

Zoom, PRESENT: James Davis, Sara Lenham (CLS), Kim Roche, (Lasch Center) Chris Barrett, Ella James (Huguenot Society), Teri Lynn Herbert (MUSC), Virginia Ellison, Molly Silliman (SCHS), Sarah Murphy (CCPL), Melinda, St. Matthews Lutheran Church,

James Davis:

All right. I think we'll go ahead and get started. Hi, everyone. It's good to see your faces. Chris, did we send out the June and July meeting minutes? I think you're muted.

Chris Barrett:

Sorry. I'm still working on them.

James Davis:

Okay. So, we're still working on it.

Chris Barrett:

It'll probably be after this meeting.

James Davis:

Okay. Well, send them out and then we'll do one big minute approval next time. That's the end of old business, unless anybody has anything they'd like to bring up. For in-person meetings, Kim, do we want to confirm next month at the Warren Lasch?

Kim:

Yeah, I still need to talk to a few people just to make sure that we do have authorization to do that. So far, we're still kind of operating as normal, minus just back to an on-campus mask mandate for a three week period, TBD if that's extended. But in terms of limiting numbers of attendees and whatnot, that's not an issue. For anyone with personal concerns though, it is still a fairly large space, so I think with a half a dozen and even a dozen people, we would still be able to distance and mask up if that made people more comfortable. But yeah, I still need to run it by the boss.

James Davis:

Right. Yeah.

Kim:

It should be fine.

James Davis:

I know our institution is back to reconsidering events, and masks, and all that kind of stuff. We have instituted masks, so I think as an organization, we need keep an eye on what everybody says and how everybody feels. If there's concerns and if most people say, "Actually, no. It was fun one time, but I don't really want to do an in-person meeting," speak up, because we won't host them. This works pretty well, but I know we all like to be in person when we can, so let's plan on it at the Warren Lasch for now, but remain flexible. And did we have a date in mind for that? I know we made a schedule. I didn't put it in my calendar. Did you have something you nailed down, Kim?

Kim:

Sorry, let me just look at what we had in our schedule for September. Yeah, I'll check and confirm.

James Davis:

Okay. We'll send that information out soon, as soon as we get a confirmation.

So, what's appropriate? 3:00, 3:30, 3:45?

James Davis:

Yeah, I think 3:00 is what we used to do.

Kim:

All right. Let's just go with...

James Davis:

We have a hard yes from Sarah.

Kim:

Yeah, that's all I needed. Let's go with, tentatively, the 21st at 3:00 PM.

James Davis:

Okay. Yeah, and we'll send out an official confirmation.

Kim:

Yes, with a registration link most likely, so keep an eye out for that.

James Davis:

Oh, that's a good idea. Yeah. I don't know that this has ever been done in the past, but having people RSVP, just so that the institution is prepared for those kinds of numbers and to give the institution the ability to just put a limit on it if we need to.

Not that that's ever been a problem either, but you never know. All right. Does anyone else have anything for new business? All right.

Kim:

[crosstalk 00:09:40] Sorry, I have something. I'm not sure if people just saw the link that we sent out this week, past week, but the State Library in Columbia is hosting a two-day training event on emergency planning and preparedness. They do have some grant funding, so if anyone is library staff anywhere in the State of South Carolina, you would be eligible to request grant funding to cover cost of travel. They've kept the registration costs low at \$25.00 for both days, so then hotel stay and transportation, I think, would be covered. I'm definitely looking into that.

James Davis:

What does that mean, library staff across the State of South Carolina? Do you know?

Kim:

It's a wonderful question. I do not know.

James Davis:

Well, I [crosstalk 00:10:31]...

Kim:

I imagine that covers public and private libraries. It doesn't specify public or state.

James Davis:

I emailed them and they told me no.

Kim:

Oh.

James Davis:

I think [Wendy 00:10:43] was her name. [Tiffany 00:10:46] and Wendy. Travel funding grant applicants... Oh, sorry. This is what it was. It was, "Grant guidelines limit travel applicants from our county/region. Public library only."

Kim:

Oh, okay. And that's good to know.

James Davis:

I'm not sure. The qualification for the grant is pretty limited.

Kim:
Okay.

James Davis:

But that doesn't mean that it's not worthwhile. At \$25.00 for registration, plus travel cost, it's something that I think is really good.

Kim:
Yes.

Teri Lynn:

I gave it to our new employee at the MUSC library, and he's going to try to get clearance from the director to attend.

