hans Bergmann, Jodi Goodman, Tegan Kehoe, Anton Smith, Justin Snow, Eben English, Sonia Pacheco, Evan Knight, Rachel Jirka

Guests (Committee Chairs): Jenn Belcher, Helen Charbonneau, Matt Amory

Meeting called to order by Justin Snow at 10:05am

September Minutes: The September minutes were approved as presented.

Conference Committee: Sonia Pacheco reported that the 2021 Conference (“The Politics of Collection,”) set for April 13th, continues in active planning. She said the committee was concerned that the conference not be “Massachusetts-centric” since our Zoom audience will come from many places other than the Commonwealth. The Board agreed.

Membership Committee: Jenn Belcher reported that the September 23 “Who is Little Joe – Photo Detecting 101” Zoom workshop went well, as did the “Introduction to Omeka” Zoom workshop of October 8th (offered in conjunction with the Massachusetts Library System). Registrations for both workshops were strong. The Board expressed an interest in seeing the results of the evaluations. Molly Rogers will lead the “Using Digital Resources for Genealogical Research” Zoom workshop on October 26. Samantha Muir will lead the Zoom workshop entitled “Provenance Research: Case Studies from the van Otterloo Collection at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston” on December 9th.

Education and Outreach Committee: Matt Amory reported for the committee that it and the Membership Committee were working together. He mentioned the committee’s work in developing a Sacco and Vanzetti presentation.

The committee members not on the Board then left the meeting with the Board’s thanks.

Repository Committee: Eben English had no report since the committee had not met. The BPL is continuing its work building a new repository system.

Financials Report: From Tegan Kehoe: So far, membership dues seem not substantially affected by the pandemic, if the trend of the past several months holds. It may take a full year to see the effects, as various institutions set their budgets for the next year and as membership renewals come around. Tegan thinks a rolling budget is now appropriate. We are in good shape. Our net operating revenue, as of the end of September, was $10,564, and our total assets were $133,872.
Membership report: Glynda Benham reports that there continues to be no significant growth or decline in membership.

DPLA Report: Justin Snow had no update because there has been no news. Danielle Sangalang is now on the Membership Council of DPLA.

Boston Public Library Update: Eben English explained that the digital unit was up and running again: the staff is back. There are still no site visits. The staff is preparing an application for a grant from the Library of Congress’s National Digital Newspaper Program.

Black Lives Matter Statement: Evan Knight told the Board that the Survey had been sent out, and as of the time of the Board Meeting 10% of the 250 surveys had been returned. This result is disappointing but more time for returning remains. Six individuals have agreed to the follow-up in person interviews.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:04 am.

Next Meeting: **November 17, 2020.** 10-12 am. (Zoom)

Hans Bergmann
Secretary