

FDCA Meeting, March 17, 2015

Attending: Mary Beth Corrigan, Eric Stokovich, Carol Bergman, Juan Thompson, Derek Gray, Andrew Cassidy-Amstutz, Fynnette Eaton, Barbara Burger, Jennifer Krafchik, Bill Rice, Patrice Brown, Trudy Peterson, Thomas Worthington, Becky Katz

2. Updates regarding meetings and council hearings

Fynnette Eaton reports from the Council hearing last Tuesday, March 12, Committee on the Whole, chaired by Phil Mendelson, where she testified on behalf of the FDCA (see testimony distributed earlier, and video of testimony, available at DC Council website). Fynnette also testified before the Committee on Transportation and the Environment. Fynnette reiterated the FDCA concerns and position, and voiced the concern that DGS is pursuing a procurement of the new archives that is rushed and lacking the necessary outside input and that it is proceeding without having hired a new public records administrator. David Grosso shares this concern and wrote a letter to DGS on February 11. Phil Mendelson seemed very interested and asked hard questions.

Bill Rice and Fynnette also met with Lauren Vaughn, District Secretary, and her deputy, Joy Holland. They are interested in hearing from us; the FDCA shared job descriptions for state archivists from COSA (i.e. Maryland State Archives; Pennsylvania State Archives).

Bill: We have established ourselves as the organization that is helping with the advocating for the construction of the new archives building, and for the renovation of Naylor Court. Beverly Perry seems to be very supportive.

* Councilmember recommends 2 step bidding process:

- 1: qualify the bidders based on expertise
- 2: set the dollar amount.

Carl: the odds are strong that RFP will be for over 1 Million, if that is the case, then the council has to review it anyway.

Seems to be support/interest among council members Allen, Cheh, Gross, Mendelsson, Nadeau

* SHRAB needs to be reconstituted!

3. Vacancy for public records administrator

Discussion about the position, and the selection process – which qualifications does the public records administrator/archivist need to have?

-Do we have the old job description of Phil Ogilvie? Should the title of city historian be dropped?

-- Position needs to be equivalent of other state archivists in the U.S., needs to have experiences with and expertise in planning an archives facility; needs to know and appreciate culture of the city; major responsibilities: draft and enforce records management policies; staff the agency, plan the new building; renovate the old one.

Discussion about hiring process:

Can we be on the review panel for the contract? How will the person be selected; will there be public input in the process; will there be an archivist on the search committee?

4. Strategy for budget hearings

Hearing begin April 15th, 2:30 pm; the next one will be on April 28, 10 am.

Our message:

Keep the allocated money; adopt a 2 step procurement process; hire an archivist.

5. Outreach

April 1st, Bill and Fynette will tour the archives with council member with Allen. Check if we should bring reporter?

Going forward: Shall we issue press release about the DGS contract? Use streetcar as example for poor planning that we want to avoid; other idea: press release on e-records policies, referring to Hillary Clinton's emails?

-Schedule meeting with Ms. Vaughn – maybe do research on history of Philly city archives, use it as successful example? But we should also use examples from archives in other world capitals – DC archives should match up with major archives in the world.

Notes drafted by Katharina Hering