James Davis:
Yup.

Kim:
That's awesome. And feel free to disseminate that as well if you can think of anyone. A few people I've heard just kick it off too and just kind of disseminate if everyone sort of kicks it through their own personal network. It's definitely a worthwhile thing in the state, and then leads in nicely to the one-day event that we'll be planning here for next March. Again, just so you guys can kind of keep your antenna up about that. That'll be next March, it's going to be a one-day conference here locally. It'll actually be at our space in North Charleston in regards to emergency planning and preparedness.

Hopefully a nice networking opportunity. It will be free, lunch will be catered, and there will be an evening reception at Avery as well. We've had a lot of wonderful support and collaborators on all of this. We're looking forward to giving you guys more information, and hopefully a registration link maybe in a few months' time.

James Davis:
And Kim, are you involved in the two-day workshop?

Kim:
No, I'm not. Just attending.

James Davis:
Yup. Oh, you are? That's good.

Kim:

It is. Yeah.

James Davis:

Cool. Well, maybe you could do a little something for the people who weren't able to attend, just a synopsis or something?

Kim:

Yeah, absolutely. If that's something that people have interest in and want feedback from, we can definitely arrange that, especially if anyone else from CALM who will be attending as well. That would be great to know in advance.

James Davis:

Okay.

Kim:

Maybe we can actually meet in person too.

James Davis:

Besides Teri, does anybody planning on going or know anybody who is?

Kim:

Sarah, do you know if anyone from CCPL is going? I know someone from CCPL actually is slated to speak during the two days.

James Davis:

We might've temporarily lost her.

Sarah Hisnanick-Murphy:

Hi. I usually hit my space bar to unmute and it didn't work. No. I don't know exactly who's going to that one. I know I saw something about it on [Yee 00:13:51], some kind of email chain, but I didn't see who was going.

James Davis:

All right. Thanks, Kim. That was a good announcement. We will go into institutional updates, unless anyone has any new business. Other new business? All right. I'll start with myself and Sarah. Oh, yes.

Sarah:

Hand greets.

James Davis:

[Melinda 00:14:24], I think you're on mute.

Melinda:

Yeah. I just want to introduce myself. I'm from St. Matthew's Lutheran. And Nancy Kruger felt like one of us needs to start getting back into the habit of attending the CALM meeting, so I met today. I just wanted to let you know who I was.

James Davis:

Awesome. Thank you, Melinda. We're glad to have you here. And we hope you guys will be able to come to the in-person meetings if we have those. All right. Institutional updates, with myself; I mentioned that we're looking at masks and events. We are requiring masks for patrons and staff in the main library areas. I also have my intern who started, Sarah. She's been hitting the ground running and has lots to do and lots of things has been going on, so that's been a lot of fun, and she'll give you an update on what she's doing.

And then today, I got an interesting call from... I think it was a public library in South Carolina, about a mold problem that they had been having, something similar to what happened here. And so, I was able to help her, but kind of made me feel good that probably through CALM, information is getting out about networks and people who know stuff. And I really felt like I was able to walk her through her situation and provide information that really helped her out.

We talked about dehumidification of space, how to safely handle the mold, and then what to do with the books that were moldy. Kudos on that. That information is getting out. That's kind of what we're about as an organization I feel like. Sarah?

Sarah:

Yeah. Just to give a quick update on what we've been working on so far. The library here has ongoing climate control activities happening. Hopefully I'll be able to help James with the various checkings and emptyings of dehumidifiers and all that fun stuff. And then in addition, I'm hoping to be really helpful with client projects that we're taking on. Just today, we're working on a particularly spicy one. I won't get into too much detail on that, but I've been doing some condition reporting on books and working on whipping up treatment proposals so far. It's been great.

James Davis:

And for those of you who don't know, my name's James Davis, and we're at the Charleston Library Society. I always forget that part. Teri Lynn, you want to tell us what's going on?

Teri Lynn:

Not much at the library, but my plumber finally showed up. From July 15th, I haven't had water at my house, and I'm so excited. I have a plumber out there working. It's taking that long to get a plumber. They just don't show up or they don't return calls. It's been bad. But the library is just fiddling along and it's temporary space. Nothing exciting. Classes have all started, so that's the exciting thing at MUSC, and they're all in person, which may change.

James Davis:

Your library is still under construction?

Teri Lynn:

It will be until 2022.

James Davis:

Chris, how's the Huguenot Society?

