

ALLIANCE FOR RESPONSE MINUTES

International Women's Aeronautical and Space Museum

Thursday, April 15, 2010

Present: Ann Goodwill, Heather Gallagher, Wendy Partridge, – Intermuseum Conservation Association (ICA); Sue Dunlap - College of Wooster; Cris Takacs, Connie Ewasen – International Women's Aeronautical and Space Museum (IWASM); Elizabeth Bardossy, Ann Olszewski – Cleveland Public Library; Jun Francisco – Rock and Roll Hall of Fame

Heather began the meeting by setting the agenda to discuss three main items:

1. Cris's experience with the REPP program out of Heritage Preservation
2. The Heritage Preservation Program itself
3. New leadership ("conveners")

The last time the Alliance for Response group met it was decided to meet once a year to coincide with May Day, a program devised by Heritage Preservation on disaster preparedness for library and cultural institutions.

Cris spoke about the REPP program out of Heritage Preservation. She explained that the Heritage Preservation REPP is a risk evaluation and planning program. One could apply to have help preparing a disaster plan for their institution. Five institutions from Ohio, 5 from Missouri and 5 from Texas were selected as participants for the pilot project. Cris was able to get some professionals out to her institution to do a walk-through in order to evaluate it for disaster preparedness. Two people were chosen, Laurie Booth, a conservator, and Jim Majer from the city's public safety department. This program provides on-site visits from a conservator and a first responder. Jim said that in the event of a national emergency that Burke Lakefront Airport would be taken over by people being evacuated from Chicago. There were no fire alarms in the building there is a fire station on premises. Laurie suggested looking at the D Plan developed by the Northeast Document Conservation Center and offered to help with the paperwork. Cris noted that the problem with the D Plan was that there was a lot of repetition, but now there is a condensed version that IWASM is using. Heritage Preservation has posted project results and REPP assessment tools at www.heritagepreservation.org/REPP.

Today's scheduled meeting prompted some emails from Heritage Preservation and Tom Clareson, of Lyrasis, who has advised us in the past on setting up the Alliance for Response. Heather mentioned that Tom had tracked down money originally allocated to an alliance group in another region in Ohio that ultimately did not use it. Tom had indicated that we might be able to use this money. The amount of money available is \$1,983.33. Heather offered to send an email of other activities in other states to members of the group.

Cris asked for information about the purpose of Heritage Preservation. Heritage Preservation is a national organization which is an advocacy group and it sponsors various programs, like the alliance for response and May Day. Heather mentioned the disaster fire suppression program that we had sponsored at the Ohio Museums Association meeting. She said that while this was a very worthwhile program, \$1900 (the money possibly) might not be enough to cover such a program. Nicole Hayes, who could not attend, had done the brunt of the organizational work for that program and she had managed to get space donated and speaker fees waived. Ann Olszewski asked whether the \$1900 could be used to do a 2-hour program such as a refresher class for what to do after a disaster.

Heather said the Alliance needs a new contact person for meetings and she wants to get other people involved. She asked whether anyone would like to volunteer to be the new convener. Ann Olszewski offered to do so. Sue suggested that whoever becomes convener hold the position for one year and then a new convener would be chosen. Questions arose about whom and how many know about the Alliance.

There are 23 people on the list, some of whom signed up at the fire suppression program last year. It was stressed that it was important to make contacts and Heather suggested that at the next meeting the members bring along a guest. An idea floated was to have the Alliance set up a meet and greet with a purpose. Ann Olszewski wants to see a program that imparts practical knowledge for cross-training. For example a program on objects (like books) and the type of damage they typically get and what to do about it.

Heather opened up another line of discussion by asking whether anyone's institution suffered any disasters last year. Ann Olszewski mentioned water damage occurring several weeks ago in the stack areas of Cleveland Public Library. Sue talked about a wet book problem caused by a leaky roof. Heather spoke of an incident at Arnie Tunstall's institution in Akron where he had felt their disaster planning had worked well. Ann Goodwill related a problem of a hard drive failure and server failure at the ICA recently. Heather thought this might make a great program topic: electronic files in a disaster situation. Another disaster at the ICA involved a fire that started in the building next door but did not damage anything at the ICA. Climate controls were shut off in the ICA building after it was evacuated.

In order to stretch dollars to fund the program we need to see if a facility could be donated and whether attendees need to sign up ahead of time or could just come in. An October meeting for the program was suggested as the halfway mark toward the regular AFR meeting and to encourage people to then come to the April meeting. Ann Olszewski offered to host the October meeting at the Cleveland Public Library Lakeshore Facility. Jun offered to check on the availability of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. An official committee was appointed with Ann Olszewski and Wendy on it. If people are asked to register then there would be no charge to hold the meeting at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

One last topic was the issue of the mission statement for the Alliance for Response. Anne Goodwill had previously written up a mission statement and Sharlane Gubkin had written a suggested revision, but there was never any finalized decision made on it. Heather reread both versions and the Anne's version, which was simpler and less ambitious, was decided on. So far it was not decided to keep service providers off the list (a disaster response company is considered an allied professional).

The meeting adjourned at 11:30.