Chris Barrett:

Huguenot Society is pretty good. That was a friendly way to avoid reminding me to say where I'm from. Thanks for that. It's going pretty well. Just again to reiterate the CALM network in that value. I met Ella James independently of CALM. I got to know her through this network and some of the people, you all, at the Library Society, the Historical Society, where she's spending time as a volunteer, and we've hired Ella as a part-time digital archivist. She hasn't started yet, but probably within the next week or so. And that's good.

Those projects are going well and picking up speed. It's all different parts of the collection lined up by the Lowcountry Digital Library. And with the new semester, it feels like archive work to me, the Society, if you've never driven by it or don't know where it is, it's an old building on Logan Street. It was built apparently during the Civil War. It's not real special. But a joint program that's part Clemson, part College of Charleston, architectural history is going to be meeting here, and students will be researching the history of the building. And the goal is that by the end of this semester, they will have the first part of the preliminary nomination to place the building on the National Register of Historic Places.

And it's kind of a plain Jane as far as Charleston buildings go. But apparently, in this ZIP code, they're looking for that, because remember, 20 or 30 years ago, this shift from public history to domestic history, and apparently the National Register doesn't reflect that yet. They're looking for homes of the typical Joe Schmo, and that's a great three-story building. It was a furniture shop. The floor was dirt on the ground floor until about 1990 when the Society bought it and the family lived upstairs,

and then it was apartment for a while, but the Society renovated it extensively and then repaired it and did more renovations after Hurricane Dorian took the roof off.

It's a bit of a long shot, but the person in charge, some of you may know Jon Marcoux from Clemson. His office is over at the tobacco factory or the Cigar Factory. But he thinks we have a pretty good chance just for a combination of reasons, in spite of the fact that George Washington never slept here, but that's about... Some of our interns will be helping with that research, and then we'll learn a lot about the building as those architecture people do that research. And that's about it. Thanks.

James Davis:

All right, cool. And congratulations, Ella. That's pretty neat to hear.

Ella James:

Thank you. I'm really excited.

James Davis:

Melinda, do you want to give us a little update? I know you introduced yourself already.

Melinda:

I really don't know exactly what to inform this wonderful group about, but we're still struggling, as always, to have volunteers to get more people in to help with going through all of the records that we have and boxes and files and organize them, and decide what can be thrown away and what we need to catalog. That's what we're doing right now; trying to continue to make sense of a lot of things.

James Davis:

You said you're actively looking for volunteers?

Melinda:

Through the church, or anyone else. But primarily, we've been hoping, I've been hoping, that we can entice a couple people that are church members to come up and give us a few hours. I've started doing this about three years ago. I love it. I'm a retired teacher, social studies teacher, so this is just a lot of fun. And we've had a lot of different research projects going on this year for people researching genealogy, but also some things that I've done for church council.

It's been fun. That much I'll say. But we can't see Nancy Kruger and I can't seem to arm-twist too many people to get up there. And we also have been involved with the Lowcountry Digital Library and we're preparing a second set of documents to go to the library, get scanned, and then get out.

James Davis:

Very cool. Very good. Well, I think COVID has made it hard to get people in the building.

Melinda:

It definitely has. I mean, we were able to resume with limitations back last summer. And for a brief period, we've been able to go without masks, but now we're all back in masks.

James Davis:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Melinda:

You're right. It's a difficult thing.

James Davis:

Kim?

Kim:

Hey, everyone. I think most of you know me already, but just in case not; I'm one of the conservators with the Warren Lasch Conservation Center. We're a part of Clemson, up in North Charleston. We also work closely with the downtown MSHP and School of Architecture and all that as well. We've been pretty busy around here. We're made up of a team of archeology, historic preservation, materials science and conservation, so everyone's got a lot on their plate right now, especially with teaching now that the fall has kicked off.

ACBA classes are in full swing. Clemson classes are in full swing. And then on top of that all, we've had an excavation coming up in about a little over a month's time now, so I'll be basically out in the middle of the ocean for pretty much a month solid. I'm trying to kind of tie up everything here to hand off and then prepare for a bit of an absence. We're still working on the International African American Museum, their collection and intake. I'm not sure if Chris mentioned this already, but we're hoping to get a tour set up at some point, so people can get out there and see the site and their new museum. It would be exciting.

We manage their collections here and housing and all of that, so that's been one of the big projects at the moment. And then emergency preparedness has been a little bit on hold the last month. The State Museum, as you guys heard already, is going to be hosting an event next month. And then we, myself, James, Virginia, are three members of... the three at least, are part of the planning committee. We now have the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor back on board with their new

director, which is very exciting. It's kind of a slightly new update. So, we're just moving ahead with that and had been planning that event for March.

James Davis:

And Kim, when you're excavating, you're sleeping on the boat, you'll be at sea for a month?

Kim:

No. It's out of Charleston Harbor, so we go out and back each day. But it will be kind of long days.

James Davis:

And can you tell us what you're excavating?

Kim:

I can't yet.

James Davis:

Okay.

Kim:

We're still waiting for the final permit to come through. Maybe for the next meeting when you guys are here, we can.

James Davis:

That's exciting.

Kim:

Yeah.

James Davis:

All right. Thank you. Ella, tell us what's going on.

Ella James:

Not much. I've been dealing with a sinus infection, so I've been off volunteer stuff. But waiting to hear back from some people about stuff in the fall, starting at Huguenot Society, getting graduate school squared away. Still waiting to hear from one place, but that should be coming in soon. That's what I've been doing.

James Davis:

All right. Well, we hope you feel better. I'm glad you're able to be-

Ella James:

Thank you.

James Davis:

... digitally with us. Molly?

Molly Silliman:

Hi, everyone. I'm Molly Silliman, the librarian for the South Carolina Historical Society. And I don't have too much new to report. We've been busy. We're open by appointment still in our shared reading room with the College of Charleston Special Collections. It's the first day of classes back for the college, and you can tell on campus, it's a lot busier than it has been over the summer. We've been busy over the summer. July was, we were booked quite a bit, but we've been able to open up a couple extra spaces to accommodate.

We had been limited to two researchers at a time, but we now will be open for two researchers and two College of Charleston students per research appointment, so that'll help, I think, for sure. And we are masked. I'm in our little conference room where there's terrible lighting, so I apologize. As you can see, Virginia is masked up, and we are at the Fireproof Building as well in the museum. And I'm sure I'm forgetting something. Virginia might have more to add, but otherwise just trying to keep up with requests and the collections.

James Davis:

Is that a Mouzon map behind you?

Molly Silliman:

It is. Yeah. Yeah, let me...

James Davis:

Can we see it? Yeah.

Molly Silliman:

That's the 1775... I think. Yeah. I'm in Special Collections conference room, because they have a nice frame to copy there.

James Davis:

The background.

Molly Silliman:

Yeah.

James Davis:

Thank you. And Virginia?

Virginia Ellison:

Hey, everyone. Virginia Ellison from the South Carolina Historical Society. Not much to add for Molly. And Kim's adventures sound really cool, so I don't have anything that neat. We got in a great item the other day. We got two photographs of Grover Cleveland's visit to Charleston in February of 1888, so that was pretty cool. Also, we've got in a new Henry I's letter, so we always appreciate our donations. We're also working on a coming exhibit that was supposed to open in fall of... Sorry, I guess fall is like next month.

It's probably going to be January, just due to everything going on in the world. But we do have several in-person events coming up. We've got a private viewing of Elizabeth O'Neill Verner art coming up in the Fireproof Building on Sunday, September 26th. I think that's a Sunday. Sorry, guys. It'll be kind of a brunch reception with Bloody Marys and mimosas, and some original Verner art that the Historical Society is selling on behalf of the family. It's pretty unique and rare materials that people haven't seen much of.

We got our Fall Tour in Greenville and another one in Beaufort coming up. We also have two positions available with the Historical Society. If you know any students looking, we've got a part-time guest services associate in our museum, and that's about 12 to 15 hours a week for \$12 an hour. Pretty easy job. We also have our membership/events coordinator position available. If you know anyone who's interested in that type of work, send them our way. I think that closes in about a week. Those positions close, and we'll review all the applications.

Not much else going on here. My summer of fun is over, so I will be back in the office and easier to get in contact with. I've heard from a lot people that I'm always gone. I'm here, I'm back. Well, except for tomorrow. Then I'm really back on Thursday. Just let me know if you need anything. Yeah. We're keeping pretty busy.

James Davis:

Awesome. Thank you. Sarah, did I get you already? My screen has rearranged itself.

Sarah Hisnanick-Murphy:

No, not yet.

James Davis:

Okay. You're up.

Sarah Hisnanick-Murphy:

I'm Sarah Hisnanick-Murphy. I'm at the Charleston County Public Library. Not much new. We're still doing lots of meetings about renovations, which should take place in 2023. Just trying to figure out how much of the collection needs to go to somewhere that there's exact humidity monitoring, things like that, and how much can go into just climate-controlled storage, which isn't much of the archive, but we have a dual collection with the stuff in our public stacks.

And then steadily-increasing research requests still. We keep thinking we'll tap out on those, but they keep coming. And we just said a tentative yes to some classes visiting for the fall semester when they started backtracking some of our policies. We're not quite sure what's going to happen with that, but we are part of the county mask requirements. We fall under with the whole mask required in county buildings. We're back to that full-time. That's pretty much it. I just shifted our pamphlet collection to the South Carolina workroom so that no one has to walk into the archive every time they need a pamphlet, so it was about, I don't know, six ranges of pamphlets I moved over the last couple weeks.

That's pretty much it.

James Davis:

Very good. And there wasn't anyone else that I missed, is there? I think I got everybody. All right. Well, does anybody have any final thoughts they want to add? Yes, Virginia does.

Virginia Ellison:

Sorry, I have a question for the hive mind. You probably recently saw in the newspaper that the Gullah Society dissolved, and they were a great resource for me to send the people who are interested in preserving African American cemeteries. I usually send them the link to Gullah Society, and ship the State Historic Preservation Office. Does anyone else have any recommendations on other resources?

Teri Lynn:

Does Eugene Frazier out of James Island that did the one out at the Public Library out there know enough to do this? I do not know.

Sarah Hisnanick-Murphy:

He did a lot of consulting. It was actually Brockington that did a lot of that, I think, for hire with the library, and the county hired that. Yeah. And actually, that project was mostly done between Brockington in our research room, and we've assisted a few others with specifically old African American cemeteries. And [Lisch 00:34:58] has

been spearheading that. We're trying to shift some of that to figuring out a way to teach how to do that. So far, we've been doing it, which is a bit more than we could handle, because we've just done three cemeteries and it's been a lot. But you can for sure send people to South Carolina if they just want information on how to get started.

Virginia Ellison:

Okay.

Sarah Hisnanick-Murphy:

Yeah.

James Davis:

Are people asking about research or preservation or everything?

Virginia Ellison:

Kind of everything. I mean, it's more preservation. They call and say, "Oh, I know this African American cemetery on private land, and it needs to be preserved. What do I do?" And the Gullah Society was a great resource where they did the research and helped look for funding. I mean, I don't have the time to do the research, and there's not funding available, which it clearly says that on the State Historic Preservation Office's website. Like, "We can't fund this. Here's the state laws." Sarah said help getting started. If there were another organization that could pick up where they left off, that would be excellent.

James Davis:

Well, it's not quite the same, and her name's escaping me, but there's a woman at the Clemson Historic Preservation program at the Cigar Factory who does gravestone conservation.

Virginia Ellison:

Okay.

James Davis:

That might be even just a general resource for historic preservation to kind of start with and see who's in their network.

Virginia Ellison:

Okay.

Kim:

I can reach out... It's not Amalia by any chance, was it, James? Okay.

James Davis:

No.

Kim:

I can reach out to Amalia who we know at the MSHP program, and she's pretty well-connected with those kinds of projects. And maybe see if she knows anyone or anything that's practically going on.

Virginia Ellison:

Okay. Yeah. I just wanted to be as a conduit of information like, "All right. I don't have the capability to do this, but here is a researcher, maybe able to help you."

Kim:

Yeah. I also wonder if it's something that the Corridor would pick up too, especially in maybe a collaboration with another library or research institution or something.

Virginia Ellison:

Mm-hmm (affirmative). That's a good thought. Yeah. Well, thank you guys.

James Davis:

Yeah. I've told it like 100 times now, but yeah, it's always fun to share. I don't suggest international travel though if you don't have to. That part was a nightmare, but being there was worthwhile. All right, guys. Well, thanks so much. Sarah, did you have something you wanted to say?

Sarah Hisnanick-Murphy:

Yeah. I was just going to say I never mention job postings because we always have them around the county somewhere for librarians, but we do have a special collections-ish cataloger, except the original cataloger for the system. Position is open right now, if anyone knows anyone.

James Davis:

I guess actually, we have an open position too, I think, for a membership coordinator/front desk person. I assume it's still open. Everybody's hiring. All right. Last call, anyone else? All right, guys. Well, we'll see everyone next month. Keep an eye out for the minutes and the confirmation on our next meeting. Bye.